

BIN BROOK



ROBINSON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Come on Binson!
Focus on Sport

In conversation with:
Jo Ansbro and Adrian Davies

A new building for Robinson:
Why we need an archive now

Romance at Robinson:
Couples who met here

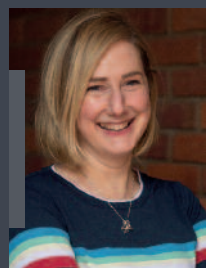


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WELCOME

Come on Binson!



One of Robinson's strengths is nurturing all-rounders; men and women who are able to lead the field in the lab, in supervisions and on the pitch. This edition of Bin Brook celebrates the achievements of Robinsonians who balance the academic demands of a Cambridge degree with sporting participation at all levels – from elite competition to playing for fun, fellowship or relaxation. Recent research by the University of Cambridge confirms that sport complements academic achievement, and in our feature interview Jo Ansbro and Adrian Davies describe how their studies enhanced their sporting performance and vice versa. Matt Dickinson, who has gone on to forge a career in sports journalism, recalls how sport was the foundation of his social life at Robinson, and it seems it has even played midwife to romance; Hannah Leaf (née Penn) describes how Cupid's arrows struck from an unexpected quarter via the College Darts Society. Although spring is long gone, love is in the air more widely in this edition of Bin Brook, as we introduce the first in an occasional series of profiles of Robinsonians who met their life partners here. These stories, and others like them, will no doubt be chronicled in the records safeguarded in Robinson's new archive building, and our founding fellows remind us here why our history matters, and why now is the right time to make it safe.

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FRONT COVER:
Netball by Angus Parker (Geography, 2016)

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The Editor and the members of the Editorial Committee are grateful to our contributors for the materials submitted for publication. Contributors provide photographs, unless otherwise stated. The opinions expressed in Bin Brook are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of Robinson College and its members.

We are always delighted to hear from anyone who has a Robinson-related story to tell. If you would like to contribute an article to Bin Brook, please email development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

NEWS in brief

CONGRATULATIONS

"...generous, supportive, and particularly encouraging of the ambitions of her female co-workers",



Professor Melinda Duer (above on the right) received a prestigious Suffrage Science Award on International Women's Day at The Royal Society. The Suffrage Science scheme was initiated by Professor Dame Amanda Fisher, Director of the Medical Research Council's London Institute of Medical Sciences, in 2011. Professor Duer has led pioneering research into the molecular structure of bone, and the underlying chemical changes in the tissue of blood vessels that cause them to harden as we age, leading to heart disease and stroke. She is one of twelve women working in Engineering and Physical Sciences who were recognised at the ceremony for their work in helping and inspiring fellow females in the same field. Professor Duer is a Fellow in Natural Sciences (Chemistry) and Deputy Warden.



Professor Judith Lieu, a Fellow in Theology and until recently the Lady Margaret professor of Divinity, has been elected an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Lieu has been recognised for her outstanding achievements in academia in her pursuit of teaching excellence.



Dr Jossy Sayir was awarded the Best Lecturer Award for 2018–2019 by the Department of Engineering for the second-year communications lecture. Every year students elect their three best lecturers for the year. There are twelve awards, three for every one of the four years of the MEng programmes. Dr Sayir is a Director of Studies in Engineering, Teaching Fellow in Engineering, and Engineering Admissions Coordinator.

Tiara Sahar Ataii, a Third Year Modern and Medieval Languages undergraduate, was chosen as one of the four winners of the 2019 Vice-Chancellor's Social Impact Awards, in recognition of her work in founding SolidariTee and tackling the refugee crisis. On Tuesday 5th February in the Upper Hall of Emmanuel College, the Vice-Chancellor Stephen Toope presented an award to Tiara, who returned briefly from her year abroad to attend the ceremony with an award. You can read more on Tiara's charitable work on page 18. ■

ROBINSON GOES PLATINUM



(L-R): Nick Milne (College Steward), Bill McKim (Facilities Manager), Julie Allen (Housekeeping Manager), Tom Hinch (RCSA President), Amy Osborne (HR Coordinator), Guy Fuller (Head Gardener), Gary Dougan (Head Chef), Alexis Moreau (Conference and Catering Services Manager)

"Going green is no longer an optional extra but of vital importance for saving the planet, so we are continually looking for ways to mitigate the impact of running the college and our conference centre. It's something that staff and students alike have got on board with...", says **Alexis Moreau**, the College's Head of Conference and Catering Services. After achieving a Gold Award last year, the College has raised its game still further to reach the highest accolade of a Platinum Award. Robinson has also won an Environmental Improvement Award, which recognises one special activity or action that is making a difference to the life of the College. Robinson has been recognised for its unique water source heat pump installation, which extracts heat from the water in Bin Brook running through the College. This system integrates that extra heat source into the overall heating system deployed in College. That heat-exchange pump solution providing self-sufficient heating has been developed by Robinson's alumnus **Mark Hewitt (Architecture, 1982)**. We are enormously grateful to Mark for helping the College work towards achieving its sustainability goals.

MAY MADRIGALS SILVER JUBILEE

For the past 25 years, Robinson has celebrated the coming of spring with madrigals sung from the Tower by the Choir. This year, on the silver anniversary of this tradition, Robinson's residents awoke to the sound of Renaissance, Baroque and Victorian madrigals, including The Silver Swan by Orlando Gibbons, Now is the Month of Maying by Thomas Morley, Linden Lea by Vaughan Williams, Fair Phyllis by John Farmer, and This Joyful Eastertide by Charles Wood. The first May Day madrigals were sung in 1994. It has always been a great way of beginning the day. ■

Following its commitment to sustainability, the College has installed a number of solar panels on its buildings, supplied all staff with refillable water bottles, considerably reduced to almost zero the transfer of waste to landfill, thus turning food waste into fuel and introduced progressively more effective food management policies throughout the College and its conference centre. ■

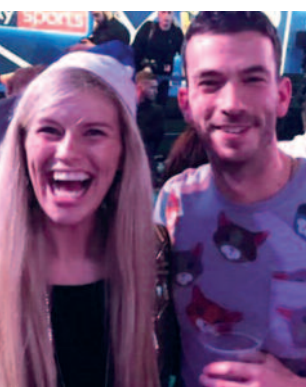
MY (Our) ROBINSON

Hannah and Simon's story

At the time of writing this article, my husband and I have eight days to go until the due date of our first child. Simon and I met on my very first day at Robinson, after I caught sight of him and went a bit weak at the knees at the college Fresher's Fair.



On my Graduation Day with Simon



Having fun together

If his looks alone weren't enough to draw me to him, the fact that he was Captain of, and recruiting for the Robinson College Darts Society certainly was. I have northern roots so spent much of my childhood throwing arrows with my family in various pubs across Yorkshire. So it's impossible for me to overstate just how much of an impact Robinson has had on my life, as it is where I met the love of my life and father of my soon-to-be first child.

I had all of the well-trodden insecurities and anxieties about both applying to and studying at Cambridge. Bluntly, I never thought I'd get a place and when I did, I thought there must have been some mistake and that I'd never truly fit in. And I do still believe that at other colleges that might have been the case. However, I feel incredibly lucky to have got to call Robinson home, because I always felt surrounded by intimidatingly brilliant, but really down to earth, lovely people. People who gave me the confidence to believe I was in the right place and to really throw myself into my Philosophy degree and into life at Cambridge.

I didn't find it easy at first. I often emerged from my weekly 1:1 tutorials in my first term feeling like I'd just done 10 rounds in the ring with an opponent twice my size, and I'm still not sure I understood a single word of any of the lectures on the Philosophy of Logic during Michaelmas term. Not once did my tutors endorse or encourage the inadequacies I felt within myself. Instead they treated my arguments and analysis with respect and built my analytical thinking, my powers of persuasion, and invited me to defend and evolve opinions with them.

Being in such a liberal and challenging academic environment, whilst being surrounded by such brilliant friends and inspiring peers, proved an infectious combination for me. Robinson gave me the perfect mix of challenge and

support, through teachers, staff and friends, and it's where for the first time I really felt confident enough to push myself. To push myself academically, believing my opinions to be valid enough to be worth forming and worth sharing. To push myself professionally, using my curiosity to pursue work experience, which led to interviews, which led to securing a job at AMV BBDO, the UK's largest advertising agency, where I have been lucky to work for almost a decade now. To push myself socially: I was terrified that I wouldn't find people I would "click" with at Cambridge, but whilst at Robinson, I met some incredible people who remain some of my closest friends today. And finally, to push myself to make the most of every opportunity from the word go. To (whilst weak at the knees) sign up for the college Darts Society and speak to the team Captain – who I would come to attend the PDC darts championship with every year, who I would legally marry at the Cambridge registry office and enjoy a post-wedding picnic within the grounds of the college, and with whom I can't wait to become a parent later this month. We'll just need to make sure we get a table for three rather than two at this year's PDC championships. ■



Hannah Leaf studied Philosophy during her time at Robinson and graduated in 2009. Last year, she was recognised by Management Today as one of the 35 top businesswomen under 35 in the UK.

We are delighted to congratulate Hannah and Simon on the safe arrival of their son Alfie Leo James. Alfie's birth is announced in Alumni News on Page 22

Focus on Sport

Sporting excellence and academic brilliance go hand-in-hand at Robinson

As we welcome in the new academic year at Robinson, students from around the world are preparing to travel to Cambridge to begin their studies.

They will be looking forward to the opportunity to study their chosen subject in depth and spend their days with like-minded individuals. They will also be eagerly anticipating the Cambridge experience outside academia, and Freshers' Week offers students the opportunity to sample any number of sports and activities they may never have had the chance to try out before. Elite sportsmen and women will get the chance to represent Cambridge in their chosen field and actors and musicians will be able to join college or university groups. These extra-curricular opportunities are as important as the study itself, and it's now understood that sport in particular enhances academic achievement.

In March 2019, the University of Cambridge Sports Service published a report on Sport and Academic Performance. The report is the outcome of research that considered over 4000 Tripos results of undergraduate students who had represented the University in their sport and achieved a Blue, Half-Blue or Club Colours (from 2005-16). These were then compared to the Tripos results of the undergraduate population as a whole during the same time period.

Developed under the University's Strategy for Sport 2017-2022, the report found that Undergraduate students who participated in University-level sport performed just as well academically, if not better than the undergraduate population as a whole.

The key findings of the research were as follows:

- *The percentage of first class results achieved by undergraduate sportspeople (28.4%) was greater than the percentage achieved by undergraduates in the university as a whole (23.7%);*
 - *The percentage of upper second class results achieved by undergraduate sportspeople (63%) was greater than the percentage achieved by undergraduates in the university as a whole (51.8%); and*
 - *The percentage of lower second and third class results achieved by undergraduate sportspeople was lower than undergraduates in the university as a whole.*
- The report also profiled a number of sportspeople who had recently left the university. Their testimonies add weight to the view that:*
- *Sport and physical activity can provide an effective release from academic studies, improve mental health and give students the opportunity to develop valuable social and support networks.*

- *Sport and physical activity can help students to develop valuable transferable skills such as time-management, focus, the ability to perform under pressure, leadership and communication.*

Professor Graham Virgo, the University's Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, said in respect of the findings, *"There is a growing focus on student mental health and well-being nationally and within the collegiate university. Participation in sport and other extra-curricular activities has an important role in ensuring that students' educational experiences at Cambridge are as good as they can be."*

Our ambition at Robinson is to encourage our students to participate in sport at all levels, to help them maintain their wellbeing during exam periods, eat well, and thrive in the competitive environment of academic study at Cambridge. Access to advice, encouragement and support in these areas, in addition to excellent facilities, will be beneficial to all our students.

A mile from Robinson, the University of Cambridge Sports Centre was completed in 2013 and offers matchless sports facilities for the full range of activities including gyms, squash courts and classes. It is a six-minute cycle from Robinson, along a dedicated off-road path.

During 2018-19, Robinson piloted a scheme aiming to increase the number of Robinson students taking up membership of the Sports Centre. The partnership included a 45% reduction in membership fees for first year undergraduates, achieved by a combination of a discount by the Sports Centre and a subsidy from Robinson.

The offer was taken up with enthusiasm, and Robinson is now asking its alumni and supporters to help us extend this opportunity to all our students. It's also our ambition to be able to support College sports clubs and societies at all levels so that our students can maintain a balance between study and recreation time, and enjoy the rich variety of pursuits Cambridge has to offer, regardless of their financial circumstances. ■

If you would like to hear more about our work in this area or would like to make a gift, please call the Development Office on 01223 39037 or email development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

Focus on Sport

In conversation with... Adrian Davies and Jo Ansbro



Above: Adrian Davies after the 1989 Varsity Match victory by Cambridge (22-13).

Above right: Scott Annett and Adrian Davies at the Hawks Club in Cambridge

Sport has always been an important part of college life at Robinson, and recently Dr Scott Annett interviewed two of Robinson's international rugby union players, **Adrian Davies (Land Economy, 1988)** and **Joe Ansbro (Natural Sciences – Biological, 2004)**, to hear more about their time studying at Cambridge and their memories of the college.

For Davies, life might have been very different, as he had an offer to study Accountancy at Nottingham University. "Going to Oxbridge simply wasn't on the radar when coming from a local comprehensive school in South Wales". However, a well-timed conversation with a Cambridge alumnus, Brian Thomas, who was also the team manager of Neath RFC, prompted him to rethink. After initially applying to Magdalene, Davies was delighted to receive an offer to read Geography at Robinson.

In contrast, Ansbro chose to apply directly to Robinson following a visit to Cambridge in 2003. "I visited Cambridge once before my interview having been told to look at Downing, Clare, St Catharine's and Robinson. I received the warmest welcome at Robinson - it was an easy decision". He went on to read Natural Sciences, eventually specialising in Pathology.

Both were marked out very quickly as outstanding sportsmen. Davies gained four Blues in Rugby Union, but also won a football Blue in 1991, playing in the Varsity Match at Craven Cottage, which is the home of Fulham FC. Ansbro enjoyed a successful U21s Varsity Match in Michaelmas 2004, before advancing to the 1st team and playing in two Varsity Match winning sides (2005 and 2006). He remembers that being part of the University club in his first year, and so arriving early for pre-season, "really helped me to settle quickly in a new environment". His final Varsity Match victory was a positive sign of success to come, as he successfully nullified the threat posed for Oxford by Australian international, and World Cup winner Joe Roff.

Unsurprisingly, both Davies and Ansbro look back on their sporting experiences at Cambridge as being pivotal to their eventual development into full internationals. Davies notes that "the intensity of the build-up to the Varsity Match was certainly a different level to what I'd experienced before", adding that the "history, tradition, intensity and sheer commitment of everyone involved" was striking. For Ansbro, "the big match mentality that comes with Varsity taught me how to mentally prepare for big games and helped me to enjoy both professional sport and international rugby". Upon leaving Robinson, Davies would go on to represent Wales on nine occasions, including at both the 1991 and 1995 World Cups, while Ansbro was capped on eleven occasions, in doing so becoming the first black player to represent Scotland.

In March 2019 the University of Cambridge published its "Sport and Academic Performance Report", which both were interested to discuss. The report found that undergraduate students who participated in University-level sport performed just as well academically, if not better, than the undergraduate population as a whole (<https://www.sport.cam.ac.uk/sap>). This echoed the experiences of Ansbro and Davies, for whom the successful balance of high-level sport and academic work was critical to their lives at Cambridge. Indeed, both believe that this balance also stood them in good stead in later life when embarking upon their careers.

Recently returning to work in property, Davies explains that "The discipline I needed in keeping both the sport and academia at their requisite level has certainly helped me in my professional life". For Ansbro, "a background in sport and academia was hugely



beneficial”, though he also admits that “I’ve not strayed too far from what I enjoyed most at Cambridge, as I’m currently working as a biology teacher and rugby coach!”

The pressure of performing both academically and on the rugby field was not at the expense of enjoying college life. When prompted to summarise his outstanding Robinson memories, Ansbro lists “the omnipresent red bricks, a brilliant year at Romsey Terrace, giant killing in Cuppers (once!), an outstanding Robinson May Ball, which was headlined by Pendulum, and cycling everywhere on a £20 bike that wouldn’t get stolen”. For Davies, “The college was an extremely friendly place - from Fred Boyne in the Porter’s Lodge through to Malcolm Trotter in the bar and all the staff in the canteen. We also had our own bathroom and a warm room which was a massive plus compared to some of the other colleges!”

Davies remembers that “There was a genuine pride in representing the college”, and this also manifested itself on the sports field.

“I played a lot of cricket and we got to the semi-final of Cuppers one year, losing to Magdalene. I also played for the college football team and rowed in a boat ... once!” Ansbro also remembers his time playing cricket for Robinson very fondly and he even claims to have been a “founding member of the Robinson College Romsey Cricketers Cricketing Club”, while he played rugby twice in Cuppers for the College. ■



Dr Scott Annett is a Fellow of Robinson College, Director of Studies in English, Tutor and Admissions Tutor. He played in four 1st team Varsity Matches at Twickenham (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013) and he is now the Chair of Playing at CURUFC. His role involves overseeing the coaching, strength and conditioning and player development at the club. Scott came to Cambridge in 2004 and played in the U21s/Blues team with Joe. He is also currently the Senior Member for the Men’s Blues Committee at Cambridge.

Above:
Jo Ansbro in action

The Varsity Match 12th December 2019



With no Autumn Internationals, the Varsity Match is the only way to enjoy rugby at Twickenham from the end of August to Christmas, and it’s a perfect opportunity to reunite with your college friends and support the University of Cambridge Team in the world’s most famous rugby stadium. One of Robinson’s undergraduates, George Cook (MML, 2018), is in the men’s squad and may be on the pitch!

Enjoy this sporting spectacle by booking top class seats for the Women’s and Men’s Varsity Matches at £35 per person.

More information and booking will be available soon on the College’s website. Please visit www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events-and-news.

Focus on Sport

Ruby Anniversary of Rowing at Robinson

Robinson College Boat Club (RCBC) is approaching its 40th year on the Cam and is as thriving as ever. Testament to this is the success both of our novice programmes this year, and featuring three trialists at the top end of the Club. We've also been lucky enough to be the recipients of a new women's IV+ boat, named Rachel Murray, courtesy of the alumni of the club, the Pegasus Boat Club.

Rachel Murray has recently joined RCBC's fleet of seven boats including the Filippi racing-shell bought by the club in 2014, all named after big names in the boat club's history. Many of the club's alumni have represented Cambridge at University level and their countries at international level, Dr Rachel Murray amongst them. The 4+ boat was named in a ceremony on the Saturday of May Bumps week (16th June) and it will enable the Robinson College Women's crews to compete on level terms with the top colleges in events like University Fours.

As ever, Bumps are the primary focus of the year in terms of racing, but the Club is also making headway in establishing itself at other major events such as the Head of the River Race on the Championship Course, and Henley Royal Regatta. As of May, we've seen mixed results this year so far with some unfortunate races in Lent Bumps, but also a new highest-ever position for M1. The overall

trend is certainly positive and the aspirations of the club reflect that. At the top end of the Club, we've had three trialists this year, and developing rowers to take part in the University programmes and transfer that knowledge and professionalism back to RCBC is part of how we hope to continue to raise the standard of our top boats. Particularly notable was Sam Armstrong (M1 stroke 2017-19) representing CUL in the first ever Lightweight Boat Race on the Championship Course. Currently RCBC's W1 and M1 boats are 27th and 5th respectively in the Lents table, both slightly lower in the Mays equivalent. W1 has seen somewhat of a rough patch in recent years, but this year's strong squad has the numbers and the dedication to change all that, while M1 is looking to match its recent achievements in Lent Bumps with progress up the table in the Mays. The club's lower boats show promise to continue that momentum, pushing for six boats to represent RCBC on the river this year.

As RCBC approaches its fifth decade, the Pegasus Boat Club (the club of the alumni of Robinson College Boat Club) is still in its infancy, growing year-on-year and racing under its own name for the first time this season at the Fairbairn Cup, finishing a very respectable 3rd out of the competing college alumni crews. The crew contained graduates from 2006 to 2018 and we hope will be the first of many such entries in the future. The Pegasus Boat Club doesn't just serve as a support network for RCBC, providing important expertise and financial backing, but is increasingly giving back to its membership through social occasions, racing and (re)connecting its members. All alumni of the Boat Club are encouraged to join the growing ranks of the Pegasus Boat Club through Facebook, the College's Development Office, or by visiting the Boat Club website.

Harris Webb (History, 2016) is a Pegasus Boat Club Secretary, 2018-2019 ■



Dr Rachel Murray with her husband Dr Duncan Hole (Rowing Blue) and Dr Paddy Gordon (former RCBC captain)



(L-R): Bruce Bye (Coach), Millie Johnson, Noor Hidayatallah, Froukje Folkeringa, Julianne Langer, Shreeya Bhogle, Sarah Beck, Alexia Wilson, Becky Diston, Coco Newton, Katya Duncan, Joshua Efiog (Coach)

Focus on Sport

From Granta to the Swan River: Q&A with Fiona Giles

I always stayed up far too late at Robinson to ever contemplate leaving my warm bed and jumping in a boat on a frozen river – my sport was (and still is) ballet.

A leisurely punt is as close as I got. However, before the Easter term started my Robinson friends and I invariably found ourselves in Furnivall Gardens in London watching the Boat Race on the big screens. It was always packed, a bunch of strangers very enthusiastically supporting one side or the other – the dark side – but I always had a sense of a shared connection to all alumni. Following the resounding success Cambridge has just enjoyed at this year's Boat Race, I realise how my own much less impressive rowing career has still affected my life.

Looking back with a clear head I have the feeling I missed a special element of university life – which is perhaps why I took the opportunity to attempt rowing on the Swan River in Western Australia. I tried it and loved it! The sun shines throughout our rowing season, the riverbanks are picturesque with vineyards and there is cake after every training session; this suits me down to the ground!

Our rowing squad has a camaraderie with the Oxford alumni, we even train with them – but

not in the last few weeks before the race – got to keep ourselves focussed near the end! It's really one of the best things about having been to Cambridge, making ongoing connections with interesting people. No matter if they were at a college half a mile away and we never met, or we were at Cambridge decades apart, the shared experience can always bring you together.

I always enjoy the outings, getting a rhythm in the boat or practising our starts – floating to alignment, one tap... are you ready? And... row! Then you only have to do a few strokes at full power before easing off and feeling the boat move through the water slowly reducing speed. Gets the heart racing before almost exploding on competition day, when the adrenaline takes over!

Races on the Swan River between Cambridge and Oxford alumni have been a tradition for quite some time now. It has always provided a lot of excitement not only to crews, but to spectators as well. Apart from being a sporting event, it's a social event above all.

This year the Swan Blues Cup race against Oxford Alumni was in its tenth year, an occasion which warranted adding another race to the bill: a combined Oxbridge boat against our hosts, Guildford Grammar Alumni, as well as the usual Blues and second boat (Goldie-Isis). We light blues achieved success – taking home a cup for Goldie! Every team in fact got some silver so there were smiles all around. I wasn't in the boat this year, instead sitting on the grassy banks with a new baby who everyone assured me will be in the boat in a few years – let's see! So instead of sweating I enjoyed the accompanying family picnic and a few good speeches to commemorate the continued efforts of race founder Nick Suess (Caius 1966), a more enthusiastic rower I have yet to meet! Then it was time for a break before the training starts up again for the next season. I can't wait to get back on the water!

Fiona Giles (2006) read Architecture and now lives in Western Australia. She is the joint-editor of the Architect Magazine WA and specialises in education design at Parry and Rosenthal Architects.



Focus on Sport

A Passion for Sport

In 1998, I was accepted by Robinson College to study Law. By the end of Freshers' Week I had switched to History. There are quite a few people, especially my tutors, who would say that if I graduated in anything, it was sport.



In the Cambridge University Lightweight Crew, 1991. Beating Oxford in the lightweight varsity race at Henley on Thames. (Matt fourth from the right)

There are many privileges that come from an education at Cambridge but, undoubtedly, access to such an established system of collegiate and university sport, and to an extravagant number of high-class sporting facilities, featured high on the list of the advantages. I can't imagine that view has changed among any succeeding generation.

Friends at other universities were envious of a college system which threw up so many opportunities, created natural competition and was, for so many of us, the bedrock of our social lives.

Rowing, hockey, football; sport was pivotal for me not just in the playing. I already had a hankering for journalism and I became involved with Varsity, the student newspaper. From contributing pieces about university sport, I became sports editor which was my first real grounding. Without that involvement, I very much doubt I would have been accepted by Cardiff's School of Journalism for a post-grad diploma; from there to the

Cambridge Evening News and on to the Daily Express and The Times, for the last 20-odd years.

It has been a thrilling ride if you consider that, as I write, my most recent assignments have involved watching Liverpool smash Barcelona 4-0, then flying over to Amsterdam to watch Spurs' spectacularly dramatic comeback against Ajax in the Champions League the following evening.

Amazing sport, though there is nothing like a last-minute winner right on deadline to send a press box into panic. I had just filed 1000 words on how Spurs had gone out and had five minutes to transform that piece into a tale of glory and triumph for the first edition. I would never pretend it is brain surgery but those are the moments when, adrenalin-pumping, it can feel a nerve-jangling challenge.

If I am going to throw in a few highlights, the shortlist would have to include Manchester United clinching the Treble in the Nou Camp in

1999 (another meltdown on deadline), Lewis Hamilton winning his first Formula 1 title by overtaking on the last bend of the last race in Brazil (when F1 was interesting); and the London Olympics in so many unforgettable, joyous ways.

A few quick thoughts on the job; you don't have to love writing. Some of the best journalists I know are average writers but brilliant story-getters. Persistence is vital both for getting into the profession (qualifications are quite arbitrary) and for staying there. Curiosity is essential.

The newspaper industry has known many challenges since I started (no google/mobile phones then) but I would not change a thing. I was no loss to Law, that's for sure. As for History, my knowledge of the Russian Revolution is not what it was, and it never was very good.

But sport, well that's another story. Playing it, watching it, writing about it; it's not really why I got into Robinson, but those years allowed me to grow and develop and follow a passion which sustains me now. ■



Matt Dickinson (History, 1988) is Chief Sports Writer of The Times, where he has worked for almost 22 years, covering six World Cups, four

Olympic Games, Ryder Cups, Tours de France and numerous other events. He has won Sports Journalist of the Year and has written an award-winning biography of Bobby Moore. He read History at Robinson College, 1988-1991.

Pictured with Fabio Capello, England Manager 2008-12.

Focus on Sport

Opinion piece: Sports unite. Sports inspire. Sports break down barriers

It is difficult to argue that elitism is not a damaging issue in our society when it starts to affect sport. Sport can and should be a uniting force between our societies, something which can transcend borders and generations. The track, the pitch, the court are all arenas where the only divide is supposedly the mental strength, skill and dedication of opponents. But this is not the case.

To believe this is to be drawn in and conned by the slogans of “inspire a generation” peddled by the media and policy makers to justify their massive investments into national sport. It is to believe those who argue the diversity and sheer number of different runners and cyclists out in our streets is evidence that indeed everyone has equal access to the sports fever that grips our nation during world sporting events. One of the inherent beauties of sport itself is that everyone can get involved, yet this does not mean that everyone has equal opportunity to become a sports star.

Sport is not immune from the vast inequality in our society. The government may invest billions of pounds in “the next generation”, but this does not benefit all of us. The national proportion of students educated in fee-paying schools is less than 1/10. However, Ofsted argues that in almost every sport other than football there is an underrepresentation of state school students at professional level: 73% of the England Cricket Test team in 2015 were privately educated; 21/30 England squad members for the Rugby 2015 world cup were privately educated; more than 4/10 British athletes who won medals at the London Olympics were, yes, privately educated.

That this disparity is present at elite level should not be a surprise. The funding reviews after 2012 ensured the continual flow of money to ‘elite’ sports such as rowing whilst those sports more accessible to state school pupils such as basketball had their funding slashed. The government and media simultaneously praise those who work at the grassroots level, the ‘unsung heroes’ putting in hours and hours to draw the best out of children with minimal equipment, whilst chucking money at sports

which can only be accessed by those who can afford a horse or a boat. The problems of these funding decisions are best exemplified by the decision to increase the funding of equestrian after the London 2012 Olympics, a sport which is currently under investigation due to recent allegations of “elitism, self-interest, bullying and corruption”.

However, the elitism in sport affects those even younger in society, through the school system. Ofsted argues that in state schools sport is neglected. This is clearly visible to anyone who has been through the state school system. When I was a 14-year-old, one of the most visible signs of difference between our school and the neighbouring private schools was during our sports matches. Standing amongst your team clad in old PE kits whilst your opponents had matching cricket whites, or worse, netball dresses, highlighted our inferiority so evidently it became humiliating.

This is only sport, it may be argued. But sport is important. It is important for young people to be involved in sport as it is proven to affect their experiences in other parts of life. Ofsted explains there is a correlation between quality of sports teaching and academic achievement in schools. Sport is linked with pride, motivation, respect, teamwork and confidence. Sport has the potential to improve society, bringing together those increasingly polarised by elitism in other sectors, and improving the health of a nation in an obesity crisis. Yet elitism is damaging sport itself. Through this it is evident that elitism does not just harm the economic prospects of lower-class members of our society, but their access to opportunities which bring social, physical, and mental benefits too.’ ■



Rose Jump (Geography, 2016) has just graduated from Robinson and, after enjoying the summer, she hopes to start a career in the Not for Profit sector. Rose originally wrote this article for an edition of the Robinson student magazine BAIT, which focused on Elitism.

Focus on Sport

To further his love of sport – Fred Boyne Sporting Achievement Award

When Fred Boyne MBE, the College's first Head Porter, retired in 2002, the College created the Fred Boyne Sporting Achievement Fund in recognition of his love for sport and his unwavering support for junior members' participation in competitive sport.



Dr Mary Stewart

Over the past 17 years, past and present members of the college have generously contributed to the Fund, and since 2003, 47 bursaries have been awarded to sportswomen and sportsmen of Robinson College who play their chosen sport at University level. This vital funding helps meet any exceptional costs associated with training, competition or equipment. Each year, whilst his health allowed, Fred would return to present the awards in person.

Fred is remembered with great affection as a man who expected the best from everyone. Forthright and outspoken, he made a permanent contribution to the College during its formative years. He is, amongst others, a Robinson College legend. His legacy and his love for sport lives on through the Fund and the Award created in his name.

Dr Mary Stewart, Life Fellow, former Tutor, Director of Studies in MML and Deputy Warden (1998 – 2005) remembers Fred:

"I first met Fred Boyne just after he'd been appointed: this must have been in the summer before the first big undergraduate intake, because I can recall walking up the slope to the Porters' Lodge which was still full of builders' cables, and going in to meet him slightly flustered from tripping over! Fred was already settling in to his new realm, along with his Deputy, Derek Richardson, and he proved to be the ideal first Head Porter: business-like, jovial and all-seeing, he missed nothing.

Fred's army background meant he felt at ease in the college hierarchy, and he was always scrupulously polite but often with an Irish twinkle. He was a master in the art of combining respect for rank with gentle admonition if certain Fellows didn't quite meet the standards he expected!

I admired Fred for the exemplary way in which each year he got to know all the students by name very quickly, and didn't hesitate to exert his authority where needed – a recurrent memory is of him standing just outside the Lodge and summoning some unfortunate who'd tried to elude him by disappearing down Long Court. There was no mistaking the sergeant major's voice, which could reach from one end of the College to the other with ease: "Mr. X, here right now please!" He commanded the undergraduates' respect, but it was obvious that he was used to dealing with their age group: he knew exactly how to balance severity with humour. What I most appreciated was the way he used his judgement in knowing what to tell the Fellows about student occurrences or overnight events, and what to keep silent about: he expected decent behaviour and common courtesy, but knew exactly when to make generous allowance for youth and folly, or when to pass on just a confidential hint of where help might be needed. I think that gained him a lot of affection and respect from the young: they trusted him, and of course his very genuine interest in and following of sporting events was a big factor in his popularity. The joy he felt over the various sporting successes was genuine and infectious. Seeing Fred marching his cohort down to the Senate House to get their degrees summed it all up; he was strict with them over appearance and behaviour on the day, but he was always bursting with pride."



Mr Fred Boyne MBE, Robinson College first Head Porter on a Graduation Day.



Oliver Fox
(Medicine, 2015),
the recipient of the
Fred Boyne Sporting
Achievement Award
on the prize:

"In 2018 I very gratefully received the Fred Boyne Award. I've spent many years competing in athletics and most recently raced for the British team in the World Cross Country Championships. Most of the athletes I compete with make enough money to be full-time. However, being a medic means that such a lifestyle isn't feasible. The award therefore helps me cover the costs of kit, competitions and training. Despite many preconceptions, sport has been hugely important during my time at Cambridge. Training with like-minded people has generated a supportive network from a variety of different years, subjects and colleges, something which very few can experience.

I often wonder what impact sport has and whether Cambridge should do more to promote it. Competing at the World Championships taught me a number of things.

The first is in appreciating what the top athlete's backgrounds are like with many from very poor East African communities. They've worked exceptionally hard, running in excess of 130 miles a week, to get to the level they're at. I've had infinitely more opportunity than them and competing in the same race illustrated how maintaining humility is one of the most important aspects of success.

Finally, every athlete respected one another regardless of their background. We therefore shouldn't underestimate the importance of sport, as it has the capacity to provide opportunity, generate diversity and bring together cultures which might otherwise show opposition and intolerance."

Mr Fred Boyne
presenting the awards.

FELLOWSHIP IN PROFILE:

PROFESSOR
NATALIA MAJLUFRETHINKING NATIONAL HERITAGE,
FROM THE MUSEO DE ARTE DE LIMA TO ROBINSON COLLEGE

Professor Natalia Majluf,
Robinson College Bye
Fellow, arrived in
Cambridge in September
2018 to take up the
Simón Bolívar Visiting
Chair for 2018-19. The
Simón Bolívar Chair in
Latin-American studies
was established in 1968
from a grant of the
Venezuelan government
for the purpose of
bringing distinguished
Latin American scholars
and intellectuals each year
to Cambridge.

Professor Majluf is a former Head Curator and Director of the Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI). She joined MALI in 1995 and under her leadership the museum remodelled and expanded its collection considerably and founded what is now the leading art documentation archive in the country. Professor Majluf holds a PhD in Art History from The University of Texas at Austin and has written and edited a significant number of books and curated exhibitions on Latin American art from the eighteenth to the twentieth-centuries.

Professor Majluf, it is not your first visit to Cambridge. You briefly came to Cambridge in 2007 as a Visiting Fellow based at the Centre of Latin American Studies. Eleven years have passed, how different is Cambridge now? What significant changes have you noticed since your last visit here?

The city has grown so much over the past decade. Yet I have a feeling that this has not affected the spirit of the place. My first visit to Cambridge fell in between terms, and I was not affiliated with a college. This year, as part of Robinson, my experience of the university has been much richer.

Did you visit Robinson College back in 2007, or is it your first contact with our college during your current sojourn in Cambridge?

I had in fact not visited Robinson during my previous visit. So this is my first real contact with the college. I have found it to be a wonderfully positive place, and I have felt welcome in so many ways.

Cambridge offers real treats for museum-goers with institutions such as the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard, or Wren Library, to name just a few. Have you had time to visit any museums during your current stay?

I believe I have visited every museum in Cambridge by now. They offer an incredible range of resources for students and faculty.

Having occupied the position of Head Curator and Director of the Museo de Arte de Lima for over 22 years, you possess, undoubtedly, strong views on the position of museums in our societies regardless of the culture we represent or the continent we live on. What is a museum for you?

Museums are places of learning. I believe in the educational role of museums, both in terms of the interaction with its visitors and in relation to intellectual production. I think it is a mistake to see, as some do, those two aspects as being in conflict. The best museums are able to do just that, find points of encounter between specialized knowledge and the issues that affect the lives of larger publics.

In one of your interviews you said that Lima was at times intolerable due to the absolute abandonment of the citizen by the state – lack of quality of public spaces. From your experience, has the situation of the national museum as an institution designed to preserve a human heritage improved over the years, in Peru, and other countries where you have had the opportunity to work?

It depends very much on where those museums are located. On the one hand, larger institutions in major cities usually fare much better than smaller ones in less central sites. And then, of course, there are national traditions that are much stronger than others. From a European perspective it is easy to take museums for granted, when in fact they are institutions that emerged quite recently, in a reduced number of cities. Their spread has been very unequal in different regions of the world.

Museo de Arte de Lima after two decades of your leadership is considered at the forefront of maintaining, discovering and rediscovering Peru's heritage. What was the biggest challenge in your work to make MALI the cultural and academic institution it is now?



I would say that building trust has been the foundation of everything else. This is critical in places like Peru, where institutions have been relatively weak. What the MALI has been able to achieve as an institution has depended on its ability to forge a collective project. Attention to different constituencies, openness to those who want to participate in the life of the museum, permanent dialogue with experts. It is people. That is what has made so many things possible.

What gives you the greatest satisfaction in your life as a museum professional, as a custodian of culture in its broadest sense and expression?

To have had the privilege of participating in the construction of a public history.

In one of your recent interviews you said: “I like the feeling of having many open possibilities and few work commitments ahead”. How does that translate into your professional life?

The experience of curating and doing museum work has been incredible, though it is something I had not foreseen while I was studying. I had in fact always imagined I would have a university career. Working in museums teaches you so much, yet from an administrative position it is always difficult to engage in the kind of long-term, in-depth research that I am being able to undertake now.

I understand that the Simón Bolívar Scholarship here in Cambridge has allowed you to work on two books: a study of the emergence of the image of the Indian in the 19th century

through the work of the painter Francisco Laso, a Peruvian painter, politician and precursor to indigenism in art; and the other focusing on a material configuration of the state in the transition from the Colony to the Republic. Was the Robinsonian climate conducive to your projects?

Sometimes colleagues ask whether I have found the necessary resources here to work on these projects. Having already done much of the primary research, I was in fact looking for the time to place these issues in a broader context. Robinson has been the perfect place for this.

Our world is turning more and more to virtual reality, to digitization and holographic “reality”. What, in your opinion, is the future for museums and museum-goers?

I’m not so good at predicting the future. When the digital revolution began, so much expectation was placed on technological innovation. And the impacts on public outreach, accessibility of collections, administrative procedures and other aspects of museum management have in fact been completely transformed by digitization. But museums are fundamentally about things, about tangible objects. This is what draws people. The fascination of being in the presence of these material traces of the past. I should think that will remain as the cornerstone of museums in the future.

Thank you for your time and this interesting conversation. I wish you good luck with your forthcoming books and we hope to see you back at Robinson very soon. ■

Above Left: Patio
Museo de Arte de Lima

Above: Prof Majluf’s
favourite painting in
the MALI collection:
Francisco Laso Tacna,
Peru, 1823 - Lima, Peru,
1869 The Three Races,
or Equality Before the
Law ca. 1859 Oil on
canvas, 81 x 105 cm.
Museo de Arte de
Lima. Fondo Alicia
Lastres de la Torre.

A MARRIAGE OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY

In the 1970s, mixed colleges were near non-existent and Robinson was a trailblazer: the first fully co-educational college, for graduates and undergraduates, from inception. Remembering that time, Founding Fellow Professor Morna Hooker recalls, “We were trying to combine the best of the traditional with progressive ideas. We did not favour traditions stuck in the past, especially if they were discriminatory.” Robinson’s alumni have played their part in this extraordinary undertaking, whether they graduated in 1985, 2005 or even later.

Since Robinson’s foundation, a cache of records documenting its development has grown. Many relate to individuals while others paint a picture of academic and cultural life from the 1970s onwards. For years, these were stored in cramped quarters above the Porter’s Lodge. Peter Milloy, Fellow Archivist and Emeritus Fellow, has been involved in preserving these records since 2013. Sorting through thousands of files to decide what should be retained was a task of Herculean proportions, even before a water leak in 2017 threatened to jeopardise the extensive progress made. “We hastily had to move the entire archive into a new room – one that didn’t have water anywhere near it!”

Milloy remembers. The records are now housed at 2 Adams Road, but this is very much an interim solution. “Paper will keep well provided it is kept at an even temperature and humidity, one of the big killers, is controlled,” says Milloy. “However, the room isn’t fit for purpose. The temperature fluctuates and there is no air-conditioning.”

The new Robinson archive building has been carefully designed to safeguard the invaluable documents that chart our college’s history. The papers of Lord Lewis, back issues of *The Brick*, decades of matriculation photographs, even a local residents’ campaign poster opposing Robinson’s construction, are just some of the riches held in storage. Alumni will have the chance to reminisce over these records in a designated reading room in the completed building. The archive will also enable the college to conserve its records in a controlled environment according to the highest specifications for the preservation of historical documents.

This is more important than ever at this juncture in Robinson’s evolution. “We’ve got to the point where we realise we have actually got a history,” says Dr Mary Stewart, Founding Fellow. “Our earliest students are



North Elevation | No. 6 Adams Road

approaching retirement and if we don't start doing it seriously now, we're going to miss out on the chance to get a lot of the stuff from the very early days." Indeed, Robinson's trajectory is so singular among Cambridge colleges that to protect its history for future generations is especially critical. Stewart remembers the refreshing spirit of equality among the founding Fellows, an attitude highly unusual for the era: "It was difficult to get women as Fellows, but we had a relatively high percentage from the start so we never felt we had to fight our corner.

We were just colleagues. It made for a very agreeable atmosphere." Without the Archive, key details will likely be lost to the passage of time. "There is a sheer richness of life in a place like this – what the students got up to, the creativity, the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It's astonishing and it would be awful to lose that," says Stewart.

This welcoming atmosphere is one that prevails, even though Robinson now happily takes itself for granted. "It's grown up and become self-sustaining," says Stewart. Michael Panayi (English/Law, 2012) is one of the youngest alumni to have donated to the campaign. "Robinson is the most unassumingly charming college in Cambridge and people should have better access to its history, alumni included!" he said after lending his name to a brick that will form part of the new building. "Robinson in particular needs our support because it's small and relatively new."

The pressing concern is if not now, when? "Time is running out," says Milloy. Hooker agrees: "We've woken up to this while some of us are still around and have memories, whereas

with the older colleges – it's disappeared over the centuries. We have an advantage." That advantage, however, must be acted upon before it is too late. Unlike other colleges, Robinson's youth means it cannot rely on endowments accrued over centuries. A £150,000 gift enabled construction to begin in June 2019 and the new building is on track to open in early 2020, ensuring that the records detailing the college's past will be available to Robinsonians past, present and future.

No other college in Cambridge marries tradition with modernity as successfully as Robinson. "I strongly feel that students at Robinson are spoiled," Panayi says wistfully. "That should be rewarded by donating back to the college." Robinson unites the best of Cambridge with a pioneering vision – and it is this vision that we hope to preserve for all to remember next year and in fifty years, as history hurries on.

HELP US PRESERVE THE ROBINSON ARCHIVE

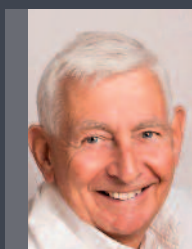
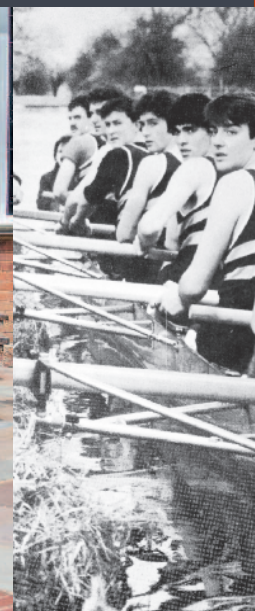
We encourage all Robinson pioneers to help us preserve the stories of their days at Robinson. The archive building is expected to cost £803,000 and we are delighted that construction beside 5 Adams Road has already begun thanks to a £150,000 donation. We are now asking our alumni and supporters to help us fund the remainder. To find out more about how you can help build a permanent home for the records of your time at Robinson, please go to:

www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/robinson-archive-building
or email: development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk



New Archive building

No. 5 Adams Road



Wing Commander
Peter Milloy

The Archivist's Tale:

WING COMMANDER PETER MILLOY, FORMER DOMESTIC BURSAR, EMERITUS FELLOW AND FELLOW ARCHIVIST, TELLS BIN BROOK ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING



ROBINSON COLLEGE
ARCHIVE

What sorts of records will be conserved in the new Robinson Archive?

When you go and look in archives, it's not just the routine minutes, agendas, staff photographs and so on – it's the trivia that is fascinating... I'm very keen, as is the Archive Committee, on capturing these details. For example, we have a May Ball most years. We have a file with May Ball arrangements because we have meetings preparing for it, but we haven't got all the posters for the May Balls. Some of them are displayed up by the housekeeper's office and we've got one or two in the archive, but I'm aware of the fact that some of the students took them away from here. But we haven't got all the posters for the May Balls. That's something I really want to look at, how we get back some of these things. The trivia really paints a picture of daily life.

Will the records be digitised?

We are establishing an electronic archive which will run in parallel with the paper archive. We started working on this four years ago. We know that paper lasts 500 years. Will we be able to open a PDF file in 500 years?

Probably not. For this reason, we will continue to collect paper records from all of our formal meetings: the minutes, agendas, papers, from all of the many committees that we have. We have those paper records going back to the beginning. They're not all there, but they're mostly there and we're working to close the gap on those we don't have.

Why do you think Robinson's history, in particular, is so important to remember?

Jack Lewis led from the front. He wanted a college that was going to be the first undergraduate college for men and women alike. He and the founding Fellows wanted it to be a new broom, sweeping through the fusty corridors of Cambridge. What none of us today wants to happen is for people to forget that original concept of the college – which was going to be open and friendly and accessible and non-discriminatory on all sorts of levels. We don't have a Fellows' Garden here so the students can go wherever they like and we've always been at pains to try and make sure that the students understand that the staff are their friends. We lose sight of that original concept at our peril.



L to R:
23 November 1979, Robinson College
under construction.

The Warden, Professor David Yates
and Wg Cdr Peter Milloy cutting the
sod for the Archive Building.

A crew on the river - 'The Brick'
Michaelmas 1985

A poster from the 1986 May Ball.

Front cover of 'The Brick' shows
graduands gathered in Long Court,
25 June 1983



East Elevation | New Archive building



West Elevation | New Archive building

How do you feel now that construction work on the Archive has begun?

It is almost exactly two years since we started this idea that we might have a new building. And here we are, just two years later, cutting the earth. With any luck, the building should be completed by December. It is an exciting moment. I just hope that our current students, staff, Fellows and all of the alumni feel the same. We're doing the right thing by the people today and future generations. We've sized it so that there should be room for 50 more years of paper. ■

Robinson's living history

Perhaps you have records, photographs or indeed one of those missing May Ball posters from your days at Robinson in storage?

The College archivists are interested in hearing from you. Contact Fellow Archivist Peter Milloy (pdgm2@cam.ac.uk) to discuss providing copies for preservation in the new Robinson Archive building. ■

SOLIDARITEE'S INCEPTION

HOW IT TOOK OFF AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

SolidariTee is an entirely student-led charity which raises awareness about the refugee crisis and offers grants to organisations and individuals working in the sector. Started in 2017 by Cambridge University student, Tiara Sahar Ataii, the campaign was a response to both the decreasing media coverage of the refugee crisis and frustration with the “echo chamber” of student activism. Prompted by her work as a translator for a legal NGO in Greece, Ataii set up SolidariTee with a twofold purpose: to demonstrate solidarity whilst, crucially, making a material impact through fundraising.



Above: Bristol Team

Below left: An example of SolidariTee infographic

Below right: St Andrews Team



This twofold purpose is what makes SolidariTee unique. In offering grants to those in the field, SolidariTee attempts to sustain long-term change. Legal aid is the only way to get people out of a traumatic and often interminable legal limbo in temporary camps. It starts from the basic premiss that everyone has the right to know their rights and be represented in an asylum process, which, if unsuccessful, could lead to someone deserving of asylum being deported to the country from which they fled.

SolidariTee has grown incredibly quickly and has struck a chord with students around the country. Starting from just Cambridge in 2017, the campaign now has teams in over 35 universities (and counting) worldwide. The first 600 t-shirts were funded out of Ataii's student loan. Now in its third year, the campaign is expecting donations and sales of well over £2,000,000.

Until summer 2018, SolidariTee supported Advocates Abroad, an NGO providing legal aid and representation to refugees in Greece. SolidariTee chose Advocates Abroad for two reasons: firstly because of its vital work in legal aid - in July and August of 2017 100% of the people they prepared for interview were granted asylum - and secondly because it was a key moment in the NGO's development. SolidariTee has been instrumental to its growth; since 2017 Advocates Abroad has been able to employ field coordinators in each of its operational centres and its outreach and capabilities have increased significantly. Moreover, many students who heard of Advocates Abroad's work through SolidariTee have gone on to volunteer with them after they graduated.

This year, SolidariTee is funding Fenix and Mobile Info Team. Fenix is a brand-new NGO, founded in November 2018 and working in Lesbos, which looks to provide legal aid from a holistic lens. Coming from the starting point that many processes remain impenetrable for many refugees and asylum seekers, the team combines lawyers, psychologists, and translators to ensure that all basic needs are met - be it preparation for the asylum interview, navigating the complex school registration process, or obtaining medical appointments for serious conditions. The NGO also uses community ambassadors in order to support their beneficiaries in taking leadership roles, replacing charity with empowerment, and ensuring

that correct information is spread throughout asylum-seeking communities.

Mobile Info Team (MIT) is an NGO founded in 2016 and based in Thessaloniki, which offers legal aid to refugees, with a focus upon family reunification. Family reunification is a procedure whereby family members in different European countries may be reunited before the asylum procedure begins. It is very difficult to relocate to a different European country once you already have refugee status, and so many families have been left stranded across Europe with no legal possibility to live together. Family reunification is a notoriously difficult procedure, even for the largest NGOs and legal aid providers, and MIT has been winning cases in the field in their very short life.



Vice Chancellor Award: Tiara Ataii (left) with Vice Chancellor Professor Stephen Toope

It's easy to get fatigued by the amount of work that running a team of over 550 students necessitates, and so it meant a lot that the SolidariTee team received recognition for our hard work by the Vice Chancellor, Stephen Toope. The awards ceremony [Social Impact Awards on 5th February]

was also a lovely opportunity to chat to the other winners of the prize, and we have already arranged to meet in March when I am returning to the UK to exchange ideas and tips. ■



Tiara Ataii (2016) is a Third Year Modern and Medieval Languages undergraduate student.

NOTES ON ART

The Art of Caring Exhibition



The Art of Caring Exhibition, in support of Headway Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre (CCHC), was held in Robinson from the 24th to the 28th January, 2019.

The work of several of our medical Fellows in college is related to the activities of these charities, both of which have local centres that run regular art therapy sessions for clients.

Headway provides services for people with an acquired brain injury and support for their families and carers. The rehabilitation hubs provide clients with places to work, learn, explore, enjoy and recover. In creative art sessions, individuals can develop their cognitive and motor skills which helps to rebuild a sense of self, reduce anxiety and increase confidence.

CCHC, based in the David Rayner Building at Scotsdales Garden Centre in Cambridge, offers support to anyone with cancer together with

their families, carers and friends. The atmosphere is friendly and informal; everyone is welcome to benefit from the courses, therapies and activities – including the mutually supportive art group.

Over 20 local artists, many from Cambridge Drawing Society, donated artwork for sale. Some 50 artworks were created by CCHC clients and a similar number of prints and other works were produced by Headway clients. We offer our sincere gratitude to those who donated or bought artworks, as well as the significant number of College members and staff who supported the endeavour in various ways, including by donating artworks, arranging the exhibition boards, organising college facilities or catering for the donors' reception, handling the money and accounts, and staffing the exhibition from time to time. Many of the donors and buyers mentioned their personal connections to these charities, where they, family members or friends had directly benefited from their tremendous work. Clients from the art groups of the two charities were very appreciative of the opportunity to exhibit their works in a Cambridge college (see photo). £2,570 was raised, which was evenly split between Headway Cambridgeshire and the CCHC.



Dr Steve Trudgill (left) with members of Cambridge Cancer Help Centre Art Group (centre to right) Inge Lill, Brenda Reeve (art organiser), Albert Young and Salima Souanef (with some of their artworks)



Dr Steve Trudgill is Emeritus Fellow, Geography, and President of the Robinson College Alumni Association (Pegasus)



Dr Gary Doherty is Fellow, Director of Studies in Medicine, a Consultant Medical

Oncologist at Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth Hospitals, and Chair of the College's Visual Art Committee

NEWS: Alumni events

Robinson Law Dinner 13th March

Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF) hosted this year's Law Dinner in their London office with its spectacular views over the Thames. The Warden, Professor David Yates, Robinson's Law Fellows and students enjoyed interesting and inspiring conversations with members of the firm and Robinson's law alumni over a delicious dinner. As part of the evening NRF's graduate recruitment team spent time with our students, and Professor Alison Young, Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law, shared her insights into human rights after Brexit. We are looking forward to the 2020 Law Dinner at Slaughter & May, and hope many of our legal alumni will be able to join us. ■



Robinson College in Asia, March

The Warden, Mrs Yates, and Development Director Sarah Westwood enjoyed a wonderful evening with Robinson Alumni at the Jade Palace Restaurant in Singapore on 26th March 2019. The gathering included alumni who matriculated between 1983 and 2015. We are enormously grateful to Ming San Lee (Economics, 1983) for hosting the evening at this superb venue.

Later on that week our envoys to Asia shared the latest college news over drinks and dinner at the Stellar House Restaurant with Robinson alumni living in Hong Kong. The gathering included alumni who matriculated between 1986 to 2014. We are enormously grateful to Adrian Cheung (Law, 2007) for hosting the evening at his superb restaurant. ■



Annual Alumni Open Weekend, 23rd March



On the March Alumni Weekend, which is open to all alumni, we have an Alumni Forum where alumni talk about their time at Robinson and their careers. This year the topic was: 'From Bricks to Flicks: Creativity and Innovation in Film from Robinson Alumni.'

There were three speakers. Gary Sinyor (SPS 1980) is a film director, producer, and writer. His involvements include *Leon the Pig Farmer* and *The Unseen*. Jonny Persey (SPS Psychology 1988) is a film producer and Director of Met Film based in Ealing and Berlin, whose recent films include *Swimming with Men*. Saul Metzstein (Architecture 1989) is a film director. His involvements include *The Snowman*; *Ripper Street*; *Doctor Who* and *Dredd*. Saul is the son of one of the Architects of Robinson College, Isi Metzstein. The Chair was Saul Nassé (Natural Sciences 1984) who was Editor of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World*, Executive Producer of the Indian version of *Strictly Come Dancing* and Controller of BBC Learning. He is now Group Chief Executive of Cambridge Assessment, the University's examinations business, and a member of the RCAA (Pegasus) Committee

The panel began by entertaining us with memories from when they were undergraduates and then went on to show us clips from the films they had produced. What was especially fascinating was to see the context in which they were produced and to have the insights of the film-makers. The discussion and questions which followed focussed on the creative processes, with memorable phrases including 'constraints bring more creativity than freedom' and working 'on the edge of chaos'. It was a really thought-provoking and entertaining event, and we are grateful to all involved.

Dr Steve Trudgill, President RCAA, Pegasus ■

Donor Summer Garden Party, 22nd June



On Saturday 22nd June the Warden welcomed donors and their guests to Robinson's first Donor Garden Party. Over 100 guests enjoyed guided tours of the College's gardens led by Head Gardener Guy Fuller, followed by a drinks reception and lunch in the Crausaz Wordsworth Building. After lunch there was food for the ears in a thrilling concert by some of Robinson's brilliant young musicians, Catherine Porter and George Speck (both 2016) and their friends, and in the last formal session of the day Professor Carlos Caldas, a Fellow of Robinson College, told us about his research into breast cancer and the hope it offers. This glorious summer day ended with afternoon tea. We are enormously grateful to our donors and their guests for coming to this very special event and for their continued support of the College. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year. ■

Annual Reception, 2nd July



Over 100 Alumni from matriculation vintages dating from 1982 to 2014 joined the Warden and Fellows for an evening of reminiscences about life at Robinson and an update about the College today. We are grateful to our host, the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP (History, 1985), who not only made it possible for us to hold Robinson's Annual Reception at the House of Commons, but also gave a speech that treated guests to an entertaining mixture of College history and stories from the Palace of Westminster. Everybody enjoyed a perfect summer evening. Thank you to our guests for coming and for making this special event such a success. We look forward to seeing you again next year at 113 Chancery Lane on Wednesday 1st July 2020. ■

Alumni Get-together at Nicosia, 5th July



On 5th July local Robinsonians and Deputy Development Director, Catherine Biggs, enjoyed a smashing evening at Mazostrati Taverna in Nicosia. Guests spent a fun evening in the bustling atmosphere of this contemporary tavern, accompanied by live music over big meze spreads and local wines. Personal stories and the latest news from college were exchanged and the world put to right on that summer evening in the atmosphere of conviviality and relaxation. We are grateful to our alumni Costas Eliades (Chemical Engineering, 1984) and Stavros Zannetos (Natural Sciences – Biological, 1988) for organising Cyprus get-together and finding such a perfect venue. We hope to meet our Cyprus alumni again in 2020. ■

Manchester Dinner

A gathering of alumni and their guests enjoyed a selection of fantastic Greek food and the pleasant company always in evidence when Robinsonians get together. Those in attendance included former Bar Manager Malcolm Trotter and his wife Linda, Tony (Management Studies/Mathematics, 1984) and Taffi Toole, Colin Mackinlay (Electrical and Information Sciences, 1983), Jessica Brush (Chemical Engineering, 2007), Katherine Lane-Serff (Mathematics, 1981), Nicola Forsdike (Music, 1983), Matthew (Geography, 1983) and Alyson Grant. Special thanks are owed to those who had travelled many miles to attend.

We look forward to seeing them all again, and hopefully more members of the Robinson family in the north, at the Fourth Annual Robinson College Alumni Association (Pegasus) Manchester Dinner in 2020. ■

Football

If you have ever played for any of the University's Men's or Women's football teams in the past, please get in touch with Kosi Nwuba, the Communications Officer for Cambridge University Association Football Club (CUAFC). They are currently trying to get in touch with all alumni hoping to get them involved in the exciting upcoming season and also to hear about their experiences as players for the club. You can contact Kosi on cn412@cam.ac.uk. They would really LOVE to hear from you! ■

WE MET AT ROBINSON

There are two types of college marriages. First there is the platonic Freshers' Week affair, where couples are "married" in a cheerfully anarchic ceremony and adopt Fresher "children" in their second year. Then there is also a more romantic type of college marriage, when students are lucky enough to meet their life partner amongst the red bricks.

In this new series, we present couples who met at Robinson College and decided to stay together longer than "till graduation do us part".

Dr Yudan Ren (Pathology, 2008) & Dr Laurence Robert McGlashan (Chemical Engineering, 2003)



'Laurence and I met in 2008 at Robinson when we were both doing our PhD degrees at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Pathology respectively.

We first met at the Porters' Lodge while I was asking the way to the MCR for a formal hall. I had no idea where to go and Laurence showed me the way. I will always remember how kind he was! We were married on 4th August 2012 in the College Chapel, where I had the honour of the Warden Professor David Yates giving me away. Laurence and I have two wonderful children. ■

NEWS: Alumni

1981



Helen Birkbeck (Modern and Medieval Languages) welcomed her first grandchild, Eleanor Jane, in January 2019.

1986

After 28 years working in the British education system, **John Webber (Social and Political Science)** eventually became bored with the mindless compilation of data for no particular reason and moved to La Rioja in Northern Spain with his wife in January 2019. They had been planning this for some time, but certain unmentionable political events moved the date forward 18 months.... John's fascination with the country began when he started studying Spanish from scratch 15 years ago, eventually gaining a Masters-level qualification from the Cervantes Institute, the irony of which will not be lost on some of his Robinson contemporaries, as John informs us. He is teaching English in Logroño, the regional capital, with students ranging in age from seven to 40! It is proving an interesting experience; some schools clearly teach the language progressively, whereas others are stuck back in the dark ages and avoid speaking it at all costs - think 'O' Level French in the 1970s and you get the mentality. John and his wife have a vineyard over the road which has a weekly invasion from a huge flock of sheep, yet their house is just over five minutes' walk from the centre of a small town; it really couldn't be more different from suburban South-West London, where John had been for 25 years. John adds: "I have to confess that other than no longer being able to see Brentford FC continuing to punch above their weight and having the audacity to beat some of the so-called big clubs in the Championship on a fairly regular basis, I am not missing the UK at all!"

1988

Daniel S Helman (Natural Sciences, Biological) reports: "During the past year and a half I've had the pleasure of working as a lecturer and researcher in the Faculty of Labor Relations and Trade Unions at Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. During that time, I've had a few articles published (Constructivist Discipline for a Student-Centered Classroom; Galactic Distribution of Chirality Sources of Organic Molecules; Schizophrenia Remission Without



Medication) as well as a poem (When the Whales Left). I also co-organized a speaker session on the Mathematics of Planet Earth at an international math meeting at Fudan University in Shanghai last summer. Ironically, my contract negotiations in Vietnam didn't go well, so I decided not to return, and am now travelling and catching up on research projects and writing. I think of my cohort at Robinson College often".

1990

Adam Fox (Medicine) has recently been appointed Professor of Paediatric Allergy at King's College London and is working as a

consultant Paediatric Allergist and Commercial Medical Director of Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals. He is also currently President of the British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology and lives in Bushey Heath with wife Tanya and two children, Ethan & Charlotte.



Having joined Cambridge Constabulary on graduating from Robinson in 1993, **Gavin Stephens (Management Studies)** transferred to Surrey Police as a Constable in 1996.

In April 2019 he became the first in Surrey Police's history to be promoted from Police Constable all the way through to Chief Constable. Gavin is also the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Neighbourhood Policing, Police Community Support Officers, Social Media & Digital Engagement, and would welcome contact from any students considering a policing career. He would recommend it to anyone for the intellectual challenge, variety, teamwork and leadership experiences.

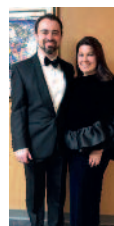
1995

Brendan McGurk (Law) has published a new book entitled Data Profiling and Insurance Law (Hart Publishing, April 2019, ISBN 9781509920617). The book explores how: (i) insurers gain access to information relevant to assessing risk and/or the pricing of premiums; (ii) the impact which that increased information will have on substantive insurance law (and in particular duties of good faith disclosure and fair presentation of risk); and (iii) the impact that insurers' new knowledge may have on individual and group access to insurance.



1997

Edmund Connolly (Music) has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with his wife, Maxine Thevenot, and their two black cats, Nadia and Hildegard, since 2012. He is a full-time performing arts teacher at Albuquerque Academy (a nationally-recognized independent secondary school) and Assistant Organist-Choir Director at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John. Edmund continues to perform as a baritone soloist and with Maxine as the duo Air & Hammers (see photo). Also active as a composer, Edmund was recently a semi-finalist in the Lois Fyfe composition prize (Sewanee Church Music Conference) for his a cappella choral setting of Tantum Ergo.



Norman Sieroka (Natural Sciences - Physical) was appointed full Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bremen, Germany, near to where he was born and raised. Before taking up the position in April 2019, Norman was employed at the ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule/Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) Zurich for about fifteen years and he

will retain his memberships in the Directory Board of ETH's Turing Centre Zurich and in the Governance Board of ETH's "rethink" initiative.(CNPq - Brazil).

2003



Charlotte Whitaker (Classics) and her husband Matthew welcomed Emmeline into the world in March 2019.

2004

Simon Leaf (Management Studies, 2004) and **Hannah Leaf**



(Philosophy, 2006) are happy to announce that Alfie Leo James Leaf was born late in the evening on April 21st, at Queen Charlotte's hospital in London. Weighing 9lbs 4oz, Alfie is doing brilliantly, and Mum and Dad are utterly smitten.

2005



Marie (Mimi) Willcock (SPS) and **Tom Boyd (English)** are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, William Michael Willcock Boyd, born April 22nd, 2019 at BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, weighing 9lbs, 5oz. William is doing well and is looking forward to meeting his extended Robinson alumni family.

2009

Samuel Ruiz (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 2009) and **Evan Herbert (Veterinary Medicine, 2012)** got engaged in December 2018.

2011

Fiona Johnson (Architecture) sat and passed the RIBA Advanced Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture with a distinction. This is the last qualification (following 8 years of study) in order to become an Architect. Fiona is in the process of applying to the ARB to register as an architect.

2012



Eleanor Riches (English) became engaged to Matthew Lenaghan of Castletwellan, Northern Ireland.

NEWS: Fellows

Professor Arnold Beckmann (Bye Fellow) FLSW, Professor and Head of Computer Science at Swansea University, has been elected Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. LSW is a young Society: established in 2010, it uses the knowledge of its experts to promote research, inspire learning, and provide independent policy advice in Wales. This year, forty-eight new Fellows have joined the Learned Society of Wales from across the arts, humanities, sciences, and beyond, coming from all over the UK. (<https://www.learnedsociety.wales/>)

Professor Peter Kornicki (Fellow in Modern and Medieval Languages – Japanese and Korean) was Mote Lecturer at Princeton University 2018-19 and gave the Marius B. Jansen Lecture in Japanese Studies there in April 2019. Together with

Honorary Fellow, Sir Hugh Cortazzi, who died in 2018, and Dr Antony Best, he wrote *British Royal and Japanese Imperial relations, 1868-2018: 150 years of association, engagement and celebration* to mark the accession of Emperor Naruhito and this was published in May 2019. He has also published *Captain Oswald Tuck and the Bedford Japanese School, 1942-1945*, a book about the secret Japanese courses run during the Second World War to train men and women for work at Bletchley Park. Recently, he has been delighted to get back in touch with Hannah Poppy, whose studies he directed when she was doing a degree in Middle Eastern Studies (although he knew nothing about the subject!) and who, he was pleased to learn, is now doing very well in her chosen career.

Sandra Smith (Senior Member) translated a biography by Amos Reichman of Jacques Schiffrin, founder of the French publisher Pléiade Editions, who fled France with his family during the Occupation and after over a year, made it to New York where he became an established publisher. There was a book launch and a panel discussion at Columbia University's Maison Française on 5th March. The panel included (apart from Sandra) Amos Reichman, the author, Susan Rubin Suleiman, Robert O. Paxton, Eric Jennings, Adam Tooze and David Milliband. Sandra also translated an essay by Albert Camus, *Create Dangerously*, for Random House NY, which will be published in the autumn.



NEWS: Staff



Cambridge colleges are known for being centres of academic excellence and for offering learning opportunities to students from different backgrounds at undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels. Robinson College goes beyond that and hasn't restricted learning to its

students. Over the past few years, in cooperation with Cambridge Regional College (CRC), a significant number of the Food Service staff obtained qualifications in Food Service and Beverage as well as in Hospitality Services, reinforcing their existing skills and learning new ones. In recognition of her hard work and her excellence shown during the course, **Mrs Myra Gilks** was honoured with the Apprentice of the Year Award for Catering and Hospitality. Myra joined Robinson as a bed-maker 25 years ago. She returned to work in college after maternity leave and took the position of a part-time bartender. In 2001 she became a food and beverage assistant, a position that she has held for the last 18 years.

When in 2017 Myra was offered a chance to further her education by taking the Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Food and Beverage Service, she embraced that opportunity wholeheartedly and Robinson gave Myra its full support throughout the whole process. It was not always an easy and comfortable journey, but Myra stayed motivated and committed and managed successfully to combine her work with studies. The CRC awarding committee described Myra as a real asset to her employer and her work colleagues, and so say all of us!

NEW COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome to Robinson College

Ms Anastasia Andreou (College Bar),

Mr David Baker (Porters' Lodge),

Mr Joshua Callum (Housekeeping),

Ms Gemma Heslop (Housekeeping),

Mr James Learmonth (Housekeeping),

Mr Abraham Miranda (Catering),

Ms Claire Remington-Wilding (Gardens),

Mr David Reynolds (Head Porter),

Ms Maria Wilson (Housekeeping). ■

NEW Fellows

Dr Ignacia Arteaga

Dr Johan P Larsson

Mr Saul Nassé

Dr Konstantin Röder

HONORARY FELLOWS

The Lord Rees of Ludlow BA, MA, PhD (Trinity, Cantab) OM, FRS, HonFREng, HonFMedSci, HonFBA (Also known as Sir Martin Rees, Baron Rees of Ludlow)

Dame Caroline Humphrey, BA (Girton), MA (Leeds), PhD (Girton) DBE, FBA (Lady Rees of Ludlow)

Mme Christine Lagarde, Maîtrise et DESS (Paris X), Maîtrise (Aix en Provence); Commandeur, Ordre du Mérite Agricole; Officier, Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur ■

FAREWELL: Glenys Denton



On 8th February there was not a dry eye in sight in the Garden Restaurant at the retirement drinks celebrating Glenys Denton's 28 years of service at Robinson College.

Glenys joined Robinson in 1991 as a part-time food service assistant. She spent many years as a general supervisor running formal halls, graduation and matriculation dinners. Glenys also worked at over 25 May Balls. When previous Senior Common Room (SCR) Supervisor Sheila Wilson retired, Glenys took over. In her role she looked after Fellows and their guests, making sure that new Fellows and visiting academics felt especially comfortable in the new surroundings. Interacting with students during Halls and other college functions was entertaining, as once Glenys remarked, and she was firm but fair with them all. It was the students who posted hundreds of comments and good wishes on Facebook at the time of Glenys's retirement. Some of those posts read: "Wishing you all the best for a long and happy retirement, Glenys. Robinson formals won't be the same without you. You were great to work for, too!"; "Such a key part of Robinson life - won't be the same without you! Best wishes for the future."; "All the best in your retirement Glenys - I just can't imagine Robinson without you!"; "Ah Glenys, end of an era! Fond memories, very best wishes and lots of love for the future.", and this one: "Enjoy every second of retirement (hope you have trained your successor in the art of student control)". Happy retirement, Glenys.

My Robinson: Glenys Denton

So Glenys, how long have you been at Robinson and how has your role changed?

I've been here 22 years this December. I used to run a guest house, and then came to Robinson in 1991 as a part-time food service assistant. Eventually I moved up to the SCR (when Sheila Wilson retired) and have been SCR supervisor ever since.

What does the role of SCR supervisor entail?

There's only one of me, so it means doing a bit of everything. I start off by ordering in supplies, tidying the kitchen and the general rooms, and then prepare the dining room for lunchtime service. Fellows come and go, and then I serve lunch. In the afternoon I clear the lunch service and clean. On Wednesday evenings, the Fellows have a self-service supper and so I set that up too. As some of you know, I also supervise High Table during formal halls

What skills do you think make you good at your job?

Well, I'm not very good with names, but I never forget a face and I get on with people. I'm lucky that I've got a good memory for detail and I can always remember everyone's little preferences, which definitely comes in handy when working with lots of different people. I think it's really important to be welcoming, especially with new Fellows and visiting academics, and I do make a particular point of making them feel comfortable in the SCR. It must be difficult coming to a new place and it's good that I can offer them a bit of familiarity when they arrive. It's also lovely when visiting academics come back and remember me!

What's it like to supervise a big dinner?

Well, I only supervise High Table now, but I did spend many years as general supervisor in Hall and it was always entertaining! The students were often naughty, but we always had a bit of a joke. I think you have to have a light touch with these things, and it's always better to interact with the diners rather than tell them off too much. I was really firm, but you have to be fair and let people enjoy themselves. Of course, the Fellows never pose these problems...

What's the most outrageous thing that you've seen at a Formal Hall?

Like I say, most students back in the nineties were naughty but nice. There was no disrespect or rudeness and actually, the vast majority were polite and friendly – if a bit worse for wear! They'd be naughty, but if you said 'no', they would always stop. Usually the worst incidents involved vomit, but the least said about that the better! I do remember that when I first came here, the Boat Club weren't allowed dinners because of an incident in the Garden Room where footprints were found on the ceiling!

How about May Balls?

I've worked about 20 balls now, and I have to admit they do all rather merge into one. After a while, the scenery does start to look a bit familiar! But I do think our balls are really good value and there's always a lot of food. It's always great to see the students having fun – and I remember a particularly funny moment when one alumnus (who will remain unnamed) staggered over and told me that I was his favourite dinner lady!

Do you enjoy working at Reunions?

Absolutely! It's great to see everyone again – and I always try to work these events when I can. Like I say, I'm not always great remembering people's names, but I always recognize your faces. I was really sorry not to be able to work at this September's event – my daughter Laura was getting married – but I hope you all had a really good evening. I'll certainly do my best to be at the next one!

Obituaries and tributes

David Meade (1961-2019) (Modern and Medieval Languages, 1980)



One of the undergraduates in the College's first full intake in 1980, when the new building was opened, David Meade (1980-84) read French and German at Robinson before moving on to a successful career in the City. He died on 28th May after a protracted illness.

Although a professed Yorkshireman, David was in fact (whisper it quietly) born on the other side of the Pennines, in Warrington, on 2nd February 1961 shortly before the family moved to Huddersfield, where he grew up. He was educated at Huddersfield New College where his many and evident qualities led to him being appointed Head Boy. A promising linguist, he was identified as a potential Oxbridge student while, at the same time, competing to a high standard in chess, playing for his adopted county. Indeed, although he was typically modest about this, many of his College peers share memories of having been soundly beaten by him playing blindfold and after bewilderingly few moves. Thereafter, his reputation preceded him, and he had to look to the University's Chess Society for his matches.

Those early months were exciting times, as the new College and its occupants started to find their identity (imagine no pre-existing sports teams, societies or traditions), the various facilities were completed, and the gardens began to bloom - reducing the initial starkness of the brick design and covering what seemed to be climbing frames up the outside of the college (presumed to be for late entry). To the end David retained fond memories of some of the individuals who shaped that time: Mary Stewart, his mentor and Director of Studies, Fred Boyne, the Head Porter, and Malcolm, the manager of the College Bar. Characters who have left their impact on many.

In his third year, David was placed as an English Assistant in a school in Argenton-sur-Creuse in central France. This was not the most vibrant setting for such a sociable animal; in fact, as David told one of his fellow linguists who was due to visit him there, "When you arrive, stand outside the station and you will see a big building on the hill looking like Dracula's castle. That's the school. Just turn left, walk down the high street, and climb the hill. You will have seen the whole town." Characteristically, and as he would do later during his career, instead of complaining about it, he made the best of a poor hand and drew the maximum benefit, immersing himself in the community and language.

A disciplined student who, unlike many of his contemporaries, eschewed all-night essay-writing and worked before going to the college bar in the evening, David carried this purposefulness into his job-hunting, so that by the time the Milkround came into town, he had already settled on a career in banking, joining an affiliate of JP Morgan soon after graduating. In 1986 he was rewarded with a place on their prestigious training programme, spending six months in New York before returning to London just before Christmas, when he met his future wife, Helen. Typically decisive, he was the first of our group to get married and the first to have children.

The following year he was tested by being made redundant a few weeks before their planned wedding, yet typically turned adversity to his advantage, finding a job at Standard & Poor's which was the launching pad for his specialisation in the financial analysis of large corporates. Thereafter, he timed his moves shrewdly and intelligently, growing in seniority and expertise as he worked successively at Morgan Stanley, Fidelity, Ignis and Guardian. He was a dedicated, authoritative, no nonsense individual who was a real asset to his colleagues, bringing great experience to a role in which there is no real substitute for it.

He was a tremendously reliable husband, father, son and friend, always taking his responsibilities very seriously but with an ability to relax and enjoy company, good food and good wine. He was a great support to those of us in occasional need and a strong constant in our shared lives.

David retained a lifelong passion for languages and, especially, France and its literature and culture, continuing to read the classic works in the original despite the demands of family and career. In 2012 he was able to fulfil his long-held dream of buying a home there, a beautiful farm-house near Duras in Lot et Garonne, within striking distance of St Emilion, which he was able to enjoy more fully after semi-retirement in 2017. Sadly, the prospect of many more years of leisure was cut short when he was diagnosed with bile-duct cancer in the middle of 2018, and complications meant that he was never able to have the opportunity for decisive treatment.

David's funeral was held at St Augustine's Church, Tunbridge Wells on 14th June 2019. He remained proud of his association with Robinson throughout his life and returned to Cambridge regularly for alumni events or simply for visits with his family. He is survived by his wife, Helen, their two children, Sophie and Tom, and his parents, Anne and Derek.

Tribute by Stephen Sharrock and Bruce Gomme (both MML, 1980)

Roger Whiteoak (1969-2018) (Land Economy, 1988)



Oddly, rather sadly now I think about it, I don't recall my very first encounter with Roger Whiteoak at Robinson. It could have been glancing at him reading the pink pages of the Financial Times, or the Economist, in the common room and wondering "who does that at 18?"

Perhaps it was down at the boathouse where, coming from King's School, Chester, he was ahead of most of us as an oarsman. Maybe it was in the party room, seeing his idiosyncratic style of dancing to some indie track; perhaps The Cure or The Stone Roses. Or in the bar where he proved irritatingly unbeatable at pool.

I don't recall that first meeting but I do treasure every other memory of one of the best friends anyone could hope for. I do cherish everything else about a dear mate who suddenly, shockingly, passed away in November at just 48 years old.

Roger died of a heart attack which came without warning. His funeral was well attended by Robinson folk, some of whom had not seen him for a couple of decades but still carried fond memories.

A group of us from university days had remained close friends through all the years of changing circumstances, going on ski holidays or meeting up for beers in London. Roger was someone you always looked forward to catching up with.

After Robinson, Roger went to work in the City, very successfully as a fund manager. All that reading of the FT evidently paid off though he was so modest you would never have known it. He won numerous awards - twice UK Smaller Companies Fund Manager of the year from Investment Week, and Winner of the Hot 100 though that may have been for his dark good looks.

For Roger, money was never an end in itself and he decided to get out of the rat race. He never was the type to follow the herd; but he did end up owning a small one down in Cornwall.

Soon after moving down to the countryside, he married Davina and they had three lovely children, Jemima, Elliot and Ada. He bought a beautiful family home on a hill near the seaside where he was a brilliant hands-on dad. He had so much to live for, a good man and wonderful friend. We miss him desperately.

Tribute by Matt Dickinson (History, 1988)

Dates for the diary

October/November (Date tbc)

York Alumni Get-together

03/11/2019

Commemoration of Benefactors Service and Supper

07/11/2019

Edinburgh Alumni Get-together

18/11/19

City Drinks at Herbert Smith Freehills, London

01/12/2019

Advent Carol Service

07/12/2019

Freshers' Lunch

07/12/2019

Christmas Concert

12/12/2019

The Varsity Match

For further information about events and bookings, please visit:
robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events

Keeping in touch

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Robinson College
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CB3 9AN

If you think we may not have your current contact details and you would like to update these, please get in touch to keep in touch:
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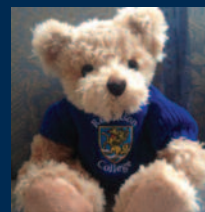
www.instagram.com/alumniofrobinson/



www.linkedin.com/groups/2906475

Souvenirs of Robinson College

Souvenirs are available to purchase on-line via the College website at www.robinsonshop.co.uk



Bear



Mug



Port glass



Tie



Enamel cufflinks



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