

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



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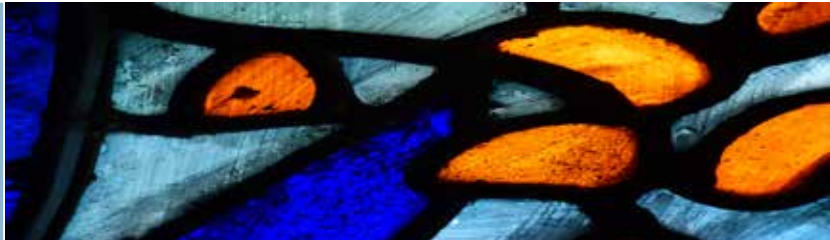
Graduation 2012 **13**

Editor: Dr Nicola Jones

Committee: Dr Stephen Trudgill, Ms Helen Cornish,
Dr Ros Love, Dr Judy Weiss and Mrs Helen Winter.

Front cover image:

Detail from a Robinson College Chapel window,
by John Piper, taken by Dr Nicola Jones



Forthcoming Events

November

20th - City Event, by invitation

December

1st - Christmas Concert

Freshers' Parents' Lunch

January

7th - Hong Kong Dinner

12th - Graduands' Parents' Lunch

February

Lawyers' Dinner

March

23rd - Pegasus Society Dinner

April

28th - MML Lunch

May

11th - MA Congregation

To book events, please go to

www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php

A New CUSU President



Ros Old, CUSU President

In March this year, Ros Old (2009, Land Economy) was elected CUSU President. Just after taking up her role in July, she spoke to Gianpiero Roscelli (2011, History, above) about her campaign and her plans for the coming year.

Are you excited or slightly daunted by the prospect of becoming CUSU President? It's incredibly exciting! During the handover period the previous team provided us with so much information that it was a little daunting to start with, but now that we're settled in, it's great!

What made you decide to run for the position in the first place? I really enjoyed my time as RCSA President and CUSU Membership Engagement Officer and wanted to continue working for positive change in the lives of students at this university. It's a fantastic opportunity and, as it's a sabbatical position, you don't have to worry about balancing it with your degree work.

How was the campaigning earlier this year - was it difficult to combine the workload with the campaigning? The campaign in itself was a fantastic experience. It's really cool to be able to plan and organise an election campaign which spans the entire student population. Combining campaigning with my subject was certainly a challenge, but by working ahead earlier in the term, and having a brilliant campaign team behind me, I was able to balance the two.

You won by quite a majority. Is it nice to have such a strong mandate and know so many supported you, especially across the various Cambridge colleges? When I heard the result I was quite overwhelmed by the fact that I won with such a majority and was so grateful to everyone who supported and voted for me. It's good to know that people agree with the ideas that you'd like to take forward for their benefit.

For the benefit of alumni, would you briefly outline what your role as CUSU President will entail? The CUSU President's role spans a wide variety of things. I represent students to the University, in the media and on the national stage, as well as spearheading major campaigns. I will also work with JCRs and MCRs on cross-College projects and provide them with training. I lead a team which works to make sure that CUSU is engaging well with students and another which makes sure we are following our democratic structures and processes. As chair of the CUSU Trustee Board, I am also responsible for the legal governance side of running a medium-sized charity.

Are there any key policies you wish to implement during your time as President? On my manifesto I had a range of policies falling into the broad categories of strengthening CUSU, diversifying CUSU and campaigning for CUSU. One of my main aims is to see a CUSU which is properly engaged with Cambridge students and is therefore more effective in creating change within the university. Some specific examples of that engagement would be more contact with students through open meetings and making the information available online more useful and accessible.

By July 2013, what legacy do you hope to leave at CUSU? I hope that CUSU will be in a stronger position for the longer-term, both in terms of resources and the connection with our students.

Will we be seeing any radical changes at CUSU under your premiership? Depends what you mean by 'radical'! I hope to revitalise the way that CUSU interacts

with students and campaign on things which will have a big impact on peoples' lives.

Robinson has had a fantastic CUSU presence recently, especially for a young college (2 CUSU Presidents from Robinson in 3 years). Why do you think this is? Over recent years, the RCSA has had more and more involvement in CUSU, realising the benefits that being a part of the Union brings to Robinson students. I think that this has inspired people to get involved on a university level, as well as a College one.

The country is in a double-dip recession, unemployment is climbing and people are taking to the streets to protest. Students are becoming increasingly active in voicing their opinions - do you see this as a help or hindrance to student politics? It depends on the issue in hand and how they deal with it. Student support is invaluable in many campaigns, which wouldn't succeed without it. Fees and bursaries have obviously been a huge issue in the last couple of years and student action helped to put these at the top of the agenda, both locally and nationally.

What is more stressful - the *Daily Mail* hounding you for a statement as President because some Cambridge student has done something 'outrageous', or exam term as a finalist? Haha, that's a difficult one. Dealing with the press can at times be fast-paced and challenging, but then again, so can preparing for finals... I guess exams are at least to a certain extent more predictable in the way that you can plan and prepare in advance!

The Spirit Level: Why equa

Published in 2009, Kate Pickett (1984) and Richard Wilkinson's *The Spirit Level*, has attracted wide attention in the media. In this edition of *Bin Brook*, she shares some of the book's key ideas.

When I left Robinson to study in America, I planned a career working with the most disadvantaged – I thought I would spend my life involved in research and policy aimed at solving malnutrition in the poorest countries of the world. But it didn't take me long to realise that the USA, despite spending more per capita on healthcare than any other country in the world, had Third World levels of health and social problems in many of its communities. There was no need to travel to Africa, South America or Asia to study infant mortality, stunting or hunger - they were there on the doorstep.

There is a paradox at the heart of understanding population health in rich societies. If we compare health across different rich, developed countries, there is no association at all between average levels of income or spending on health care and life expectancy or mortality rates. Yet within each of those countries there is a strong gradient in health by income; in the UK you can expect to live about 8 years longer if you live in the wealthiest areas than in the poorest. Why is income so important within a society, but so meaningless across countries? What this paradox shows is the importance of relative social status for health – it's not the material wealth you and your family own that protects health but the status and social benefits (including a good early childhood and positive social networks) that go with it.

In 2003 I moved back to England and began working with Richard Wilkinson, a pioneering epidemiologist who has played a formative role in research on the health effects of income inequality. Together, we began to look at a wider range of health and social problems, theorizing that if a bigger gap between rich and poor leads to more health problems through psychosocial pathways, then other social ills should also be increased.

We found that there is a powerful tendency for more unequal societies to become socially dysfunctional. At the more equal end are societies like Norway, Japan and Sweden where the incomes of richest 20% in each country are 3-4 times as big as the incomes of the poorest 20%. At the more unequal end are societies like the USA, Portugal and the UK where the richest 20% may be 8-9 times as rich as the poorest.

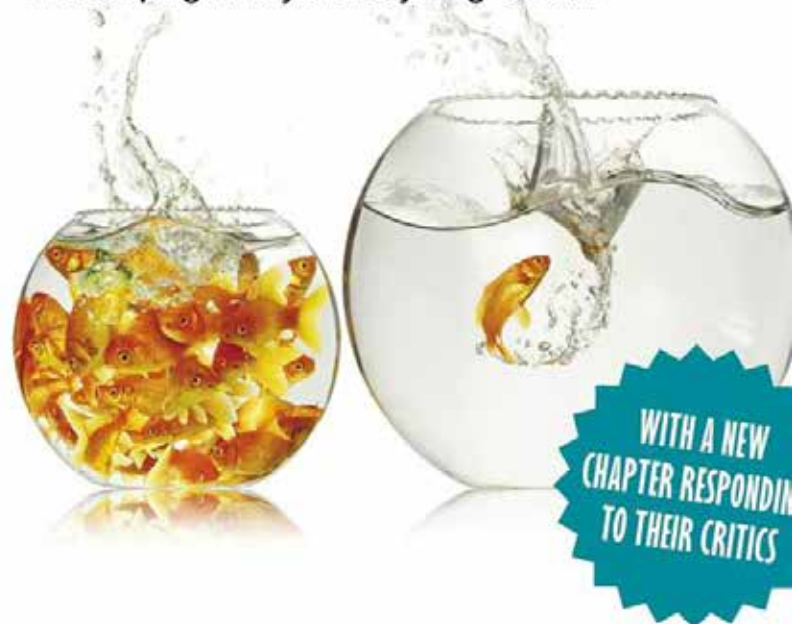
The Spirit Level

Why Equality is Better for Everyone

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett

'A big idea, big enough to change political thinking'
Sunday Times

'A sweeping theory of everything' *Guardian*



Looking at the effects of income inequality first among the rich developed countries and again (to provide an independent test bed) among the 50 states of the USA, too much inequality seems to result in familiar signs of 'broken societies'. More equal societies enjoy better health and life expectancy, fewer people have drug problems, there is less violence, teenage birth rates are lower, child well-being is higher, there is less obesity, mental illness is less common, many fewer people are imprisoned, and there is more social mobility.

Equality is better for everyone

Central to these problems is the loss of cohesion in more unequal societies. Our research demonstrates a consistent tendency for societies with smaller income differences to be friendlier and more cohesive: community life is stronger, people trust each other more, homicide rates are lower and there is less bullying among school children. One of our most important findings is that the benefits of great equality are not confined to the least well off. Indeed, the differences are huge, and can't be explained by levels of poverty within each country or state, or by the health and behaviour of minority groups. For example, mental illness is three times as common in more unequal countries, the teenage birth rate is five times higher, obesity six times, prison populations eight times. In fact, the vast majority of the population do better in more equal societies.

Even well educated, middle class people with good incomes will be likely to live longer, be more involved in community life and less likely to suffer violence, while their children are likely to do better at school, less likely to take drugs and less likely to become teenage parents.

So how do these effects work? The processes which produce a social class gradient in each problem are intensified by greater inequality. Central are the stresses and insecurities which go with social status differences. Greater inequality increases status competition and status insecurities about how we are judged by others. This adds to consumerism as people try to keep up with each other. It makes it feel more important to have money and so leads people to work longer hours in more unequal societies. Inequality also increases the strains on family life and parenting. Greater inequality leads to more violence because, as status matters more, people become more sensitive to common triggers to violence such as being disrespected and looked down on.

After growing frustration with the lack of public, policy-making and political awareness of the devastating effects of income inequality (not many people read academic journal articles!), in 2009 we published a book, *The Spirit Level*, to draw together our research and that of other people, and established The Equality Trust (www.equalitytrust.org) to analyse and disseminate research and campaign for greater equality. Inevitably, for work with important political implications, we've faced criticism and hostility from some quarters, but an independent review by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has supported our conclusions and the past three years has seen an outpouring of new research, extending and deepening our understanding of the issues.

In terms of health, happiness and measures of wellbeing, our research suggests that rich countries have got to the end of the social benefits of economic growth and rising material standards. Further improvements in the real

quality of life now depend more on the quality of social relations in society than on higher levels of consumption. The evidence suggests that by narrowing income differences we can improve the social and psychological well-being of the whole population, an exciting prospect when our need for new economic models and environmental restraints on growth are pushing in the same direction.



Kate Pickett (née Chapman, 1984) read Archaeology and Anthropology at Robinson, then studied for an MS in nutritional sciences at Cornell and a PhD in epidemiology at UC-Berkeley.

She is now Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York, the holder of a UK National Institute for Health Research Career Scientist Award, and a Fellow of both the RSA and the UK Faculty of Public Health.

She is co-author, with Richard Wilkinson, of *The Spirit Level*, chosen as one of the Top Ten Books of the Decade by the New Statesman; winner of the 2010 Bristol Festival of Ideas Book Prize and winner of the 2011 Political Studies Association Book of the Year.

The Spirit Level has sold more than 150,000 copies in English and is available in 23 foreign editions. Kate is also a founder and non-executive director of The Equality Trust. She tweets at @ProfKEPickett.



Tobias Paul, Third-year Law



Emily Lodge, First-year French and Spanish



Leo Sideris, Second-year NatSci

TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN 2012

This year, from June 25th - July 8th, we held our eighth Annual Telephone Campaign. We run the calling in-house, and all the callers are current students, who are paid for their time. Over 1,300 alumni and parents of current students were called this year, and we were very pleased to get in contact with 42% of those called.

Each year, the Development Office selects groups of alumni and parents to call. Our selection is largely based on year groups, but we also try to focus on certain geographical areas, especially if we have a student caller from your region. We also try to get back in touch with lost alumni. Sometimes, we call current parents if they have shown an interest in College life, such as attending an event in the last year.

We call for three reasons: to update you on what is happening here at Robinson and in our events programme, to make sure your contact details are up to date, and to ask you whether you would consider making a donation to support the College

in our work. It is also a brilliant opportunity for alumni and students to reminisce about College life - and while the first few calls are often a little daunting for our students, they all leave the Campaign knowing a lot more about Robinson and our alumni community. This is an experience that the students really value.

Robinson is very proud of its diversity and the introduction of higher tuition fees alongside cuts to University teaching funds means that we have to work even harder now to support our students, Fellows and staff. The Annual Telephone Campaign is one way that we and you can make a difference. Although times are tough for all of us right now, many alumni donated generously this year and we are extremely grateful for your encouragement and support.

On behalf of the Development Office and the student callers, thank you for your time and your generosity, if we spoke to you this year.

BACK ROW L-R

- Gianpiero Roscelli (History)**
- Rob Richardson (Geography)**
- Aakash Patel (Geography)**
- Bryn Pickering (Engineering)**
- Jonathan Stephenson (Law)**
- Tobias Paul (Law)**

FRONT ROW L-R

- Emily Lodge (MML)**
- Maria Farrimond (Maths)**
- Emma Naughton (English)**
- Lotte Reinbold (English)**

(Not present)

- Helena Mumdzjana (Law)**
- Alex Walmsley (Geography)**
- Dan Green (CompSci)**
- Leo Sideris (NatSci)**



Working with Robinson

Robinson College is a popular venue for events held by companies and organisations of all sizes, from residential conferences to one-day meetings and private dinners. Here Mel Searle, Conference Office Manager, updates us on some of the new initiatives that Robinson has introduced for conference clients.

“The College regularly hosts residential and day conferences for over 250 delegates, as well as private dinners and drinks and canapé receptions for up to 700. Clients come to us from a wide variety of sectors – educational, financial, commercial, medical, and scientific – and we pride ourselves on offering a bespoke package.

Over the last year a number of new initiatives have been introduced to enhance the College’s conference package, which may well be of interest to alumni looking for conference support.



In previous years, term-time bookings have been necessarily restricted by the fact that our undergraduates are in residence. Our recently launched ‘College+’ package enables clients who wish to hold an event during term-time the possibility of arranging accommodation at nearby branded hotels. Clients can stay in 3* or 4* standard ensuite rooms, and the College can provide transportation for delegates to and from Robinson.

We have also recently developed a new software package ‘Delegate+’, which offers clients a fully-customised portal through which their events can be managed. This allows clients the freedom to organise their events as so desired, while also offering the administrative support to ensure that they run smoothly.

Along with our investment in software, we have also developed our IT provision to include state-of-the-art WIFI (300mbps) in all bedrooms, available to delegates free of charge. Trained on-site technicians are always in attendance to help clients with their AV requirements and ensure they maximise the use social networking during the event to encourage feedback and debate.

Our award-winning cuisine, created by the kitchen team at Robinson, always receives favourable feedback from delegates. In addition to using fresh seasonal ingredients sourced locally, the team has also introduced some new features on the menu including themed refreshment breaks such as The Continental and the Robinson Reviver. To encourage networking over lunch, we have introduced a finger-buffet menu so that delegates can circulate more easily during lunchbreaks.



Two years ago Robinson achieved Fairtrade status after undergoing a stringent audit to demonstrate its commitment to selling Fairtrade products in its bar and café, using Fairtrade products at conferences and events and raising awareness of the campaign. In addition, the College holds AIM Silver and 4* Campus accreditations.”

Robinson alumni and members of the Friends of Robinson College are entitled to a 10% discount on bookings - please mention this when you contact us!

For further information and details of current offers, please visit www.robinson.cam.ac.uk, email conference@robinson.cam.ac.uk, or telephone: 01223 332859.





Audiatur et altera pars

(trans. ‘Hear the other side too’)

How to work when there is no work: A Greek composer’s rant in a time of crisis.

In 2007, after a decade of study and work in the UK, I returned to Greece, just married, with my wife, the organist Nicola Harrington. With considerable work experience and holding various qualifications, amongst which a PhD in music composition, I felt confident that however stiff the competition and unknown the professional landscape in Greece, I should be able to procure some work to begin with and to carve out a new career in music. During the next five years, a series of events led me to turn from employment search to private enterprise, even though my business abilities are low and my political reflexes have always been moderately anti-capitalist. To the free-market buff, I recommend reading this account with toleration and sympathy. This world cannot be made of financial success alone.

To begin with, in 2007-08, I worked for the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki as a harmony tutor. My academic profile is fairly original and my interest in academic issues is not artificial; I am genuinely interested in scholarly work and would certainly feel comfortable in tertiary education. But academic Greece, like most countries, is now following the route of corporate, industrial academicism: the scholar is to be first and foremost a political commodity, fundraiser or productive financial unit. Aside from the questionable merit of this strategy for learning, it is one so extremely incompatible with my own desires and political inclinations that I could not adhere to it. Academia was not likely to change its ways and invite me to join an altruistic community of scholars and so I disengaged myself from the long lectureship queue and excluded the academic scenario from my list of aspirations – not without distress. Persevering is one thing and deluding oneself another.

Further to this, a compulsory year in the Greek military has had its psychological effect on my career. Most men in Greece have to endure the Americanized vulgarity of officers

and the terminal standing guard duty which leads – without fail – to a lifetime of smoking and using obsolescent Greek obscenities in men-only cafes. The writer of this text is no different. In 2008-09, I spent 365 days of service, 111 of which on standing guard and 312 in a barracks – mostly on islands and remote mountain tops, guarding the odd stone wall, or empty rubbish-bin. I am now a smoker, naturally. Disorientating the soldiers is the main preoccupation of the officer ranks and so when I was dismissed from the Army with a little comical medal for valour and a number of ludicrous stories to tell, all continuity with my former creative life had been disrupted. In the meantime, my wife had endured a year of discomfort and isolation displaying admirable, Penelopean patience. Greece had not been very kind to us upon arrival – we thought the worst had to be over.

However, the economic crisis was only then starting to deal serious blows to the country’s life. The living standard in the country dropped dramatically over the period 2008-12. Essentially, most commodities today cost the public double the amount they did half a decade ago; but the two main problems with the current situation are a widespread sense of social injustice and the total lack of security for the future. As this account is being written, what little wealth is still generated is distributed cynically in favour of the affluent few, whilst others lose their homes, fortunes and dignity and find themselves, increasingly, surviving the hostile streets of Athens without any help from the State authorities. At the same time, government policy and politics that go far beyond a national or local scale, pose an ominous threat, unclear, harsh and volatile as they are.

In this climate, Nicola and I had to devise some way of dealing with what was happening around us, especially as our first child came to life in 2011. Aloofness and stoicism were no longer an option.

In today's Greece, ill health is not the preamble to being cured, but to finding out about one's resilience, as medicine is now fast becoming the privilege of the wealthy.

Work, music, politics, the crisis – these were no longer private discussion topics, but our daughter's future.

The first question to answer was whether we were going to set up a business, or become part of a living community. The austerity cuts and audacity of the local CEO/ruling tribes made the question non-academic. So far as our classical education could afford us, we presumed that greed was – against Milton Friedman's superbly inane and therefore indestructible philosophical position – a moral flaw we were not about to adopt. The first person plural is operative here – as Adorno put it: “to say ‘we’ and mean ‘I’ is one of the most recondite insults”. So, in 2010, I joined a local government party and assumed a cultural role in its committee. Inevitably, promoting my work and forging a career in music took second place to reporting violations of the law, budget inconsistencies, arbitrary policy making etc. Even more inevitably, these cries of protest have been invariably inefficient, simply because the ruling party officials receiving such reports are the *nonpareil* best at making reports disappear by throwing them in bins. Still, this is more than a pressure group exercise or fashionable activism – it is a statement to ourselves that we have a voice we can hear. A whisper perhaps, but the words are clear enough if one pays attention.

And what then of the professional life? A similar diet of futile resistance has been followed. I write original music. I do not write jingles, conceptual, fund-friendly bric-a-brac, or music for advertisements. I am the new artistic director of the Kozani International Music Seminars which started again this year, after 12 years of silence. I teach music in three towns. I sit on the board of the Arts and Letters Club. I play the piano in music Festivals and concert series abroad, I play the piano in a local bar. I never play the piano when someone makes a request. I make recordings. I do not listen to recorded music. I improvise. I write words. I write plays. I write poetry. I make films. Sometimes I sing with other people and they sing with me. I place myself in the centre of the Universe even though, understandably, the Universe tends to place me in its periphery. We seem to hold mutual contempt for each other, at least for as long as it does what Wall St. tells it to do. I am confident this is only a difficult phase in its upbringing. I run my own publishing house, which is about publishing ideas and free content locally, not distributing worldwide or establishing an on-line presence. I do not have a company growth agenda. Should I mean business, or should I continue to be foolish and impractical? Too many dilemmas, i.e. too many euphemisms for blackmail.



Any reader who finds this romantic, delusional, remote and fantastical is part of the blackmail. To that reader I – or rather we – recommend, in the most patronising tone possible, listening to more music and indulging in less banking. Banking is just a gerund, Music is everything. Finally, yes, we are in business, in the little, soon-to-be derelict town of Kozani, in the North of Greece. We are inconsequential, but we are very subsequent to each other. We do not make commercial products and we do not turn a profit other than our declining wages. We shall not be entering the stockmarket if we can help it and we do not really care about intellectual property or copyright (you cannot be both ‘intellectual’ and in possession of ‘property’, reads our manifesto). We are the ‘Narrenschiff’ of old and what it sailed for. We are not frustrated or angry, immature or mature, naïve or cunning. We speak in messianic tones and profess to live in Empyrean heights of our own design. Therefore, we may read and sound fatuous. But we are in the business of Justice, in the process of recapturing its wisdom for the sake of our children. This is what new music, the music we want to write, is capable of and what Europe was made of. Susannah, my daughter, is 18 months old and most likely earmarked for corporate cleaning services in the IMF employment registry. We have no choice – every time a bank calls for an account overview and wakes her up, I teach her one single value judgement (transl. ‘crisis’): “Ἐν δε δικαιοσύνη, πάντα συλλήβδην ἀρετή” - all virtues are found in Justice. She will not be a slave.

Panoyiotis (Panos) Demopoulos (2003) was born in Athens, Greece in 1977 and grew up in the town of Kozani. He took his first music lessons at the age of 5 and gave his first public

performance at the historical Parnassus Hall, Athens, in 1984. In 2003, Panos was awarded the prestigious Greek State Scholarship (I.K.Y.) and a bursary from the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church, which enabled him to continue with research in composition at Cambridge and York. As a pianist, he has given premieres and second performances of more than 40 works and the list of pieces written for him is growing. His performances have been broadcast on radio and recorded professionally by Dunelm Records, Divine Arts and ASC on four CDs to critical acclaim. His research and seminars have included work on Alois Hába, Brahms, Webern, Gubaidulina, MacMillan, spectral music, music and language and microtonal music. Panos has published critical and literary texts in both English and Greek and has recently edited a volume for the Contemporary Music Review entitled *Impossible Music* (Routledge). He is now working on a book on the subject of new music and provincialism.

Robinson Merchandise



College Choir CD 'As Sunlight Fills The Waking Day' £12



Mug £4.99



Pashmina £20



Ties
Synthetic £10
Silk £15

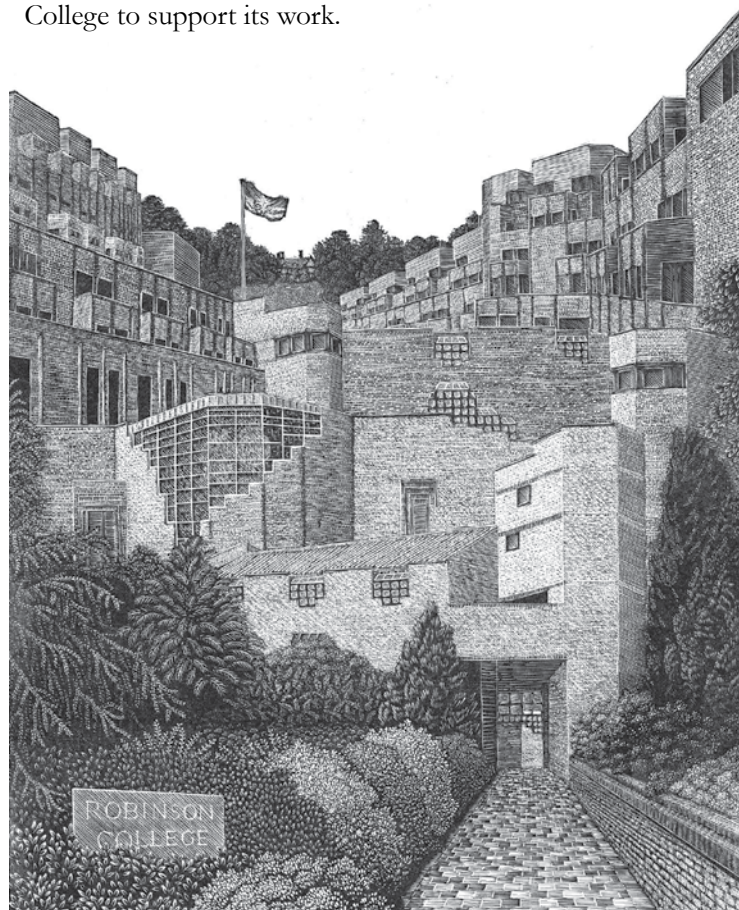
New Christmas cards for 2012

Cards with envelopes are available individually, or in packs of 10. Card size: 210mm deep x 99mm wide
35p per card
£3 per pack of 10.



All merchandise can be purchased online at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog
Please note that p&p is charged at £3 per order.

Peter and Irena Milloy recently commissioned Gerri Waddington to make a new image of the College. The result of Gerri's work at Robinson is a beautiful montage of the College, seen on the cover of the last Bin Brook, and left. Peter and Irena have made a gift to the College of the first copy of a limited edition of one hundred and fifty prints of the engraving. The remaining limited edition prints are available for purchase at a price of £95 (unframed). £52.25 from each sale will be donated to the College to support its work.



MEMBERS' NEWS

First, a word from **Linkline**: 2013 marks the 40th Anniversary of Linkline, the student run information and listening service for the students of Cambridge and ARU. To celebrate we are holding a reunion dinner in late February 2013 and would like to invite all existing and old members to attend. Therefore, if you are a past volunteer and interested in coming back to enjoy the event, please email alumni@linkline.org.uk and we can provide you with more details. Even if you are not able to make it back for the event, please do get in contact - it would be great to have a comprehensive list of our alumni!

New Arrivals



Sophie (née Annesley) and **James Taylor** (1995) had a baby boy, William, on 2nd February, 2012.

Wendy Arntsen (1998) and her partner Will Oliver are pleased to announce the birth of Eva Oliver, on 27th January 2012.



Jonathan Ayres (1989) and his wife, Charlotte (above), are pleased to announce the safe, if a little speedy, birth of Marina, on May 30th 2012. She joins her big brother Harry (6) and big sister Beatrix (3).

Anand Ram (1990) and his wife, Dora, are pleased to announce the birth of their son Leo, who was born in Edinburgh on August 4th 2012.



Professor Anuj Dawar (Fellow) and Lissy are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Rosha (above), born at 8.52am on 8 June 2012, weighing 3.5kg (7lb 11oz), a little sister to Tarika. **Nicholas Lusty** (1981) and Isabel María López Miguel are proud to announce the birth of a son (inset) on Christmas Day 2011 at 10:59am at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. He was baptised "William" in Seville on 2nd February 2012, and is rapidly growing into a big boy, receiving lots of visits from both sets of grandparents and the rest of the family. He has been earning lots of Air Miles and by the time this is published, will already have visited Spain three times.



Michael Marchant (1998) and his wife Caitlin are pleased to announce (belatedly!) the birth of their first child, Samuel (above), on 22 June 2011. A fun year has been had by all the family!

Fran Perrin (née Sainsbury, 1998) and husband William are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Zoe, below, on the 21st of December 2011.



Lynda Skipper (2002, née Sharp) and Philip are pleased to announce the birth of Elliot James Randall Skipper (right) on 21st January 2012. They are now living in Lincoln, where Lynda is a lecturer on the Conservation and Restoration course at the University.



Anna (née Webb) and **Andrew Williamson** (both 1990) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, James Robert, (above) born in San Francisco on January 23, 2012. Anna and Andrew currently live in San Francisco and would love to hear from old friends, either via email or, better still, in person! **Andrew Lodge** (1988) and Emily are delighted to have another son, Hal, brother to George, Oscar, Abe and Charlie. They currently live in Luanda, Angola

Marriages

Laura Bennett (1995) married Kristian Merritt on June 16th 2012 at the Comune of Bevagna in Umbria, Italy, with a reception at Orto degli Angeli hotel. It was a wonderful sunny day enjoyed by a small group of friends and family, including one or two Robinson alumni. Laura and Kristian honeymooned in the Maldives before returning to their home in Buckinghamshire, where Laura works as a freelance art history translator.





Richard Bettinson (1980) married Judith Damerell on Saturday 2nd July 2011 at Southwark Cathedral. The event was attended by,

amongst others, 6 fellow 1980 alumni (below).



On 10th March 2012, **Jon Davies** (2001) married Vicky Banks (Murray Edwards). Fellow Robinson alumni, Matt Molton and Roger Brown, both acted as best men.



Ruth (née Fletcher) and **David Grant** (2002) are pleased to announce their marriage, which took place on April 13th this year, at House for an Art Lover in Glasgow. Jenny Scudamore (2002) was one of the bridesmaids.



Stephanie Keele (1992) and Andrew Garrard (Downing, 1992) were married on 31 January 2012 at the Aquarium of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, in the joyful presence of close family and a few friends willing and able to travel across the globe.



Having met at Robinson, Teresa Thurston (2003) married Oliver Sawers (2002) in London on the 26th November 2011. It was a joyous day with a number of Robinson alumni in attendance. Teresa currently works in a post-doctoral position at Imperial researching Salmonella immune responses. Oliver works in the retail team at Amazon.co.uk.

Alumni Updates

Melanie Barraclough (1984) writes, "Eight years after my brain haemorrhage, I have been assessed as fully disabled and have stopped struggling to continue working. For the last couple of years I'd moved my work area from finance to sustainability. I plan to take a rest of 6 months then look to see what I want to do, perhaps a couple of hours voluntary work per week. I have also moved to an apartment in a great location very close to the botanic gardens and zoo in Amsterdam."

Brett J. Gilbert (1989) writes: "A degree in Materials Science, a short career in book publishing, and then another in web design, has (seemingly) prepared me for the one thing I might actually be any good at: designing board games. My first commercial design is "Divinare", published internationally by Asmodee in April 2012. If you've never played a 'modern' board game, then Divinare is as good a place to start as anywhere else (although the triumvirate of "The Settlers of Catan", "Carcassonne" and "Ticket to Ride" are regarded by many as the best introduction; new converts will find www.boardgamegeek.com useful)."



Ben Habib (1987) is pleased to report that First Property Group plc, the AIM-listed commercial property fund manager which he founded in 2000, has again been ranked as the top performing fund manager versus Investment Property Databank's (IPD) Central & Eastern European universe index, now for the six year period to 31 December 2011.

First Property had previously been ranked top of the IPD CEE universe for the three, four and five years to 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Dan Griffiths

(PhD in animal behaviour 1997, postgraduate certificate in education 2001), has just been named head of the Upper School at Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Oregon.



Emily Albouy, (née Calver, 1990, Geology). I went on from Robinson to study a 2-year Masters in exploration geology (a French 'diplôme d'ingénieur' for connaisseurs...) at the IFP School in Rueil-Malmaison, a suburb of Paris. After a very short spell mudlogging on a North Sea oil rig - not for me - I found work with the IFP and pursued a career in research geology for 9 years, travelling many times to Bolivia, Pakistan, Albania and Italy for extended fieldwork sessions. By the time baby number 2 came along, it all got too much and when my husband was offered an expat posting in Tehran, I jumped at the chance to change rhythm. I spent the three years in Iran working at the British school, travelling all over the country and having baby number 3, and decided on a new job in physiotherapy. Back in Paris, I spent a year consulting for GDF Suez while preparing the entry examinations to



physiotherapy schools. Going back to school (in French) with a bunch of 20 year olds was tough but fun. I will hopefully qualify in July of this year (2012), just in time to fly to Madras on another expat posting, and I plan to volunteer for HelpAge India. I suppose it all sounds a bit hectic put like that, but there were (and still will be) loads of dull times. I think studying at Robinson taught me to seize every chance and to live life to the full; it may be a cliché but I have enjoyed every moment. All the best to the 1989/1990/1991 alumni reading this.

Lok C. Lew Yan Voon (1984) has been named Dean of The Citadel's School of Science and Mathematics, The Military College of South Carolina



Rupert Price (2009) had an exciting summer, rowing with the GB Under 23 Lightweight Men's Quad (LM4x) in July. A full report of his experience can be found in this year's edition of the *Robinson Record*.



An update from **Sylvia Sage** (née Beck, 1985): My family and I have moved back to the UK after 20+ years abroad. Jamie, aged 11, and Emily, aged 9, were both born in Vienna and now attend our local schools in Dorset. I gave up my job in Vienna to return to the UK and am now self-employed and working towards further qualifications in coaching, CBT and assessing. I lost touch with College while I was abroad and I would love to find my college friends from Robinson again – 1985-1988. I read Modern Languages with our wonderful Director of Studies, Dr. Mary Stewart, rowed very actively, was on the May Ball Committee, worked at the Porters' Lodge and elsewhere in college during the holidays, and generally had a magical, memorable 3 years at Robinson, surrounded by delightful people!

My email address is:

Sylvia.sage@mindandmore.at

or, snail-mail: Shepherd's Bungalow, Church Lane, Wool, Dorset BH206DD.

Claire Hallissey (2001) came 57th in the Olympic Marathon, completing the race in 2.35.39.

The Council of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has appointed **Andrew Reid** (1994) to be the next Director in succession to Lindsay Gray, who is leaving the RSCM this autumn. Andrew had been Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral since 2004. Before that he served in a number of assistant organist posts, including both Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

Having spent the last few years on faculty with the University of Columbia in New York, **Michael Reid** (1995) now works for the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Botswana as an HIV research specialist. He lives with his wife (Margo) and daughter in Gaborone in Botswana. Saoirse Lily (below) was born on June 1st, 2011.



Brian Skeet (1985) writes, "Eight years ago, my career in the arts took flight when I directed *The Normal Heart* and wrote a thesis on HIV as metaphor. Then, ironically, I was diagnosed with HIV, and it knocked me for six. I have a friend, Mark Ravenhill, the playwright, with whom I discussed whether I should reveal my status on Twitter and I then decided to do so because a) I am not ashamed and b) I decided that for many people it is a mark of impending death, whereas I see it as a badge of rebirth. I am married to the HIV-negative Terry Cummings, who I proposed to after three weeks. I am in charge of my own film company www.joanproductions.com and I am now directing two feature films in the next year. *Personal Best*, a drama about a young black runner, and my own script, *Disorientated*, about a young English tutor who is

corrupted by his charismatic young pupil into murdering his parents at a masked ball. The film is being shot by Blasco Giurato, who shot *Cinema Paradiso*, and my designer is Guido Josia, who worked with Orson Welles and John Huston."

After three years as a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, **Brian Sloan** (2003) has returned to Robinson as a Fellow and College Lecturer in Law in Michaelmas 2012. He is directing studies and teaching Equity, Family Law and Land Law for the College. Brian's first monograph, *Informal Carers and Private Law*, is set to be published by Hart in November 2012.

Pete Wilcox (1984) has been appointed Dean of Liverpool, and was installed in a service at the Cathedral on Saturday 15 September. He left Lichfield Cathedral after six years on the staff there.



Jon Willey (Engineering, 1983) is now working for Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains, developing Formula 1 engines and hybrid drive systems. The company is based in Brixworth, near Northampton, and supplies the power units not only for Mercedes' own team, but also for the McLaren and Force India teams. Jon and Anna (Anna McHugh, Modern Languages, 1983) have moved into a former Victorian Post Office in the Wellingborough area and are busy with renovation work. They say, 'We have recently become empty-nesters as our two girls, who are now 20 and 19, are away studying at Sussex and Nottingham Universities. We would love to hear from any Robinsonians living in the Northampton/Milton Keynes area.'

Please send any notices for the Lent issue of Bin Brook to Dr Nicola Jones, at nkj22@cam.ac.uk.



GRADUATION 2012



**Left: Head Porter, Colin Barnes, reading out the names of the graduating students.
Right: Dr Steve Trudgill with Geography students, Nick Francis and Caitlin Bent.**

Thanks to Dan Green (2009) for the use of his images.





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