We are proud to announce that Professor Morna Hooker, Fellow of Robinson College, has been awarded the Burkitt Medal for Bible Studies for 2004. This prestigious medal is awarded by the British Academy on the recommendation of a specialist committee, and this year was granted at the Annual General Meeting of the British Academy on the 2nd July 2004. It recognises her life-time contribution to her field and is a singular honour.

Professor Hooker's main research throughout her academic career has been in the use of Jewish ideas and beliefs in the writings of the New Testament, and in the continuity and discontinuity between Jewish and Christian beliefs. She was elected to the Fellowship of Robinson in 1977, and helped to shape the life and traditions of the College from the beginning.

Professor Hooker was the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Cambridge for twenty-two years (76–98). She was the first British woman to hold the international honour of President of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, the international society of New Testament scholars, and the first woman to receive a Cambridge DD. She is a Fellow of King's College, London and holds honorary degrees from Bristol and Edinburgh Universities and is an honorary Fellow of Linacre College, Oxford. Her publications include A Commentary of the Gospel according to Mark. She was one of the small group of scholars who revised the New English Bible to produce the Revised English Bible and has for many years been joint editor of the Journal of Theological Studies.

Three Royal Medals, known also as The Queen's Medals, are awarded annually by the sovereign upon the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society, two for the most important contributions to the advancement of Natural Knowledge (one to each of the two great divisions) and one for distinguished contributions in the applied sciences. These awards are for contributions made within the British Commonwealth.

The Medals cover a variety of science, engineering and technology topics: they have been instituted at various times since 1731, and most owe their existence to the generosity of donors.

The recipients are selected by the Physical or Biological Sciences’ Awards Committees. The Committees are made up of Fellows of the Society, and are chaired by the Physical and Biological Secretaries respectively.

Nobel prize-winners Frederick Sanger and the late Francis Crick and Max Perutz (among others) have all received Royal Medals during the Medals’ rich history. We are delighted to tell you that in 2004, Royal Medals were awarded to Lord Lewis of Newnham, former Warden of Robinson College, Sir Alec Jeffreys and Sir James Black.

Lord Lewis’s Medal was given in recognition of his distinguished career in the field of inorganic chemistry over the last 50 years, mainly in the area of the transition elements.

Our warmest congratulations to Lord Lewis and Professor Hooker!
ALUMNI EVENTS AND FEATURES

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES
MATRICULATION YEAR
2001

Charlotte Byrns
Charlotte was born and educated in Nottingham, where she studied Biology, Latin and Theology at A-level before coming to Robinson in 2001 to read Law. During her time at Robinson she became a member of the May Ball Committee, firstly as Catering Manager and later as Vice-President. She also spent a year as President of Robinson College Law Society.

Charlotte has now returned to Nottingham and eventually intends to pursue a career as a solicitor, after spending some valuable time travelling and learning a new language.

Greig Simms
Hailing from the quiet haven of Kenilworth, a Warwickshire town with a ruined castle, a large population of militant pensioners and which also boasts the mantle of being Rolf Harris’s favourite place in the UK, I had never felt the urge of adventure or self-discovery. Therefore I binned the idea of a gap year and headed straight for Robinson. For the next three years I studied Land Economy, defended its reputation to other students and attempted to explain what it was about to everyone else. Student life wasn’t all study, with a good amount of time spent in the bar, other highlights for myself included being Vice-President of the RCSA and a couple of mediocre outings for the 2nds football team. Nevertheless, the degree appears to have paid off as I am currently working in London and enjoying the thrills of suburban life.

MY JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

On the day of the school cultural festival, I found a piece of tinsel on my desk. ‘What’s this for?’ I asked a teacher. ‘The brass band brought it for you.’ ‘Okay.’ ‘Wear it when you sing,’ she added. My understanding was sudden and terrible. A few days ago, I had attended the school band rehearsal. The students were practising the Titanic soundtrack and wanted to hear the English words. I had helped out, gone home and forgotten about it. Now, apparently, I was being asked to do a repeat performance in front of students, parents, teachers and the Mayor, while wearing tinsel. I quickly found the lyrics for ‘My Heart Will Go On’ on the Internet, and wondered what had happened.

I had come to Japan to work as an assistant English teacher in a rural school. Before arrival, I spoke no Japanese, and knew little about the country. Rolling into Tokyo jetlagged to find myself surrounded by incomprehensible neon signs just reinforced my confusion. And the sense of strangeness persisted for a long time. My washing machine measured the weight of my washing, but couldn’t use hot water. Bank machines allowed you to perform any imaginable financial transaction – before 9 p.m. I would lie awake at night wondering how any language could require three different alphabets.

Personal relationships were equally confusing, though rewarding. The most considerate people I have ever met have been Japanese, and strangers continually invited me into their houses for tea, presents and advice. But the high base level of politeness made it difficult to know who was acting sincerely and who was merely upholding conventions.

Any paranoia I had about social interaction was intensified by my awareness of standing out as a foreigner. Japan has a tiny expatriate population and relatively few international visitors. In addition, historical isolation has led to the development of a strong national identity. Some Japanese translate this into a binary opposition between Japan and everywhere else. If Japan is “unique”, it follows all other countries must be interchangeable. Thus, me singing Celine Dion in a London accent is an authentic example of international culture. Periodically, people did also show specific interest in Britain. I felt a surge of national pride when one student said she wanted to come to London to visit Topshop. But the greatest benefit of living in the country was moving beyond questions of cultural identity, and relating to people as individuals. After I sang my song, the school’s vice-principal gave me a cabbage – partly as a reward, but largely just to laugh at my reaction. Later, a friend came round and hid garlic in my slippers. Whether this meant anything is doubtful, but we all enjoyed ourselves.

The Maria Björnson Outdoor Theatre was opened on 18 June by the composer/lyricist and Robinson Alumnus, Charles Hart. Designed by Architecture student, Andrew Wright, and Head Gardener, Desmond O’Grady, with help from thespians and musicians, it was constructed under the supervision of the Maintenance Superintendent and the Domestic Bursar. The first production, performed by the Brickhouse Theatre Company, was of Lysistrata which has been the focus of a recent worldwide campaign for peace.

Maria Björnson was a renowned costume and set designer for productions ranging from opera and Shakespeare to world-famous musicals. She won several awards internationally for Aspects of Love and Follies and two Tony Awards for her work on Phantom of the Opera. Amongst her broad portfolio of work, she contributed to productions for the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Old Vic, Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Glyndebourne and La Scala.

Charles Hart’s dedication to and funding of the Maria Björnson Outdoor Theatre at Robinson resulted from his close collaboration with Maria before her early death in 2002, at the age of 53. Speaking at the opening reception, Charles said: “I am delighted to make this contribution to the cultural life of Robinson and Cambridge in memory of my friend and colleague, Maria Björnson. Maria was a great talent and inspiration to all who knew her and this theatre is a fitting memorial to her, as it will continue to inspire generations of actors and musicians to come and provide them with the opportunity to showcase and develop their talents.”

Hot on the heels was the Annual Reception at Goldsmith’s Hall in the City of London on 22 June. Lord Pearson of Rannoch, Father of alumna Silvia (1985), gave a thought-provoking perspective on higher education in Britain and changes over the last 25 years. Champagne, canapés, a fascinating exhibition on silversmiths, and a good crowd meant that the party buzzed. Next year’s is at the House of Lords, thanks to Lord Lewis, at 6.30pm on 28 June 2005. Do join us!

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 28 November 2004**
Christmas Carol Service, Chapel at College

**Tuesday 7 December 2004**
Varsity Match, Twickenham

**Saturday 2 April 2005**
Pegasus Society Dinner, Robinson College

**Tuesday 28 June 2005**
Annual Reception, the House of Lords

Please check the website for discipline dinners in London and Cambridge: details will appear as they are arranged throughout the year.

**VARSI TY MATCH 2004**

*Tuesday 7th December*

Come and join the party again this year! Similar format to 2003, meeting at London Welsh before the game, coach to and from the match and supper after.

We will have a limited number of tickets this year, so reserve your ticket early to avoid disappointment.

Costs will be similar to last year, but check the College website for final details. Tickets can be reserved in advance from the Development Office.

E.mail: development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 339036
Congratulations to Antonia Collins (1996) on her engagement to Dr. James Rubin in May this year. The wedding is planned for January 2005.

Chris Abrams (1995) who achieved his PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic will take up a lectureship at UCL in October.

Hannah Rawlinson (1991) and Mark Starling (1991) are now the proud parents of Hamish who was born on the 23rd April 2004.

More congratulations to Alex Cargill Thompson (1987) who married Rachel Lomax (Magdalene) in August 2003. Alex and Rachel met at the University Rifle Association. Alex will be touring Australia this autumn as a member of the Great Britain Match Rifle Team, so all success to Alex and the team.


Karen (1992) and Tim (1992) Parrish are pleased to announce the arrival of Dylan (pictured above) earlier this year. Only cox size at the moment, but he’ll grow!

Phil Cole (1994) married Linda Goulden on the 11th September at Menston Parish Church near Ilkley. Congratulations to you both.

Rowena Moore (nee Mainprice) (1987) has two daughters, Cordelia (2) and Rosalind (12 weeks). Our photograph shows Rowena, with Rosalind sitting on Catherine Davies (nee Lock) (1987) lap.

Helen Cornish joined Robinson this summer as Development Director and Fellow. She came to us from the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) at the University of London’s School of Advanced Study and was previously at Imperial College School of Medicine, where she worked on the Queen Charlotte’s Appeal.

From 2001 until this summer, Helen worked with Professor David Cannadine on the IHR Appeal and established the IHR’s first development office. During that period the Appeal secured £7 million of grants, bringing the total raised for the IHR between 1998 and 2004 to £9.9 million. These grants are funding new professorships and associated postdoctoral posts; refurbishment of Library and seminar facilities; installation of new IT hardware and software; 25 IHR Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in the Humanities and 21 pre-dissertation IHR Mellon Fellowships; and the major digitisation pilot, British History Online at www.british-history.ac.uk.

During her time at Imperial, Helen worked with Professor Robert Winston on the Queen Charlotte’s Appeal, which raised £13.5 million to build and equip the largest research centre in Europe for women’s and babies’ healthcare. As well as making major gift approaches to individuals, companies and trusts, Helen also organised an all-women cycle ride from Jerusalem via the Dead Sea and Petra. So many women wanted to join in that she ended up cycling the 250-mile route two weeks in a row in order that everyone could take part. 500 miles later, more than £220,000 had been raised for the equipment fund and lots of firm friendships had been made.

Helen hopes to bring together her experience in fundraising for both the sciences and the humanities at Robinson to support the full range of College activities and facilities. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, Liam Devlin (pictured above), who is an electronics engineer and Director of RF Integration at local design house and consultancy, Plextek. Helen is a keen sailor. Her parents live on Trucial Coast, their sailing boat, in the Mediterranean for 10 months of each year and she is often out on the water whether visiting them, racing in the Sigma 33 class, skippering charter holidays with friends or delivering yachts around Europe. She and Liam love to travel – this year they were in Alaska – and when younger, Helen lived in the Middle East, Far East, South America and Europe. Both enjoy cycling and Helen has been getting Liam out on the ski slopes recently, but he has yet to persuade her to develop climbing skills to match his own!

If you would like to hear more about fundraising for Robinson, or to discuss our alumni relations programme, please feel free to contact Helen on 01223 339037 or hec39@cam.ac.uk.
The Choir has flourished this year, reaching perhaps its best standard ever, conducted by Ryan Hepburn (Senior Organ Scholar) and accompanied by Leigh Simpson (Junior Organ Scholar). Ryan's passion for 20th century music has made a big impression on the Choir's current repertoire. Early in the year Remembrance Sunday was celebrated with excerpts from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace. The Christmas services and concerts included stunning performances of Britten's Hymn to St Cecilia, and Hymn to the Virgin, and the highlight of the Lent Term was David Fanshawe's African Sanctus.

After singing for the Graduation Service, the Choir packed their bags and headed for a 5-day trip to Prague. They started the trip singing Mozart's Missa Brevis in D Minor for a Student Mass at Kostel St Salvatore. The highlight of the week was a concert in St Nicholas' Church, in the Old Town Square, which included Tippett's Five Spirituals from A Child of Our Time, and Aaron Copland's In the Beginning, an ambitious piece which they had learned specially for the tour. The following day the choir travelled south to Domazlice, where they gave two concerts as part of a local cultural festival. In return, the choir were treated to local hospitality and several performances of traditional music and dancing. Back in Prague, their final performance was another bilingual mass.

Between rehearsals and concerts, the choir members had the opportunity to explore Prague and nearby Lidice, and learn a great deal about the recent history of the country. Several choir members have reported that amidst the fun and laughter of the tour there were some very sobering moments as they visited various museums and memorials. Choral Scholar Serena Aylward writes of Lidice: “All that remains is the foundations of a couple of houses, markers for where the church and schoolroom were – and a beautiful, peaceful garden known as the Reverential Place. The beauty of the valley, and the carefully crafted statues, commemorate the pain of those who saw their men shot, their children taken away, and their women taken to concentration camps. A beautiful Rose Garden records the names of 12 other villages and towns obliterated during World War II. It was a very sobering experience, which will stay with us. The atmosphere as we got back onto the coach was quite sombre and reflective.”

The tour ended with the customary speeches, as Ryan handed over his conductor's baton to Leigh for the coming year.

Rev’d Dr Maggi Dawn
Chaplain

Highlights of the coming year

Sunday 31 October  6 pm Festival Service
At Robinson Chapel, with the combined Chapel choirs of Robinson, Fitzwilliam and Churchill Colleges.

Sunday 7 November  6 pm
Commemoration of Benefactors.
Preacher: George Pattison, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, University of Oxford.

Sunday 14 November  8.05 am on BBC Radio 4 – Remembrance Day service from Robinson College Chapel. If you would like to be present at the recording of the service on the afternoon of Saturday 13th, please contact the Chaplain on med1000@cam.ac.uk

Sunday 28 November
Christmas Concert

Sunday 20th March (Palm Sunday)
Evening Concert, All Saint's Church, Stamford, Lincs.

Information and contacts

The Choir is currently planning its concerts and tour for 2005. If you are interested in hosting a concert, please contact the Chaplain: med1000@cam.ac.uk

All other enquiries about the Choir should be forwarded to Leigh Simpson: ldgs2@cam.ac.uk

Nowell Nowell

Christmas Carols sung by the Choir of Robinson College including well-known favourites such as Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, In Dulci Jubilo, In the Bleak Midwinter and The Twelve Days of Christmas, as well as carols by Jeremy Thurlow, William Mathias and Daryl Runswick.

This CD, packed with over 75 minutes of music, is priced at £10 plus £1 postage and packing.

To place your order use the booking form at the back of Bin Brook or contact the Development Office
Robinson College
Tel: 01223 339036
E.mail: cm252@cam.ac.uk
Long before I joined the conference team at Robinson College, I had been aware of the College as a venue at the forefront of academic institutions operating in the conference market. As a general manager of a nearby conference hotel, I needed to be aware of my competitors in this field and Cambridge in general and Robinson in particular were always on the radar screen. Since my arrival in November 2003, I have realised that Robinson College continues to be among the market leaders in the Cambridge scene, due no doubt to the foresight of Sir David Robinson and the original planning team back in the Seventies. From those first days, Robinson College set out to be a premier conference venue in support of its academic aspirations. We remain one of the most popular venues for organisers, benefiting from the lion’s share of the business.

As you will know, the large (270 seats) auditorium is equipped with state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, and the College also has an excellent mid-sized venue, the Umney Theatre. Holding up to 120 delegates and similarly well equipped, this tiered theatre further complements our range of conference facilities, including up to 20 breakout rooms. This gives organisers a selection of plenary and syndicate rooms to choose from to suit the size and objectives of their events.

The study bedrooms continue to be a major attraction. With 170 en-suite single rooms and around a hundred two-single-bedroom suites, we are able to accommodate up to 270 delegates in what are comfortable and well-appointed rooms. I am struck by how many compliments we receive from delegates about the accommodation – which makes the organiser’s life considerably less “hassled”.

Chef Gary Dougan and his team continue to produce outstanding food and together with the friendly and efficient service offered, our catering staff are justifiably proud of the reputation the College has for excellent cuisine. The variety of menus and service styles that we offer enable organisers’ requirements to be met, safe in the knowledge that their delegates’ wide and varied expectations will be exceeded.

As alumni are aware, our location and setting are of course extraordinary. The compact college campus, set within acres of beautiful landscaped gardens and woods, makes for really easy and expeditious delegate movement, helping the conference programme keep to time, and all in a delightful environment. Equally, being within short walking distance of the historic city centre and yet just 2 miles from the M11 motorway, gives guests the best of both worlds. And we offer plentiful nearby parking.

Ultimately, what makes Robinson College very special is the outlook that we have towards our conference guests and business. All of us, Fellows, College Management and Staff, recognise the huge contribution that conferences make to the College. Organisers are therefore assured of a committed approach to the success of their event from a dedicated and experienced team. All of this is why we see increasing numbers of event organisers returning again and again; corporate organisations like Visa, Astra Zenica, Royal Bank of Scotland, Ernst and Young, to name just a few. Equally, the worlds of academia, associations and government are well represented in our client database.

So, if you are involved in organising conferences and meetings for your organisation, do consider Robinson College for your next event. Take advantage of the alumni discount which is currently on offer. We’d certainly like to welcome you back!

Nick Milne
Conference Manager

Alumni Readership Conference Offer

Until 31st December 2005, Alumni of Robinson College will benefit from a discount of 10% on prevailing conference rates.

If you would like a quote for your event or for more information about the Robinson College facilities please contact:

Conference Office
Robinson College
Cambridge CB3 9AN
Tel: 01223–332859 or 01223–339119
Fax: 01223–315094
e-mail: conference@robinson.cam.ac.uk
web: www.robinson.cam.ac.uk
COMING BACK TO ROBINSON...

As Professor of Biomedical Materials and Dean of the Faculty of Science & Engineering at the University of Brighton, I am regularly invited to organise and host scientific meetings and conferences. However, an invitation to organise the 10th international conference on Polymers in Medicine and Surgery (PIMS) this year presented particular challenges. This meeting has historically brought together clinicians, academics and industrialist from across the world to discuss the latest advances in the development of polymer-based materials for medical applications. Although previously hosted by various internationally-renowned universities across Europe over the last 30 years, the separate cost of registration and accommodation had in recent years made the meeting prohibitively expensive for some past attendees. I therefore realised that we’d need a prestigious venue with high-class accommodation, catering and lecture facilities which could be offered at a reasonable cost within a single all-inclusive package.

Whilst reflecting on this challenge I remembered the conferences which had been held at Robinson College whilst I was resident; how the on-suite college rooms were masterfully converted into high-class accommodation equivalent to that of any quality hotel and the college menu changed to accommodate the more expensive tastes of some conference attendees. I also recalled the quality of the auditorium, the helpful and supportive staff within college and the reflective ambience provided by the college courts and gardens. Given the increasing focus on medical materials by researchers at the University of Cambridge, including some members of college, I realised that this would be an ideal venue for this meeting.

The conference office staff have since been extremely helpful in accommodating the specific requirements of the meeting and as a consequence, with the meeting now only a week away, the venue arrangements have been the least of our organisational challenges. I am now looking forward to the opportunity to walk through the courts and gardens and reflect on my wonderful memories of those distant undergraduate days at Robinson in the mid-1980s.

Andrew Lloyd
1993 – Natural Sciences
a.w.lloyd@brighton.ac.uk

USA HONOUR FOR DR JOHN WILLIAMS

Dr John Williams, Fellow of Robinson, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for his research in the fields of lubricants, coated surfaces and micro-electro-mechanical systems.

Hello – Goodbye

Alan Hunter joined the Porters this summer. Alan is no stranger to College life having worked at other Cambridge Colleges.

June marked the retirement of Irene Metcalfe and Janet Davies from the Housekeeping Department. Enjoy your retirement girls!

The Bakerian Lecture is the Royal Society’s premier lecture in the physical sciences. It originated in 1775 through a bequest by Mr. Henry Baker FRS, of £100 for an oration or discourse which was to be spoken or read yearly by one of the Fellows of the Society on “such part of natural history or experimental philosophy, at such time and in such manner as the President and Council of the Society for the time being shall please to order and appoint.”

In 2006 the Bakerian Lecture will be delivered by Professor Athene Donald FRS, a Fellow of Robinson.

Professor Donald has worked at the Cavendish Institute since 1983, and is currently head of the Polymers and Colloids group, which was set up in 1992. Her areas of interest span conventional synthetic polymers to polymers of natural origin, from colloidal systems such as cement to food colloids such as emulsions. The unifying theme is structure-property-processing relationships. The tools used involve various microscopies, scattering (at synchrotrons and neutron sources) and spectroscopy, together with mechanical testing.

Further details of the title/subject of Professor Donald’s Bakerian Lecture in 2006 will be published in Bin Brook as they become available.
ROBINSON COLLEGE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Option A
The Beginning and the End
By John Piper (Detail)
A window in Robinson College Chapel
60p Each
£5.00 Pack of 10

Option B
The mystery of Communion 2002
By S. Edwards-McKie
Robinson College
50p Each
£4.00 Pack of 10

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Total Amount Due: £ __________________

Cheque No ___________________ (payable to Robinson College) enclosed

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Card No ______________________ Expiry Date __________________

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FROM THE CHEF’S TABLE
Sesame and Poppy Seed Tuille
Makes 16 pieces

Ingredients
100g Sesame Seeds
30g Poppy Seeds
150g Icing Sugar
50g Plain Flour
35ml Orange Juice
100g Unsalted Butter

Method
1. Preheat oven to 160ºC/325ºF/Gas 3
2. Mix together all the dry ingredients in a bowl
3. Add the orange juice and butter, and mix until smooth
4. Using all the mixture, put 16 spoonfuls on a large non-stick tray (or use 2 trays) and refrigerate for 1 hour
5. Flatten the mixture to discs about 5cm in diameter and as thin as possible, using the base of a small flat-bottomed bowl (dip this in very hot water each time before using so that the mixture does not stick
6. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 6-8 minutes until golden brown
7. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for 30 seconds (but not harden)
8. Remove them from the tray with a palette knife and shape them over a rolling pin or wine bottle
9. Leave to harden, then very delicately store in an airtight container