

# BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



M I C H A E L M A S 2 0 1 5

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## Upcoming Events for Members and Friends

- 5/12/15 - Christmas Concert and Freshers' Parents' Lunch
- 9/1/16 - Graduands' Parents' Lunch
- Lent 2016 - Law Dinner
- 19/3/16 - Pegasus Society Seminar, AGM and Dinner
- 6/7/16 - Annual Reception, at the House of Lords
- 24/9/16 - Reunion Dinner for 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

For further information and booking, please see: <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/development-news>

Editor: Dr Nicola Jones  
Editorial Committee: Ms Helen Cornish, Dr Rosalind Love, Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Judy Weiss and Mrs Helen Winter



Pictures from top-bottom: left: seminar room layout; foyer; plenary room laid for dinner; top right: view from Adams Road; outdoor terracing looking on to the garden behind 4 Adams Road.





# The Crausaz Wordsworth Building

The Warden and Fellows are delighted that the Crausaz Wordsworth Building will be in use from this term and are tremendously grateful to the donors who have made this possible. When not in academic use, it is also available as an event venue. If you would like to find out about visiting or booking the new building, please contact our Conference Office on 01223 332859 or visit the website:

<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/conferences-robinson>



# BACK TO SCHOOL



Kevin at work in the kitchens

As we all know, Cambridge colleges are famous for being centres of academic learning. But Robinson hasn't restricted the lessons to our students. At the grand old age of 51 one of our chefs, **Kevin Beckett**, has recently gone back to school at Cambridge Regional College (CRC), with impressive results. We sat down with him to find out what the experience had been like.

**So Kevin, how long have you been a chef and what started you on the path to work in catering?**

I come from a big family, I've got five sisters and a brother, and it was always a challenge for my mum to get a good dinner on the table. From an early age I used to help, making pies, cooking up veg, all good hearty cooking designed to feed the family as cheaply as possible. I left school early to help support the family and ended up working in a nightclub in Newcastle, making late-night food – burgers, kebabs, that kind of thing. The economy wasn't great and eventually the club couldn't afford to employ me regularly, so I followed the advice of a friend – another Newcastle lad who had gone down South – and came to Cambridge. He assured me that this was a great place to find work, and it was: I arrived on the Sunday night, and by 9am the next morning, I was working in Pizza Hut. The next few years I worked in a variety of jobs – you tend to move a lot in this industry – and worked for several colleges. I met my wife, a chef at Trinity, and we started a family. Time went by, but I found it hard to progress up the career ladder, from the 'blues' of the catering assistant/kitchen porter to the 'whites' of the chefs. Several times colleges assured me that I'd be allowed to do some proper training, but nothing ever came of it. Eventually I cut my losses, and went to Emmanuel, where I spent nearly fifteen years as a technician, working with their IT and conference teams.

But I knew I wanted to be a chef, wanted to work around food, so after leaving Emmanuel I started doing casual work in college kitchens. Then eight years ago, a job came up at Robinson for a kitchen porter and I went for it. Right in the interview I mentioned to Gary Dougan (Head Chef) that I wanted to be a chef and he took me seriously.

**What kind of training have you done? How does it fit around your work at Robinson?**

My first job at Robinson was as a kitchen porter, which meant I was tasked with keeping the kitchen clean and tidy, managing food waste and keeping things running smoothly. It's not the most glamorous job, obviously, but I took a lot of pride in doing it well. Right from the start at Robinson, though, I was asked to help the chefs when we were busy. Starting with things like veg prep, I was allowed to take on the simpler tasks and learn on the job. Obviously, you need to have certain formal qualifications to be a full-time chef, so I went back to College, and now I'm just finishing my first year of the NVQ Level 3 advanced apprenticeship in professional cookery. I spend one day a week at CRC, and have an assessment every three weeks where I have to prepare

specific dishes. I've also just taken my Level 2 Functional Skills, which I'm very pleased to say I've passed!

### **What has it been like going back to school?**

It's been great. I love working with the younger kids – most of them are in their late teens, early twenties – and we get on well. I think they look to me for a bit of guidance sometimes, and it's been great for my confidence. As a group, we've had some amazing opportunities. I recently spent a day at Corpus Christi college, where I assisted on a seven-course 'Fish Feast' dinner for charity. I found myself working with Mark Poynton, Phil Thompson and Adam Simmonds – there were six Michelin stars in the kitchen!

I've learnt a huge amount on the course. Each week we take photos of what we cook at CRC, and I take those designs in to work, where we talk about them. Literally everything I learn at CRC, I take back to Robinson, and everything I learn at Robinson feeds back into my course. It's a two-way relationship.

### **So what next for you? What are your plans for the future?**

I'm staying here. I've got one more year to finish my NVQ, but in terms of jobs, I'm very happy at Robinson. And that's not just loyalty – that goes without saying – it's that there are so many opportunities to learn things here. And you learn something every day. Whether it's a case of getting a hearty lasagne and greens into 200 hungry undergraduates at lunchtime, or preparing an intricate formal dinner for a College event, this job is really rewarding. I'm always in early – I can't help it, I love it! – and I can't wait to get going. I've got great colleagues and the best Head Chef you could ask for, why would I want to go anywhere else?

### **What would your advice be for someone thinking of changing career in mid-life?**

Just work hard and try your best, you'll get there in the end. And don't worry about starting 'at the bottom' – it gives you a really valuable perspective and an attention to detail that is important.

Kevin has recently been awarded the Advanced Apprentice Cup by CRC for his work this year. In September, he won the prestigious mialist award for "The Industry's most Inspiring Individual".



Kevin Beckett with his mentor, Head Chef Gary Dougan.

## **Kevin's Roast Cod with Spicy Lentils**

Serves 4

2tbsp sunflower oil  
1 small onion, finely diced  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
3 tbsp medium curry paste

125g spinach  
150g cherry tomatoes, halved  
500g cooked Puy lentils  
juice of 1 lemon  
4 cod fillets, approximately 150g each

Heat oven to 160 degrees, or gas mark 4.  
Fry onions slowly until soft, add garlic. Fry for another 2 minutes, add curry paste, and cook for a further minute.  
Add spinach and wilt, add tomatoes, lentils, lemon juice and 100mls of water.  
Put mix into ovenproof dish, sit cod fillets on top and bake for approximately 30 minutes.



# After Robinson



Sometimes it's only when you get to the place you're going, that the journey makes sense. In what we hope will become a regular feature of *Bin Brook*, we've asked an alumna to tell us about her unusual career path. This term, **Suzanne Jacob (MML, 1999)** tells us how she went from working on national security for the Olympic Games, to working for a domestic violence charity, SafeLives.

Career planning was rarely on my mind at university. Summer holidays were spent earning money at not-very-brilliant jobs, rather than smart internships. I did always know, however, what I was interested in. I grew up in a house in which politics was often talked about and in which my mum could occasionally be found castigating politicians, through the medium of her radio. My mum was also the inspiration for my second major interest, the deeply unequal position of women.

When I started to apply for graduate positions, it's fair to say I still hadn't decided what I wanted to do. I enjoyed the talk by GCHQ, but my enthusiasm dwindled when one of the presenters cheerfully said 'and you know, Cheltenham really is the shopping mecca of the Cotswolds!' Having come from a small town, I had no intention of moving to another.

I applied for jobs which would give me an insight into political decision-making, completing my Fast Stream application amongst a large batch of others. I knew lots of talented people who hadn't got in, so when I found out I'd been successful in applying to the PR and public affairs company Weber Shandwick, I accepted. I was interested in finding out what it takes to influence Government from the outside.

I never regretted starting my career at Weber. It was hard work and terribly paid, but I was fascinated to watch how communications strategies were assembled and implemented. I found myself talking about nuclear fuel over lunch at the Savoy, and ghost-writing articles about the splendour of Paris for Michel Platini. It was great fun and frequently surreal. Still, when I found out that the Fast Stream had offered me a place, I decided to take it. The Civil Service had done a good job of playing hard to get.

I joined the Home Office in late 2004. In my spare time I took up a voluntary role for Victim Support. The lasting impact of crime, even crime people might consider to be 'low level', is extreme. Some people never recover, their mental health destabilised forever. People are more likely to be victims of crime again once they have been the first time, because

predatory individuals know how to spot someone who's vulnerable.

I'd been working on national security issues for just three weeks when 7/7 happened. The months that followed were a blur of activity. Many have criticised; all I can say is that then and since I have seen individuals of the highest intelligence and integrity working on counter-terrorism, with the sole aim of keeping people safe. My extraordinary head of unit never lost her cool, even under the most incredible pressure. I greatly admired her.

My stint on the London 2012 Olympics is the longest I have done. In the Civil Service you move often, and are prized as a generalist who can keep adapting to new subjects. I thought it might be dull, but having a clear goal with a hard deadline and many, many obstacles to overcome was one of the most enjoyable things I've ever done. National security is about minimising the risks you can control and mitigating the ones you can't. It isn't the glamorous part of the Olympics but it taught me structure, discipline, rigour, teamwork and delivery. Coming out of the Home Office, I realised how much confidence that had given me.

SafeLives is the dream job I never knew I was dreaming about. I met the CEO and Founder, Diana Barran, in early 2012. Though it didn't lead to a job until 2015, I knew at once that she was someone with whom I had a lot in common. We agreed that the charity sector was vital but too often run in a well-meaning but amateur way. We agreed a victim of domestic abuse should not have to feel like the only option is to take their children and leave their home. We agreed that the principles of managing risk and ensuring safety, accepted as a matter of course for other crimes, should apply to those living with violence in their relationships.

The statistics are stubborn. Two women a week are killed by their partner or ex-partner. More commit suicide or serious acts of self-harm. The rate of abuse against men is less clear but still significant and unacceptable. Children growing up



Most domestic abuse victims contact services **5 times** in the year before they get effective help.

**5 missed chances.**

Let's get it right **first time.**



with violence often become vulnerable to it and/or propagate it in their later lives.

SafeLives is a small charity, with around 50 staff and a turnover of £3m a year. We don't do frontline work, but exist to put the best possible tools, guidance, data and support in place for the practitioners who do. We look for what works, test it and scale it. Then we persistently look for ways to do it better. We also provide advice to politicians and commissioners to increase the chance they'll invest in what works.

2015-16 is a big year for SafeLives. We launched our new strategy in February, and it commits us to testing some radical new approaches. We believe that the pressure to change should be on the person causing harm, and are working with three local authorities and police and crime commissioners to test a significant new way of working with perpetrators. It will be one-to-one and mandatory, tackling individuals who range from chaotic to hostile. We also want to reach

families much earlier, offering them support that feels joined up rather than fragmented, as it is today. The current approach deals with a series of problems, not a whole human being, and in so doing misses multiple opportunities to stop the abuse sooner. That often leads to serious harm or death, and must change.

At SafeLives we don't fundraise publicly, though if you want to make a donation it would be really gratefully received. You can go to our JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/safelives>, or if you think your company or trust would like to make a donation please contact me at [Suzanne.Jacob@safelives.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Jacob@safelives.org.uk) or [Frances.Caluori@safelives.org.uk](mailto:Frances.Caluori@safelives.org.uk) I'd also love to hear from you if you're interested in what the charity does, or want to offer your skills or contacts in some other way.

*Suzanne was awarded an OBE in 2012 for her work during the London Olympics.*



After Robinson



# Lacara Barnes-Rowe (English, 2006)

## Supporting Diversity



After graduating from Robinson College in 2009, my career has focussed on supporting young people from less privileged backgrounds to access higher education and the professions. Academic attainment featured particularly high on the list of priorities when I was growing up: my family is Jamaican and I remember a childhood characterised by trips to museums, libraries and surprise maths tests! Although the last thing a 10-year-old wants to do is abandon outdoor mischief to practise their times tables, my mother's zeal was demonstrative of her desire that I should fulfil my potential.

Despite robust support from key influencers such as parents, carers and teachers, this is rarely the sole determinant for success among young people from working class, BAME (Black, Asian, and minority ethnic) communities similar to that in which I grew up. Young people falling into one or more of these categories, or any of the other protected characteristics, may find that they are affected by a number of barriers to higher education, including but not limited to: inadequate support, poor access to relevant information, lack of confidence and discrimination. My own journey to Cambridge is indicative of this: on telling the deputy head of my sixth form that I intended to apply to Cambridge, I was encouraged not to on the basis that my family is Caribbean.



Following several journalism internships, I gained my first insight into working with young people in years 7 and 8 in a secondary school in Newham, as an intervention tutor. This was a valuable opportunity to learn that underachievement and challenging behaviour are not simply attributable to a young person's unwillingness to engage with the school's curriculum: the vast majority of the students in the cohorts I worked with were diagnosed as having Special Educational Needs and, for some, this was compounded by complex and tumultuous circumstances at home.

Through small group work centred on improving attainment in the core subjects, complemented by pastoral care, I was pleased to see grades increase at the end of a term-long programme. However, I doubt the long-term effectiveness of this intervention: firstly, neither my colleagues nor I were trained in how to work with young people with complex needs and secondly our work with them amounts to a mere moment in time when considered in the wider context of their academic career. Unfortunately, like many state secondary schools in low income areas, this particular institution lacked the resources to offer a sustained programme of support.



Following my time as an intervention tutor, I have undertaken several roles involving widening participation to higher education and various professions. I frequently bump into some of the students I worked with and it's wonderful to see them assured and confident in their achievements and plans for the future.

I currently work as the Outreach Coordinator at the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, one of four Inns of Court. For those who may not know what an Inn of Court does – I didn't until I saw the job advert – it holds the exclusive right to call barristers to the Bar in England and Wales. I'm based in the Education and Training Department and we provide a range of programmes and events to prospective barristers and those already

From top to bottom: Lacara; the library at Inner Temple;  
frontage of Inner Temple.



in the profession. Within my remit are programmes for sixth-formers who are interested in a career at the Bar, regional receptions and presentations for undergraduates and various schemes for those undertaking the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). Considering the incredible expense of the BPTC and the fierce competition for pupillages (this is a year of training following the BPTC that, on completion, entitles a person to practise as a barrister), it is vital that those entering the profession are supported in regard to developing the kind of robust legal work experience that will enhance chances of progressing from the BPTC to pupillage, and are aware of the generous scholarships offered by the Inn.

Inner Temple's Pegasus Access and Support Scheme and the Schools Project feature among the provision that the Outreach Team coordinates. The former was established in 2012 and, with the support of more than 60 Chambers, provides mini-pupillages to penultimate and final year university students from backgrounds under-represented at the Bar. Placements are allocated taking into account academic merit and contextual information.

Through the Schools Project, the Inner Temple has opened its doors to more than 2000 A-Level students aspiring to practice at the Bar who meet criteria such as having no family history of attending university, accessing free school meals or attending a state sixth form with low progression rates to higher education. We organise 5 seminars over the academic year offering insight into how to pursue a career at the Bar, panel discussions from practising barristers, and workshops on case law and plea in mitigation, facilitated by barristers.

While it's always useful to reflect on our achievements, I place a great deal of importance on interrogating my own practices in regard to widening participation to the Bar, to ensure that I don't unwittingly fall into the trap of reproducing inequality. Every profession has its buzzwords. In ours they are standards, merit and disadvantage. Such terminology is so pedestrian that often we fail to unpack its meaning and, specifically, its relevance to our work.

Taking the notion of standards as an example, there have been occasions when I've heard well-meaning stakeholders say in response to the idea of widening participation that "we don't want to lower standards". Now there's nothing wrong with having high standards. What is troubling is when this idea of lowering standards is only mentioned in reference to outreach work, as though diversity may lead to a reduction in quality.

Among the criticisms most frequently levelled at attempts to widen participation is the valid assertion that isolated interventions do little to effectively offset the variety of barriers that an individual may encounter on the road to university and/or their chosen career. I am pleased that in the context of my current role, I have the opportunity to work with the profession and aspirants to the profession to support the development of a representative Bar.

If you would like to read more about Lacara's work, details can be found here: <http://www.innertemple.org.uk/prospective-members/schools>

Further details about the Pegasus Access Scheme are available here: <http://www.pegasus.me/>

# Access to Robinson



*Victoria Harvey, Schools' Liaison Officer*

As we approach the end of another admissions round, it is fantastic to see many students from Robinson's Link Areas awarded places for October 2015. The University's area links scheme is an invaluable way of targeting high-achieving students from all backgrounds and of encouraging more competitive applications to the University. The official link areas scheme is one that ensures that each London borough and each county (or equivalent) is officially linked with one of the Cambridge colleges – the idea being that schools in every area should be approached by at least one Cambridge college with information on admissions opportunities at Cambridge.

Since my appointment on 1 June 2015, Robinson has hosted schools from all over our link areas: Wiltshire, Swindon, Gloucestershire and the London borough of Wandsworth, as well as from many other areas of the UK. Some schools have brought cohorts of students who have been identified as Gifted and Talented; others have rewarded students whose exam performance was excellent with an inspiring trip to Cambridge. Furthermore, we have hosted students on outreach programmes with the Department of Archaeology and those staying with other colleges, who were thrilled to have the opportunity to visit a more modern college. These trips have a dual purpose: above all, we want to raise the aspirations of those talented students who may erroneously believe that they don't have the right background for Russell Group Universities, and particularly for Oxbridge, by demonstrating that our current student body is rich with diversity and that opportunities are here for all those with the academic potential, regardless of their financial means. The second aim is, of course, to show off Robinson's beautiful gardens, delicious food and excellent accommodation to those students who are considering an application to Cambridge.

## **Science Residential**

Towards the end of June, Robinson hosted a Science Residential for Year 12 students who will be applying to university this October. Forty pupils arrived from all over the country to spend the night in College and to experience Cambridge's unique teaching system with Robinson's Directors of Studies. Day 1 saw the students attend seminar sessions in their subject of choice; this was followed by a period of self-study where they had the time to work through some problems before attending a supervision-style session with their DoS. Fellows and graduate students attended dinner with the students before they headed into town to see the sights with some of Robinson's fantastic undergrads. On Day 2, Dr Rachel Oliver took the students to the Material Science Department where they experienced practical lab work with rubber and golden syrup – a highlight of the trip by all accounts. Susan Gatell of the University Careers Service, a specialist in science careers, gave the final session, leaving students with a very positive message about the

employment prospects of Cambridge science and maths graduates. It was clear from the students' feedback that this event provided a real taste of life reading Science and Maths here at Robinson. The contributions made by all the Fellows on this residential served to motivate and enthuse these high-achieving Year 12s.

## **Essay Competition**

This year's essay competition saw a record number of entries. In total, eighty-five Year 12 students chose to tackle a question on either medicine, science or literature. On 19 September, the winning entrants visited Robinson for a celebratory lunch with Fellows, including David Woodman, the Tutor for Admissions.

## **Women in Science Festival**

This prize winners' lunch kicks off a dynamic programme of outreach events for the forthcoming year. One particular highlight, so far, is Robinson's inaugural Women in Science Festival on 21 September, which gave female students in Years 12 and 13 the opportunity to spend the day in College with female science Fellows. The day included exciting presentations from Fellows, graduate students and also from some of the more confident visiting students. The aim of this event was to encourage more female applicants to the sciences by showing them that women are thriving at Cambridge and at Robinson in these subjects. The cost of the entire event was covered by Robinson's outreach initiative. We provided transport for those in our link areas and accommodated overnight anyone coming from further afield, to make the event as widely accessible as possible.

## **Robinson Admissions enters the world of Social Media**

In our efforts to reach as many students as possible, and particularly those in our link areas, Robinson Admissions now provide a regular Twitter feed. We tweet resources for 'super-curricular' activities and reading material under the hashtag #exploreyoursubject, we are recruiting current undergraduates to tweet about their daily experiences at College and we post photos which capture life as a student here. The hope is that we make Cambridge a credible option for all students with the academic potential to thrive at Robinson by allowing candid glimpses behind the College walls – in less than 120 characters! (@Robinson\_SLO)

## **Alumni Involvement in Outreach**

Teaching alumni are always very well placed to dispel the usual myths about Cambridge and other elite universities. It is also fantastic to meet alumni who return with their own students to visit Robinson. If you would like to bring a group up to the College, please contact me on the email address below. If you can share any of your own memories of your time as a student here - photographs, unforgettable moments, or life beyond Robinson - please consider tweeting to us @Robinson\_SLO or posting to our official Admissions Facebook page: Robinson College, Cambridge.

Victoria Harvey  
slo@robinson.cam.ac.uk



# Moving our Alumni Society forward.

Dr Steve Trudgill President-elect, Robinson College Pegasus Society writes:

**REPRESENT YOUR DECADE OF ALUMNI.** *This is a call for new Committee members so that there are representatives from all decades of the alumni, especially since the year 2000. You can help contribute to suggesting and, if you wish, organising new and exciting events, as well as help to develop existing ones, as explained below.*

**JOIN IN THE ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER.** *Why wait till your Matriculation Year Anniversary Dinner comes round in a September every five years? You can come back to College for a dinner any year – or indeed every year – at the Annual Pegasus Dinner in March. You can not only get together a reunion group of your old friends, e.g. on Facebook, but you can also meet interesting new people in your own and other subjects from other year groups - from last year right back to the start of College.*

**BACKGROUND AND DETAILS.** When College was formed there was at first no mechanism for alumni to keep in touch. However Basil Shone, Deputy Warden from 1981 – 1992, formed a society for alumni, taking the symbol of Pegasus from our College crest for the Society's name. The Pegasus Society, run by a Committee of Alumni, kept records of alumni contact addresses, produced the *Robinson Record* and organised events, especially the Annual Pegasus Dinner. In the early days the Committee was representative of the whole alumni body and large numbers - up to 150 - attended the Annual Dinner in March.

As alumni numbers grew, the College established a Development Office, which gradually centralised the records, produces the *Robinson Record* and *Bin Brook* and has diversified the alumni activities to those which are enjoyed today, such as the popular year group reunions in September. When I was asked to become President of the Pegasus Society, I reviewed the Society and found that very few recent alumni had joined the Society and indeed many of those who ran the Committee and attending the Annual Dinner were often the doughty pioneers from the early days of College. I did think that as the Society still seemed to be focussed more on these earlier

pre-Development Office members that perhaps it had run its course and should be wound up. However, we are trying the opposite approach with a new drive and that is to **update the Pegasus Society for all alumni and make it more inclusive and involve far more alumni across the entire range of years in helping to suggest, organise and attend alumni events.**

We are trying to achieve this with three steps. (1) All members graduating automatically become members of Pegasus - so it is very much everybody's Society; (2) we now **need new Committee members representative of the full range of graduation years – especially including more recent years, but also some new Committee members from earlier years** and (3) we would also like to **welcome far more people to the Annual Dinner across the entire range of years.**

If you are interested in joining the Committee this will involve suggesting events to hold, both in Robinson and elsewhere, including visits and get-togethers, contributing towards making things happen and encouraging participation. This can be effected by asking the Robinsonians you know what they would like to see happen and e.g. organising groups on Facebook – all of which can be backed up organisationally by the Development Office. Some Facebook Robinson groups already exist and there is one administered by the Development Office: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2374142913/?fref=ts>. There are Committee meetings twice a year, plus email discussions as necessary. One meeting is on a Saturday in March before the AGM, Seminar and Annual Dinner – all of which are open to all alumni. The other is a Committee Meeting held in conjunction with a Friday Formal Hall in the Michaelmas Term.

You could organise get-togethers with your contacts, visits to an interesting work place you know, sporting events, getting in touch with alumni you know locally – we do well in London but there could be other regional meetings. There is no limit to the ideas – **it is over to you to take your alumni society forwards.**

If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact the Pegasus Society President-elect, Steve Trudgill (stt21@cam.ac.uk) or the usual contacts in the Development Office: Helen Cornish and team at [development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk)



Above: Lecture during the Science Residential; Right: Trying some experiments in Materials Science.

# Births



**Claire Appleyard**, née Powell (1994) writes: our son Sam, born in November 2010, would like to introduce his little sister Zoë, born in April 2015. Here they both are, enjoying a cuddle and a book with Daddy.

**Alex Bond** (1994) and Rachel Bond (St Catharine's, 1997) are delighted to announce the birth of Isaac Robert on 5 May 2015. A modest 6lbs 8oz at birth, Isaac is now growing amazingly quickly and taking a keen interest in the world around him.



**Poon Kai Chung** (1995) writes: We are delighted to announce the birth of our second son, Cian, on 7 July 2014.



**Tom and Catherine Cox** (née Drew, both 2000), welcomed Jack to the family on 22 February 2015.



**David Gullette** (2001) writes: We are pleased to announce the birth of our second daughter, Vita Beatrix Gullette. She was born on 20 May 2015 and has brought much happiness to our family.



**Chris Morton** (2000) writes: Thrilled to announce the birth of Mira Catherine Chari in June 2014. Obviously that was well over a year ago - a sign that she's been keeping us busy!



**Mark Plane** (2001) and Liz are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Rosa Grace, on 10 March 2015.

# Marriages

All photos are below announcement.

**Konstantin Bosch** (2006) writes: I am very happy to announce that Ines and I are getting married on 8 August. I met Ines following my time at Cambridge and she is, in fact, a graduate of St Hilda's College, Oxford. We will live together in Geneva, Switzerland, where I continue to work in the commodities trading industry, while Ines will split her time between Oxford and Geneva. We both look forward to staying in touch with Robinson!

**Alexa Childs** (2002) writes: Pleased to announce **Phil Elliott** (2002) and I got married this Summer in Italy after a rapid courtship, having first met at Robinson College a mere 12 years ago. We tried hard to recreate the Robinson basement bop at our reception with considerable success, mostly thanks to the DJ-ing skills of **Harry Kyriacou** (2002). Too many Robinson alumni present to mention, although special shout-out to our photographer **Ben Cole** (2005), whose photo is below.



**Giles Fleming** (2008) and Lizzie (née Thomas, Newnham 2007) married on 1 August 2015 at St Andrews Church, Chesterton. The choir, who sang magnificently, mainly comprised former Robinson choristers, including the 2008-9 organ scholar team of **Daniel Trocmé-Latter** and **Adam Dickson**. Picture below.



**Dominic Laurie** (1993) married Victoria Sill on 4 July 2015 in Hertford College, Oxford, where she was a student. They met while both working for the BBC in Rome during the inauguration of Pope Francis. They are about to celebrate their marriage by going travelling for 6 months around the world.



**Christos Markides** (Fellow 2005-2008) married Luisa Markides (née Keller) in a small private wedding ceremony in Cyprus on 26 September 2015 (after a full, traditional Cypriot barbecue the night before!). They now live in South-West London and are expecting their first child in late March 2016. Christos continues to work as Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London, where he acts as Head of the Clean Energy Processes (CEP) Laboratory. They visit the College from time to time, and are always happy to see old friends and make new ones.

**Jonathan Norton** (1991) writes: I married Anna von Buchenroder on Valentine's Day this year, after we finally agreed what size of reception we wanted.

**Dominic O'Connor Robinson** (2005) married Katherine Platt on 11 April in Stockport, followed by the reception in Buxton, with Mothusi Turner (2006, Girton) as Best Man, **Thomas Acland** (2006) as Master of Ceremonies and **Henry Stannard** (2005) as Usher Without Portfolio. We are now living in Uppingham, where Katherine is head of Fairfield Boarding House within Uppingham School and Dominic has recently been appointed Head of Planning for the Forestry Commission in England. Picture below



On 17 Sep 14, **Clare Phillips** (1991) married her fiancée Nicky in Central Park, New York. On a glorious blue sky day, they tied the knot in front of close friends and then celebrated with champagne and great food, followed by rollercoasters in Orlando and the beach in Key West. Picture below



**Adam Scott** (MBA 2003) married Sara Ehsani Zonoz of Sweden, in Denmark on 31 August 2015. Adam is now a partner in a healthcare consultancy firm in Marylebone; Sara previously flew as crew for Emirates.

On 23 May 2015, just a few months short of their 20th anniversary, Karen Fisher and **David Woodhouse** (1995) finally managed to get married: Our daughter Connie (4) and son Ned (2) enjoyed the day almost as much as we did. (Picture in the next column)



## Updates

The Warden, Mrs Yates and the Fellow Development Director, Helen Cornish, were pleased to meet Robinson members and friends from around Asia at a dinner held on 16 March, at the World Trade Centre Club in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.



**Simon Barton** (1990) writes: In January 2015, I published *Conquerors, Brides, and Concubines: Interfaith Relations and Social Power in Medieval Iberia* (published by University of Pennsylvania Press). The book investigates the political and cultural significance of marriages and other sexual encounters between Christians and Muslims in the Iberian Peninsula, from the Islamic conquest in the early eighth century to the end of Muslim rule in 1492. I have also been acting as historical advisor to the BBC for a forthcoming documentary about the history of Spain.

Three generations of **the Conolly family** – **Len Conolly**, Honorary Fellow, Len's daughter, Rebecca, and granddaughter, Michela - came to stay in College in March 2015. Thanks to **Colin Barnes** (Head Porter), also pictured, for the photo.





**Alex Churchill** (1997) writes: Having run a weekly board games evening for over two years at Robinson, I'm now delighted to announce that my first board game will be published in October 2015! It's called *Steam Works*, it's a strategy worker placement game with a steampunk theme, and it's being published by Tasty Minstrel Games.

**Ben Crewe** (1993) Senior Member and former Robinson Fellow, has been awarded a Readership in Criminology.

**Giselle De Nie** has a book announcement: *Lives and Miracles* [by] Gregory of Tours, edited and translated by Giselle de Nie. Dumbarton Oaks Mediæval Library 39. 976 p. Harvard University Press, October 2015. ISBN 9780674088450. \$ 29.95. L 19.95, E 26.

**Paul Lovatt Smith** (1980) writes: After a short pause I took the plunge into the oil industry, where I have been working ever since as a geoscientist, mainly for small, independent explorers. This has involved a lot of travel, some weird and wonderful experiences and many interesting people. I have stayed a technician, enjoying this side of the job, and am now lucky enough to be able to work part-time, mainly from home. In 1995 I met Helen, a primary school teacher, at a guitar evening class and we married in 1999. By this stage I was well into an early mid-life crisis, which had something to do with food, farming and the environment. Between having Emma (15) and Adam (11) we bought a smallholding in East Sussex and have been living a version of the Good Life ever since, surrounded by farm animals, crops and greenery. I've discovered a liking for traditional farming and am involved in various organic, smallholding and local food groups. Many friends, wary of having agricultural tasks inflicted on them, now visit us only during the hours of darkness.

**Patricia Marchesi** (1992) is now Assistant Professor at LaGrange College, Georgia's oldest private liberal arts college. She is author of *Shelby and Shauna Kitt and the Dimensional Holes* (gold winner, 2012 Children's Literary Classics Awards, pre-teen science-fiction and fantasy categories).

**Alastair Miatt** (1988) writes: After 27 years at Jaguar Land Rover I've taken a sabbatical and spent a year studying theology at Regent College in Vancouver. I got married in October 2013 and my wife, who is a plastic surgeon, has just completed a fellowship at the children's hospital in Vancouver. We're looking at the possibility of staying in Canada for another year as we liked British Columbia so much and a locum position has come up.

**Eghwan Mokhzanee Muhammad** (1994), below, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of AmBank Islamic Berhad on 1 April 2015. AmBank Islamic Berhad is the Islamic banking arm of the AmBank Group, one of the local financial services groups in Malaysia. He is an associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) and a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accounts (MIA).



**Tracey Richmond**, née **Pruce** (1981) is living in Australia and has been married to Mike since 2001. They have 3 children - William 13 and twins, Isabella and Charles, aged 11. Tracey is Head of Learning Support and teaching maths in a high school. A picture of the family is in the next column.



**Dan Pollard** (1997) has been appointed a partner of GQ Employment Law LLP, which he joined from the law firm Macfarlanes.



Question: How many engineers does it take to put up a drainpipe?  
Answer: 4. **Mark Phillips, Mike Brimer, Nick Sutherland, Paul Robison** all Robinson Engineers (matric 1983).

**Alex Shipp** (1980) has been busy running the Parking Prankster website and blog - a site dedicated to helping motorists fight unfair private parking charges. Alex has been helping Barry Beavis, a chip shop owner whose parking charge has now been fought all the way to the Supreme Court. Alex's book on defending parking charges in court made it to number #2 on the Kindle Legal Self-Help category, outselling Mr Loophole's autobiography, but kept off the top spot by *Life in the United Kingdom: Official Study Guide*. The Supreme Court verdict is expected around October 2015. [www.parking-prankster.com](http://www.parking-prankster.com)

**Paul Simpkin** (1980) is still working at the House of Commons and now works for the Petitions Committee.

An update on **Brian Skeet's** (1985) work can be found here: <http://www.joanproductions45.com/>

**Sandra Smith's** translation of Irène Némirovsky's *The Fires of Autumn* came out in the USA in March. The film of *Suite Française* came out in the UK & France in April and her translation *The Necklace and Other Stories* by Guy de Maupassant came out in August. She is in touch with the Robinson Alumni in New York and writes 'we all treasure our time at Robinson and miss everyone!'

**Andrew Ware** (1990) wrote (in July): I'm currently cycling 4000 miles across the USA, fundraising for charity and in memory of my wife Jane who died 21 months ago. There was a brief obituary for her in *Bin Brook* even though she wasn't at Robinson. She sang in the Chapel choir with me and played viola in College concerts. Information about the trip is here: <https://4000milestothesea.wordpress.com/>; and if you'd like to donate, you can also do that here: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewWare2> We will have more about Andrew's trip in the next issue.

**Joachim Whaley** was elected Fellow of the British Academy in July 2015.

**Ben Whitaker** (1997) writes: The mobile ticketing startup Masabi.com, founded by Tom Godber (Corpus '97) and myself has come of age, chalking up wins in the past couple of years to run ticketing for public transit agencies in New York, Athens, Los Angeles, San Diego, New Orleans, and our long battle in UK rail should finally see the technology take off in 2016. Happy days having created over 200 man-years of high tech employment in the UK so far!



**Professor Wung-Wai Tsu** has sent in a game from his SUDOKU Column printed on 23 June 2015, in the Hong Kong *Standard* for your enjoyment - solution on request from the Development Office if you get stuck!:

6				7				2
	7		2		9			8
9			3		1			4
	5	8				2	9	
2								7
	3	9				4	1	
8			7		6			1
3			5		4			8
5		4		2		3		9

We are pleased to announce that the following Robinson Fellows have been promoted to new positions:

**Melinda Duer** has been awarded a Personal Chair in Chemistry

**Sarah Pearsall** has been appointed to a University Senior Lectureship in History

## Obituaries

It was with great sadness that the Warden, Fellows, Staff and Students heard of the deaths of the following members of College:

**Professor Evelyn Ebsworth**, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of Durham. Evelyn was a Senior Member of very long standing and was a regular visitor to the College, which he tried to visit at least once a week. His engaging company will be very much missed. A full obituary appears in the 2015 edition of the *Robinson Record*.

### **Patricia ('Trish') Pargeter, née Heatley (1988)**

In March, Trish sadly lost her long battle with cancer, dying surrounded by her close family and friends. A really beautiful website site has been set up to remember Trish's life: <http://www.ourwonderfultish.com/#home>

### **Iain McNeill Jackson (1980): 29 October 1961 – 5 March 2015**

Memories from **Andy May 1980** and **Jane Dunning 1980**



Iain came up to Robinson to read Natural Sciences in 1980 as one of the large cohort of undergraduates who were first to occupy the brand new College building. It would be fair to say Iain found early morning lectures a struggle – and there were many as a Natural Scientist. However he immersed himself in extra-curricular activities with enthusiasm and made lifelong friends in the process.

Iain represented Robinson College at Rugby, a sport which remained central to his life. He was a founder member

of the Cambridge University Angling Club, which met regularly in The Granta and occasionally even went fishing. He instituted the annual Angling Club dinner, held in Robinson, where he revelled in preparing a myriad of courses all produced with panache and flair to the delight of members and with little concern for the washing up.

On graduation Iain gained employment in the semiconductor industry working with STC, LSI Logic and latterly as CEO

of Norstel, which involved commuting to Sweden and frequent business trips abroad. Home life, however, was firmly rooted in Gravesend with his wife Alison and their daughter Fiona.

Iain had a varied and fulfilling life – enjoying hiking, sailing, cycling, fishing, music, bridge, dogs, cooking, rugby and whisky. He was highly intelligent, learning Swedish and German, and well-read, especially in Russian and British classics; his love of nature and excellent memory meant he could name most plants, birds and fish. He was also formidable at pub quizzes! He did not attach much importance to possessions, but valued friendships and family. He was generous, thoughtful and great company: a much-loved son, brother, husband, father and friend. RIP Jacko.

### **Ying Tao (2007): 2 November 1988 - 22 June 2015**

Memories from **Xiao Yang** (2006)

I first met Ying Tao at a freshman economist reception in the Auditorium foyer. It was about 8 years ago, in October 2007. She wore an oversized hoodie that day. And she seemed like she had stayed



up all night. Then she approached me in an elegant demeanor and spoke to me in beautiful London English. As if to remind me she is not a native Londoner, she pointed at my notepad and asked softly in articulate Chinese, 'so you like this?'. It was an ancient Chinese song jotted down from the *Book of Odes and Hymns*. It turned out that Ying loved poetry. Her all-time favorite was 'Ten years, by the living and the dead, we'd been set apart!' by Su Tungpo. She knew all the psychology of it. And it turned out she actually slept like

a sloth, a nickname coined by her to boast about her ability to ace every course with great ease. She was an excellent student, having the most clearly written and finely organized notes system I have ever seen. She was a woman of her word. She took her own set of principles very seriously. She had formidable career-building skills. When she was the vice-president of both the Marshall society and the UN society, she managed the chores of both like a breeze. She was career-driven at heart and beloved by her employers.

Ying once asked me to promise her: if she ever died early, do not forget her. So I found solace in keeping this promise, by sharing this ancient song from the day we first met:

#### **The Green Coat**

Green green is my coat,  
Inside is a yellow shirt.  
The sorrow in my heart:  
When will it cease to hurt.

Green green is my coat,  
Below is a yellow skirt.  
Sorrow is in my heart,  
When can I forget the hurt.

Dyed silk and green cloth,  
With which you made this coat.  
My memory of you is keen,  
With you my faults are less seen.

The cloth fine and coarse  
Cools me in summer days.  
My thought is full of remorse,  
In my heart you always have a place.

**Professor Alice Teichova**, PhD (Prague), Hon.DLitt (Uppsala), FRHS, Honorary Fellow of Girton College, Emerita Professor of Economic History, UEA, Senior Research Associate, LSE. Beloved wife of Robinson Fellow, Professor Miklaus Teich.

Name and Address

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