

BIN BROOK

EASTER 2020



ROBINSON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Lights! Camera!
(Spider Brooch)
Action

A Balancing Act:
Teaching and
practising law

Happy kitchen, happy
people, happy food:
Robinson's Head Chef

Robinson couples
Lola Lo's, Le Cordon Bleu and Formula 1:
Peter and Camilla's story



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WELCOME



Easter 2020's *Bin Brook* brings you a reminder of life before coronavirus in the shape of the stories of Robinson's lawyers. Many of the profession joined the ranks of key workers during the Coronavirus pandemic, keeping the justice system running at some risk to their health.

Remember Brexit? Alison Young writes brilliantly about being unexpectedly thrust in front of the cameras as a much in demand constitutional lawyer during Lady Hale's delivery of the Supreme Court's judgement. Elaine Freer tells us about the happy challenge of balancing her career as a practitioner at the criminal bar with teaching at Robinson, and Christopher Forsyth, who personified Law at Robinson for more than 20 years, reflects on his long career. Along the way, some of Christopher's students, including Brian Sloan who is now a Fellow in Law, reminisce about what they loved best about Robinson, and tell us about the paths they have travelled since then. From the courtroom to the racetrack to the City, those paths are many and varied, and there is much here to inspire their successors.

Elsewhere in *Bin Brook*, it is reassuring to turn to the Alumni News section and to see that, despite the pandemic, Robinsonians continue to get married, have children, build careers and generally make positive changes to the world in whatever their chosen field. I have no doubt that will continue, like Robinson itself, long after the coronavirus is a distant memory.

Sarah Westwood
Development Director and Fellow
Sw344@cam.ac.uk



FRONT COVER: Robinson College Law Society Dinner at Robinson College, Summer 2002.

Photo credit: Eaden Lilley of Cambridge; from the archives of Mr Adam Babiker

Editor: Norbert Truszczyński. Editorial Committee: : Sarah Westwood, Prof Rosalind Love, Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Judy Weiss, Daisy Thomas and Dr Christine Stopp.

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



The Director of the Centre for Public Law (CPL) **Professor Alison Young** has been elected to the Ganshof van der Meersch Visiting Chair at the Université Libre de Bruxelles for 2019-2020. This is funded by the Fondation Philippe Wiener – Maurice Anspach. Professor Young conducts research in public law and constitutional theory and has published extensively in these areas. She is the author of *Parliamentary Sovereignty and the Human Rights Act and Democratic Dialogue and the Constitution*, which was a finalist for the Inner Temple Book Prize, 2018.

See page 8 for Alison's Brexit story. ■

OUT OF WATER: RCBC Report

Being part of Robinson's Boat Club has been rather eventful this year, which started off with almost half of all freshers signing up for some water time. Confused as to how exactly one might coach 50 untrained novices to transport themselves over 5km with nothing but a long piece of carbon fibre, the captains were rather surprised when said aspiring rowers also managed this with some considerable speed. Having successfully trained a new cohort of early risers, it was clear to us that greater things could only follow.



Lent Bumps 2020. Photo credit: Giorgio Divitini

Lent term is of course all about chaos, carnage, and catches – more commonly known as the Lent Bumps. Training consists of fighting the other boats for clear water and, failing that, passive-aggressively letting them know who's faster. As the river is not suitable for side by side racing, the



Lent Bumps 2020. Photo credit: Giorgio Divitini

colleges decided they would instead try to crash into the crew in front, and so bumps were born. Fast forward circa 200 years, and our novice-born Mens 2 is outclassing the competition left, right and in front, going up a magnificent +3 over the 4 days. Our Womens 1 held a fairly fought +0 overall, and our Mens 1 is now sixth on the river. This is perhaps not quite as impressive considering they started fifth, but we have an excuse.

Despite our President's insistence, it turns out rowing is rather difficult without a river. As such we are performing government-approved exercise which mostly consists of 30km bike rides. Not quite a substitute for splashing about each morning, but it will have to do until we return. And return we will.

Reported by **Lucas Huysmans (Mathematics, 2018)**, Secretary RCBC Pegasus Boat Club. ■

BEETHOVEN CONCERTI WEEKEND



On 29 February and 1 March, Robinson College Music Society (RCMS) was delighted to celebrate Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday by performing all his piano

concerti. The RCMS was delighted to welcome back Aristo Sham as soloist. Aristo is a pianist from Hong Kong who, at just 24, has already performed with Sir Simon Rattle, the London Symphony Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra as well as other world-leading artists and ensembles. Aristo has performed several solo recitals in Robinson before; however this was his first chance to perform as a concerto soloist in the College. Alongside Aristo three Robinson student conductors, James Hendy, Wendell Yao and myself led the newly formed Robinson College Community Orchestra, an orchestra made up of members of the College and friends striving to make music of the highest calibre. On Saturday, the musicians performed Concerti 1, 2 and 3 with Aristo leading the orchestra from the piano for the triumphant first concerto. This first concert was a wonderful beginning to the weekend's events and the audience did not hesitate to return for the concert the following day. On Sunday, the musicians shone even more brilliantly in the charming fourth and heroic fifth concerti and the audience were entertained by performances of a truly professional standard. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this weekend of concerts a real musical highlight in the history of the College.

Reported by **Francis Bushell (Music, 2018)**, President, Robinson College Music Society. ■

MY ROBINSON

Happy kitchen, happy people, happy food – Gary Dougan’s story



Daisy Thomas (English, 2019)

Daisy is a First Year English student, with interests in writing and politics. She is also a current member of the RCSA Committee.

On the last day before I left Cambridge, I had the pleasure of interviewing Gary Dougan, Robinson’s Head Chef. Since I had eaten in the Garden Restaurant every day for the past two terms, it was exciting to be taken behind the scenes into his office and to get to meet the man who’s been responsible for most of what I’ve eaten since joining Robinson.

Gary started work at Robinson in 1984, so has been here 36 years. But, as he tells me with a smile on his face, ‘it’s actually flown by, I don’t know where the time’s gone. I’ve enjoyed every minute of it really’. The two of us do some maths and work out that he’s been here ‘for nearly the whole length of the College’s existence’. It makes sense to start the staff member interviews with the person who’s probably made the biggest impact, over the longest time on the day-to-day life of Robinson. Noting that he’s been here the third longest, behind Christine James and Sarah Harold, he fondly describes how ‘we’ve all sort of grown up together, worked hard together. We’ve known each other for a long time, like family really.’

Since he’s been here for so long, I asked him if it had been interesting to see the different cohorts of students pass through. He fondly recalls his days of playing football for the College in 1987/88 and the recent reunion dinner where old friends from his football days were surprised to see him still there: ‘there were people in the team at the time like Adrian Davies who went on to play rugby for Wales and Matt Dickinson who went on to become a really excellent newspaper reporter, it’s so great to see them doing good

things’. He talks wistfully about the days when students and staff alike would fill the Robinson Bar on a Friday but points out how these days the most student interaction he usually has is through committees with the RCSA.

I then enquired as to what made him want to be a chef in the first place and he described how his ‘parents separated when I was about 12’, saying ‘I was the eldest of four children so whilst my father was in full-time employment it was down to me to prepare and cook all the household meals. I thought, I really enjoy this, I really love cooking. In those days I had to experiment with what we had, but I got a bug for it. I’ve loved working with food ever since.’ With a laugh, I asked if he still cooked for his family despite food now being his full-time job, and he said he in fact cooks every day at home. In his words, ‘I do more cooking at home than I do here now, I enjoy it.’

When it comes to the job itself, what he enjoys most is creating new dishes. He explained how much he enjoys ‘the day to day challenges, every day is different. I like working with a great team of chefs who are all so individually talented’. With an infectious love for what he does, he said to me ‘if you have a happy kitchen and happy people, you’re going to produce happy food. In my kitchen we have so much passion and everyone works so hard.’ Throughout the interview, multiple people come in asking Gary for advice or answers surrounding the coronavirus panic – giving just a small insight into the many responsibilities and decisions that fall at his feet every day. But, always positive, he mentions



how 'even with what we're going through right now, which is heart-breaking in some ways, I still really enjoy my job. I get out of bed in the morning and can't wait to go into work. - my wife thinks I'm mad!'

He describes how his team of chefs now is almost the same as it was back when he started, with so many people having been there for over 10 years, which he notes is unprecedented because 'you'd think it's high turnover, but not here. It's a great place to work and who's the lucky one with such a great team? Me'.

In the 36 years since he's been at Robinson, it's definitely changed a lot. When coming for his interview back in 1984, he was 'delighted to become part of the challenge' of such a 'modern and different' college. The role of the Head Chef has changed dramatically too. He describes how he used to be in the kitchen every day; now he's lucky if he gets in there once a week. These days he's got to focus on 'recording and monitoring food deliveries, storage, sustainable food sourcing, waste management, minimizing energy usage, recycling', all of which he praises for its importance, but it seems that he misses the day to day cooking that he now relies on his team for. He also notes how much the diets of students and staff have changed – with a huge increase in vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as a large amount of allergens. The chefs make around 500 meals a day (up to 4,500 a week); at times over 40% of people require special diets. When I mention my own veganism, he lights up and describes how popular the diet is becoming, and how 'a lot of chefs enjoy



doing those foods. It's a lot more exciting than it used to be, a lot more flavours'.

He talks particularly passionately about feedback – how 'good or bad, it helps me decide where we can go next', praising staff members who email to ask after certain recipes. I figure this is a good time to mention the excited email I sent him at the start of term when I first saw vegan chocolate cake in the Garden Restaurant, and we both spend a few minutes gushing about how delicious the cake is (I even admit that my friends text each other when it's there, so that we can all run down and get some before it sells out). Out of curiosity, I ask him who is the most famous person he's served food to – and it turns out that Prince Charles and Lady Diana have both eaten at Robinson. But, not always preparing food of such royal calibre, Gary admits that his favourite meal is 'plain and simple, a jacket potato with red onion, mature cheddar and mayonnaise'.

As our conversation draws to a close, I ask him what he hopes for in Robinson's future. He describes how he wants the college to be 'prosperous, happy and successful'. In a heartfelt moment, he describes how he'll 'always remember Robinson College as the place that gave me a good chunk of my life'. As important as Robinson has been for Gary, no one has been more integral to Robinson than him. With a wonderful team of good friends and a genuine love for all things food, he's a huge part of Robinson history and will keep shaping and developing the food of Robinson for years to come. ■

Above left: Gary

Above right:
Gary with some members
of his team, from left to
right: Sam Lawrence,
Debbie Rowe,
Jess Skelton,
Jo Truszczynska
(Deputy Head Chef),
Gary, Stewart Keeling
and Viktor Novak

FOCUS ON LAW

Law at Robinson



Christopher Forsyth

Emeritus Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law,
Fellow of Robinson College

I was not the first Director of Studies in Law at Robinson. That accolade goes to the late Hugh Paton who was Director of Studies for two or three years before I arrived. But he felt the call of the City and went off rather unexpectedly leaving the College in need of a DoS (Law). So something had to be done and I turned out to be that something. I was a final-year research student with a thesis to submit and the College's appointment letter sent in May said that my appointment was conditional upon the submission of my thesis before taking up my appointment at the end of September. I was to be the only law don in Robinson. There were 31 law students.

So I set to work with vigour on my thesis and took a short break to watch the Wimbledon final at the end of June. During the match I remarked to my wife that "nothing except serious illness could prevent me finishing my thesis in time". The next day I was in Addenbrookes' for an emergency appendectomy! I was in hospital for a week and then as weak as a kitten and unable to work for a further month. All plans for an early submission were gone; now the best I could manage was to submit in November.

So in that first term starting in October at Robinson I was directing studies for the first time, finishing and then submitting my thesis and teaching five subjects (four of which I had not taught before) in Cambridge! It was the busiest term I have ever had and moreover I had no idea what I was doing most of the time. As far as I know there were no complaints but there could have been, so I am grateful for the kindness of students who saw a well-meaning tyro doing his best. Hugh Paton had left me only a box containing a barrister's wig and a list of likely supervisors. Both turned out to be of immense value. That list of supervisors gave me a starting point in arranging supervisors in that first term and the wig served as a useful prop for moots and afterward when I was called to the Bar and did my pupillage in London.

After that first impossibly hectic term things eased a little and I began to make decisions that were to set the tone for law in Robinson. I had never been an undergraduate in Cambridge so I knew next to nothing about what was expected. So not surprisingly I drew on my experience as an undergraduate at the University of Natal. There had been a compulsory moot competition for first years, so the same followed for Robinson. Every lawyer whether in practice or not would, it seemed to me, need at some stage to make an oral argument or explain the complexity of a legal issue orally, so moots there had to be. The Dean entertained everyone to lunch after the examinations, so the DoS entertains everyone to lunch after the Tripos.

What underlay all this was a belief that academic work came first. The DoS should give generously of his time to advise and assist the undergraduates. But the one sin that could not be tolerated was idleness. There was plenty of time for extracurricular activities provided the student concerned was skilled in time management that being one of the essential non-legal skills that had to be mastered. This formed the basis of many an awkward talk between DoS and student. After five years as the only law don in Robinson, I was joined by Martin Dixon; we collaborated very well and together decided to organise Revision Week.

I remember the first Revision Week with pleasure. It was on a sheep farm in deepest rural Wales in early spring. We slept in the one end of a barn in reasonable comfort. But in the other end of the barn were the newly born lambs and their mothers. We went to sleep to the sounds of plaintive bleating. The students loved the lambs and would volunteer to feed them and care for them in their spare time from study. But, as every farmer knows, where there is livestock, there is deadstock; and several lambs died. First years wept openly and some were too upset to attend supervisions. They are doubtless still scarred by the thought. In those days there

MEMORIES FROM THE 1980s



Tom Bell Richards graduated in Law in 1980 and currently owns a Chartered Accountancy practice in Oxfordshire.

seemed to be more time and we always had an afternoon free in the middle of the week for some other activity. Trout fishing, clay-pigeon shooting and archery were some of the activities that I recall. They were of enormous value in building an esprit de corps. As I write in the middle of the coronavirus crisis Revision Week 2020 has inevitably had to be cancelled for the first time in 30 years. Even the foot and mouth outbreak of 2001 did not stop Revision Week! Perhaps it should have. The endless rain and the foot and mouth regulations kept us trapped inside the cramped farm cottages.

Fond as these memories are, we shall not look upon their like again. Revision Week 2021 will be fundamentally changed. What is being tested is whether law teaching can be as effective online as it is face to face. If it is then webinars will take the place of supervisions and ideas that have been around in Cambridge for centuries such as “residence” and “keeping term” will be redundant. But I hope this turns out not to be the case. Law teaching has been a major part of my life precisely because I found it rewarding to see the light of understanding in the eyes of the student. I do not think that an online flicker is an adequate substitute

My place as DoS (Law) has long since been taken by others. By some tallies we have five law dons and many fewer law students than was the case when I was on my own. But one thing stands unchanging: the dedication of the don to the student...except in the case of idleness. ■

‘I was in the first group of Robinson lawyers in 1980. We had a good bunch of people. At the start we had a rather nice room in Thorneycreek for our Law Library that looked onto the gardens. Personally I detested the Squire Law Library and avoided it in favour of the UL or our own College Library whenever possible. I can't forget the sheer intensity of supervisions with our Director of Studies Hugh Paton - how did he rack up the tension to such a degree! What a tragedy that he was killed in a light aircraft crash.

I never wanted to become a barrister, country solicitor was the plan, but when working in the long vac I enjoyed sorting out a dispute between two local cattle dealers who couldn't agree how much they owed each other. That led me to become a Chartered Accountant here in the Cotswolds, and I'm glad I did'.

From the Editor:

Hugh Paton was the first Law Fellow of the College before going on to work at J P Morgan, which created Hugh Paton - J P Morgan Bursaries Fund in his memory. This fund is available to assist female undergraduates in their second year in any subject other than Architecture, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine. Awards are made on the basis of financial need and contribution to the life of the College, combined with serious attention to academic studies. A number of awards to the value of £600 each are available each year. ■

FOCUS ON LAW

LIGHTS! CAMERA! (SPIDER BROOCH) ACTION!



Professor Alison Young

Fellow of Robinson College and

Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law

Constitutional lawyers were rather busy in 2019. We witnessed a series of governmental defeats on key policy issues, including the largest ever defeat in modern history when the Commons first voted against Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union. The Speaker allowed interpretations of Standing Orders, the internal rule regulating debate in the Commons, to enable two Private Members' Bills to be hastily pushed through Parliament. Both the Cooper-Letwin Bill (which became the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019) and the Benn-Burt Bill (which became the European Union (Withdrawal) (No 2) Act 2019) required the Prime Minister to seek an extension to the Article 50 Brexit negotiation period. We also witnessed the first use of the 'vote of no confidence' process under the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011, as well as three unsuccessful attempts to obtain the two-thirds majority of all of the members of the Commons to call an early parliamentary general election. Finally, the Early Parliamentary General Elections Act 2019, passed in a matter of days, partially amended the 2011 Act enabling the early parliamentary general election on 12 December 2019.

These events alone would make 2019 a vintage year for the UK constitution. But they pale into insignificance when contrasted with the Prime Minister's decision to advise the monarch to prorogue Parliament, bringing one parliamentary session to an end and triggering a new Queen's Speech. There is nothing odd in this in and of itself. But when the prorogation is for five weeks, falling in the eight weeks in the run up to what was, at the

time, the date of the UK's exit from the EU, accusations of unconstitutionality became almost inevitable. The prorogation motivated two legal challenges. One was brought in the Scottish courts led by Joanna Cherry, a Westminster MP. The second was brought by Gina Miller in the English courts. Both argued that the Prime Minister's advice was unlawful, motivated by an improper purpose. Was the Prime Minister proroguing Parliament to enable a new Queen's Speech, or was he motivated by a desire to prevent the House of Commons from acting to further delay Brexit, as had been suggested by the Prime Minister in some media interviews? Both appeals initially failed at first instance, with the English high court and the Outer House of the Court of Session concluding that prorogation was too political for the courts to examine. However, Joanna Cherry's appeal to the Inner House of the Court of Session succeeded. Not only could the courts review the legality of advice given to the monarch to prorogue Parliament, but also that advice was unlawful. Cue an appeal to the Supreme Court – which convened in its largest form of 11 members for only the second time in its history.

Constitutional law experts were now in high demand. As the cases progressed through the English and Scottish courts, my mobile phone was suddenly very active as BBC producers tracked me down on the database, scrolled down their contacts list, and asked me to try and explain what was going on. All of this was taking place as I was moving house – leading to interesting conversations with Guardian journalists whilst

packing boxes and one particularly fraught conversation with a BBC producer to explain that no, I could not appear on the radio in an hour as my husband was currently driving me and my family around the M25 as we were moving house that day from Oxford to Ely, and yes, that was indeed a distressed cat they could hear protesting loudly in the background. My family did discover, though, even when deep in the process of unpacking boxes, that everything stops for a phone call from Clive Coleman.

As the Supreme Court hearing drew near, I was writing a blog post on potential arguments that could be used in the Supreme Court, as well as editing other posts on the judgment for the blog for the UK Constitutional Law Association which I co-edit. Whilst we normally receive two or three posts a week, in the run up to what became known as Miller 2/Cherry, we were posting up to five blogs a day. The weekend before the hearing I was booked by the BBC to resume my role as live commentator on yet another 'constitutional case of the century'. This time I was only able to cover two days, though that did not stop Sky News from roping me in to their evening news programme after I'd spent the day discussing French administrative law.

As with the first Miller case in the Supreme Court, the media was out in full force. TV cameras, cables, microphones, monitors and stressed producers filled the designated media area outside the entrance to the Supreme Court. For me, that meant reading skeleton arguments late into the night,

getting on an early morning train from Ely to read and edit blog posts and draft an outline of the arguments for producers and presenters, whilst trying not to catch the eye of Lord Lloyd-Jones when he joined the same train at a later stop (I can confirm that at least one Justice of the Supreme Court does not travel in first class and takes the underground). Commentating on a Supreme Court case is more about waiting around than it is about being in front of the camera. Thankfully, there were live feeds and a designated space for me

limelight with a true Robinson law legend, as Professor Christopher Forsyth and I joined forces to analyse the legal arguments presented on the second day of the hearing. One day it will be my former Robinson students that I'll be able to watch with pride.

This time, we did not have to wait long for the judgment. Nobody was quite sure which way the court would go. Even the barristers representing the parties in the case, unusually, had not received

any, let alone a reasonable justification, contravened the UK constitution. As far as the law was concerned, the prorogation order was nothing more than a blank piece of paper. Parliament had not been prorogued. MPs could return to the Commons. Bills that had lapsed were back on the parliamentary agenda.

Whilst Lady Hale and the other ten Justices of the Supreme Court were now calm, their work on the case complete, the same was not true for constitutional scholars. The judgment needed to be explained and analysed. Did we agree with the Supreme Court? Was the Court going too far and interfering in politics, or was it performing its rightful task of defending the constitution, upholding the democratic role of Parliament when impeded by actions of the Government? On the day, that meant television appearances outside the Supreme Court (dodging torrential rain), as well as visits to two different BBC news studios – whilst finding time to chat to my two former students working as Judicial Assistants in the Supreme Court over tea in the Supreme Court café.



Above: Television crew in front of the Supreme Court

and the others commentating on the case to watch and take notes, so that we could explain what was going on. I also spent a lot of time huddled in the BBC radio car, watching the arguments and sharing notes with Clive Coleman and Dominic Casciani so we were all keeping on top of what was going on.

For the two minutes that you are on screen, there's a lot watching, reading, note-taking and discussion. At the end of each day, I'd chat with the others commentating on the case, swapping notes and ideas – we did not always agree! As one of the few academics who had done this before, it was nice to be able to pass on knowledge and advice – including to Joelle Grogan, a former student of mine from Oxford now joining me in front of the cameras. It was also lovely to watch members of my former Oxford college in action – including Lord Pannick and Michael Fordham QC – as well as seeing some of my former students sitting in the Supreme Court. It was also a privilege to share the

earlier notification of the outcome. What was clear, however, was that the Justices of the Supreme Court had been asking interesting questions, wanting to know about the effect of the prorogation and not just its purpose. The tension was palpable. The rain poured down outside the court. Commentators huddled under umbrellas or packed into the radio car like sardines, glued to the television monitors, pencils poised. Lady Hale – wearing her now infamous spider brooch – calmly walked into the court and took her seat.

Even though some of us had suspected that the court might conclude that the prorogation was unlawful, nobody was quite prepared for a unanimous verdict. Lady Hale, commanding and serene, explained that the prorogation was null and void. Any prorogation of Parliament must comply with the common law constitutional principles of parliamentary sovereignty and parliamentary accountability. To prorogue Parliament for so long, at a crucial period in the run up to Brexit, without

Since the case, I've appeared on the 'Briefing Room', 'Law in Action' and numerous slots on BBC FiveLive and local radio stations, all reflecting on the case. I also spent one Saturday evening in the cramped surroundings of the DTL BBC Radio Cambridge studio – complete with antique brass microphone – listening to Lady Hale read out her judgment and offering commentary for the Stephen Nolan programme on FiveLive. I will be teaching Miller 2/Cherry until I retire and writing about its consequences for even longer. Nor does it look as if the constitutional excitement, and the accompanying media requests, will die down any time soon. With planned constitutional reforms – the establishment of a Commission on the Constitution, Democracy and Rights, the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill (which will be an Act by the time you read this), the proposed repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011 and further calls for a second Scottish Independence Referendum – 2020 is not going to be quiet. I'll either need to change my mobile phone number, or plan for yet more days outside the Supreme Court. Now, where can I buy a spider brooch... ■



FOCUS ON LAW

CHARTING REVISIONS TO REVISION WEEK



Dr Brian Sloan is a College Lecturer and Fellow in Law at Robinson College. Brian read for his BA in Law and his LLM at Robinson, before taking up a doctoral studentship at Gonville and Caius College. After three years as Bob Alexander Fellow at King's College (Cambridge), Brian returned to Robinson in 2012 as a Fellow and Director of Studies in Law, teaching Equity, Family Law and Land Law. He is currently on sabbatical, and spent a semester as a Visiting Fellow in the City University of Hong Kong in 2019. Brian's publications include "Informal Carers and Private Law" (Hart, 2013, a winner of the University of Cambridge's Yorke Prize), "Borkowski's Law of Succession" (3rd edn OUP, 2017, 4th edn forthcoming 2020), "Landmark Cases in Succession Law" (ed, Hart, 2019) and "Spaces of Care" (ed with Gelsthorpe and Mody, Hart, forthcoming 2020). He holds honorary memberships of both the Property Litigation Association and the Property Bar Association.

For the last several decades, one of the distinctive aspects of being a Law student at Robinson has been 'Revision Week', recently renamed 'The Professor Forsyth Revision Week' through the generosity of a donor. The venue has changed over the years, from a series of cottages to an idiosyncratic country house to an Oxford college. In fact, before the coronavirus crisis thwarted it alongside many other things, Forsyth Revision Week 2020 was scheduled to take place at Robinson itself. But the purposes have always been

the same: to allow Robinson Law students to hone their skills in advance of the all-important Tripos examinations, and to build important relationships within and across years of Robinson Law students.

My first revision week was in 2004, when I was a first-year undergraduate. I believe I have missed only one since, despite a five-year period when I was neither a student nor a Fellow of the College. In my undergraduate days, I found the teaching in a more relaxed atmosphere outside of the

juggernaut of Cambridge full term to be very helpful in clarifying my ideas and putting the finishing touches to my would-be examination answers. I like to think that today's students have a similar experience, as the founders of revision week, Professors Christopher Forsyth and Martin Dixon, would have intended.

When I was a student, I hope I appreciated the amount of effort that went into organising the week. As a Director of Studies, I am all too aware

LEFT:
Law Revision Week,
Oxford, 2006

of it. It is with considerable trepidation that I invite supervisors to take the 'busman's holiday' of additional teaching either immediately after term has ended or just before it begins. Thankfully, an army of Robinson alumni and former Fellows have enthusiastically supplemented the teaching provided in-house.

Student expectations have also changed. For example, while Gunthorpe Hall at times felt entirely cut off from the rest of the world (particularly in the early years), students now need reliable internet access to download cases and other materials. Today's undergraduates tend to look at me with a mixture of horror and incredulity when I tell them that their predecessors had to share rooms and take turns in cooking and washing up for everyone. I suspect this means they realise how fortunate they have been at St Catherine's College, Oxford.

One of the fundamental issues is trying to find an appropriate balance between work and fun. I think we mostly succeed, and the students have been very inventive in organising entertainment, ranging from quizzes to murder mysteries. The solicitors' dinner is always a highlight, and one of the motivations for moving from a hard-to-reach part of Norfolk to Oxford was to allow firms who had very kindly provided sponsorship to send representatives despite the demands of modern practice. The Development Office has now become the dominant force in fundraising for Forsyth Revision Week, and I am hugely grateful for their efforts, and to the generosity of those donors, both corporate and individual, who support this unique part of Law at Robinson.

Many lifelong memories have been generated at what is now Forsyth Revision week. I am afraid, however, that the best stories cannot be told here... ■

FOCUS ON LAW

LONG MAY THIS TRADITION CONTINUE



Stanley Ng matriculated in 1992 and read Law. After a fifteen year-career in financial markets, he set up a consulting and coaching practice to pursue his interest in strategic management and people development. With three children aged 11, 12 and 13, Stanley is blessed with countless opportunities to practice negotiation skills, dispute resolution and mindfulness!

I was part of the first cohort to attend Robinson's inaugural Law Revision Week. At the time it was a much humbler affair. The tutors had booked a few self-catering cottages in Wales for our sojourn and we took turns to cook and clean up. It was all rather informal and experimental.

With all the self-centredness of youth, I approached the event with a mixture of boredom and irritation. Spending a week trapped in the countryside revising Law was not my idea of time well spent; especially for a young man whose thoughts were never far from plotting escapades in London.

It would be years before I realised what a unique and ambitious project the Law Revision Week was. In a way, it was (and still is) Professor Christopher Forsyth's gift to his charges at Robinson College. Imagine persuading esteemed faculty dons to spend a week living in close quarters with a bunch of rowdy undergraduates.

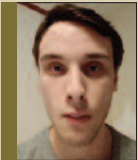
When I got the news that Professor Forsyth was retiring, I was reminded again of the level of care that he showed to me and the other students who passed through his door. Under his charge, Law Revision Week has become an established fixture in the Robinson calendar. I understand it has become a lot more posh and is now hosted at St Catherine's College, our sister college at Oxford, and includes a dinner with leading City law firms!

To me, the Law Revision Week embodies the resourcefulness and dedication that I have always associated with our tutors and our College. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to acknowledge Professor Forsyth's teaching legacy by making a modest financial contribution toward this initiative that began with him and equally pleased that the Revision Week has been renamed 'The Professor Forsyth Law Revision Week' in his honour.

The Professor Forsyth Law Revision Week is a rare opportunity to immerse oneself in the subject of Law, to get unparalleled access to tutors without the time constraints of supervision, and to get to know one's fellow law students. Long may this continue! ■

FOCUS ON LAW

NEW HORIZONS: EXPERIENCES OF A FIRST YEAR LAWYER AT ROBINSON



Christopher Symes (Law, 2019)

First Year Law undergraduate student

It wouldn't be unfair to say that, upon arriving at Robinson last October, I was somewhat less 'clued up' about the ins and outs of the Law Tripos than I am today; of course, I appreciated the world-renowned status of Cambridge's Law Faculty, and – thankfully – I had more than a vague grasp of the modules I would spend the next few months studying, but, all the same, I was yet to realise just how pivotal (and positive) a role Robinson would play in my studies.

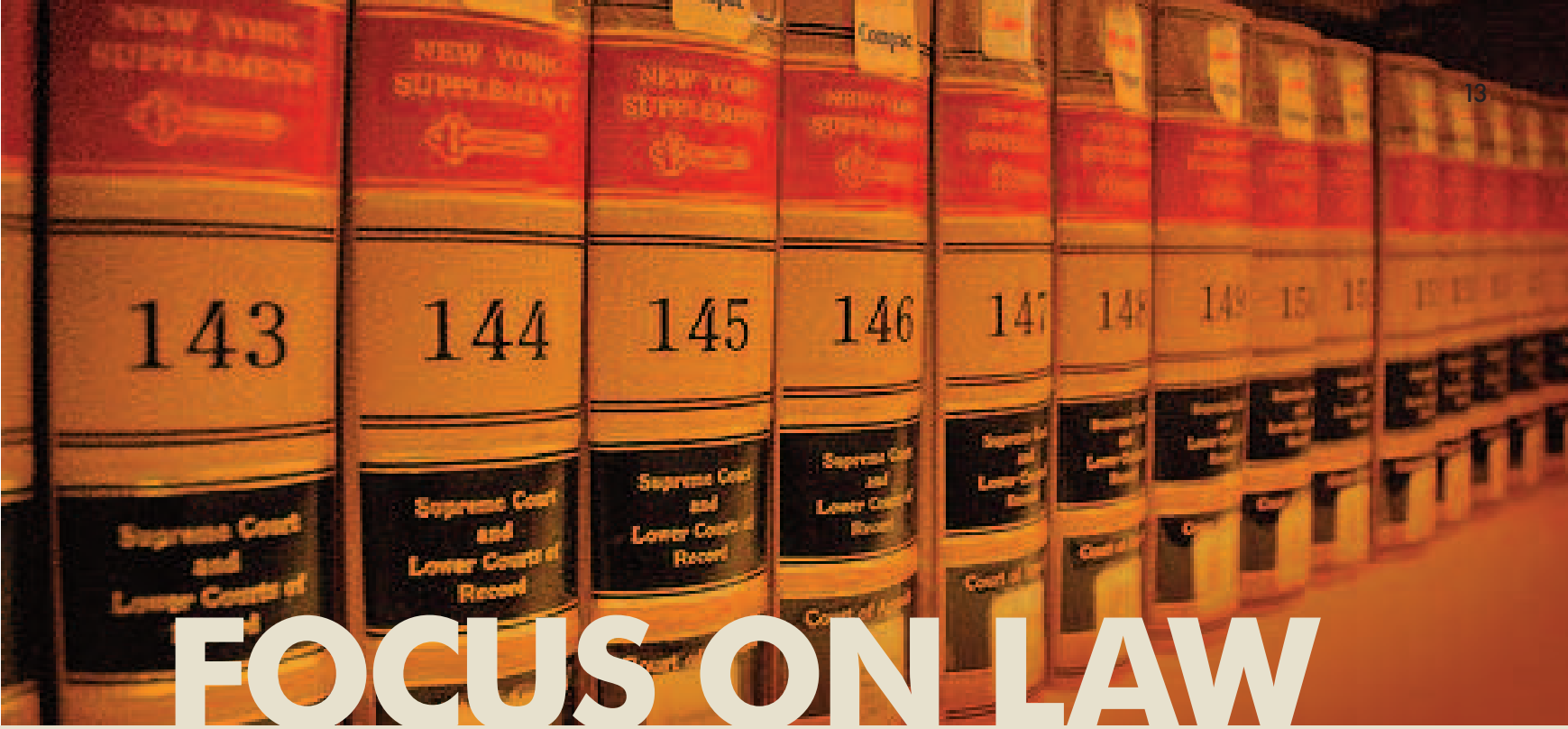
Before matriculation, it is all too easy to ignore, as I did, just how important the working environment at your college – created here by the Robinson Fellows and students alike – always is; before long, however, I came to notice just how beneficial this could be. Less than halfway through Michaelmas, I, alongside a fellow first-year Robinsonian (Sam Williams) entered the Brick Court Moot, an advocacy competition organised by the University Law Society (CULS). This being a moot where the entrants predominantly consisted of second and third-year undergraduates, it was difficult to avoid a feeling of slight trepidation when I was informed that I would be taking part. Initially, these concerns continued to grow as I realised the vast amount of intensive legal research we would be required to carry out over the ensuing week on a topic – private nuisance – which, being an area not taught to first-years until Lent term, we were yet to study! Fortunately, help was at hand, consisting of the perpetually well-stocked College Law Library, in addition to invaluable advice from Robinson lawyers from the years above us (many of whom had experienced success in similar collegiate competitions against students from King's).

Cambridge's collegiate system is tailored perfectly towards giving students access to all resources necessary for academic success – Robinson perfectly reflects this, which I came to appreciate when looking through the vast range of tort textbooks made available to us, all of which sought to provide their unique, thought-provoking perspective on the development of private nuisance in English law. Ultimately, Sam and I qualified for the opening round of the moot, an achievement which, had the working environment throughout the college not been every bit as supportive as it was – and still is – would have been considerably less likely.

At any university, I strongly believe that it is important to have one eye on the future, as well as one on the present; this is an attitude which thrives within Robinson, where students are given the necessary tools to fulfil their potential from both an academic and vocational perspective. This much was apparent from the information evening in October; the event was largely centred around the topic of blockchain (a method of storing transactions that, especially from the perspective of law firms and their employees, is becoming increasingly widespread), and the current state and future implications, legal and economic, of the technology, and featured a panel of experts on the subject. Interestingly, as the evening drew to a close, we were able to network with a selection of campus ambassadors and solicitors (many of whom were Robinson alumni) from prestigious law firms including Hogan Lovells, Norton Rose Fulbright and Slaughter and May, an experience that allowed myself and many other freshers to gain a fuller understanding of the skill set required from those

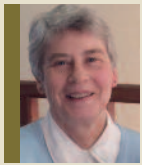
employed in the legal sector. Particular emphasis was placed by a number of representatives on the importance of commercial nous (not overly surprising given the sheer concentration of law firms in the City), something that prompted me to do more research on matters such as the presence of AI within fintech (financial technology is an emerging industry that uses technology to improve activities in finance), and the importance of 'impact financing' throughout finance markets to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes – unsurprisingly, firms central to these processes include some of the institutions fielding questions at Robinson!

It would be remiss of me to write an article discussing law at Robinson without mentioning the College's quality of teaching – in particular, taking supervisions in Civil Law and Constitutional Law from Professor Christopher Forsyth and Professor Alison Young (both Robinson Fellows) respectively has been an intellectually rewarding experience. Much as with any endeavour at the College, we are pushed to keep up with the demanding Cambridge workload, whilst simultaneously benefitting from support whenever necessary. Naturally, there are times when trying to balance supervision work, extracurriculars and the like can be easier said than done, but ultimately, help is always at hand should you need it. As stressed throughout this article, at somewhere like Cambridge, working environment is key – I firmly believe that, particularly when studying Law, there is no better place in this regard than Robinson. ■



FOCUS ON LAW

LIBRARY FOR ROBINSON FUTURE LEGAL EAGLES



Miss Lesley Read

Senior Member of Robinson College
and a former College Librarian

On the floor above the Main College Library there are two rooms that comprise our specialist Law Library – the Alladin’s cave of all legal knowledge that has served Robinson students, academics and visitors for the past 40 years.’

The Main College library moved into its present location in 1980, having been housed in Thornycreek Cottage for the previous academic year. The Law Library was located separately to the Main Library and Teaching Room 3 was its first location. Like in the Main Library, books could be borrowed, slips were left in a tray in the Law Library and collected daily by the library staff. Renewals and returns were dealt with in the Main Library. The greatest difference between the two libraries was the opening hours, with the Law Library having 24-hour opening. The Law Library, unlike the Main Library, subscribed to a number of journal titles. The volumes of Law Reports prior to the establishment of the library were on loan from the Law Society; the College has purchased all subsequent volumes. Each year the College Law

Society elects a librarian, who is responsible for the general running and use of the library. They also liaise with the College Librarian with regard to policy and book purchases.

The generous sponsorship of the law firm Watson, Farley and Williams saw the expansion and refurbishment of the library in 1989-1990. A central island was built by the Maintenance Department, with shelves on one side and four study carrels on the other. The College carpenter, Alan, carved the crests. A connecting door allowed access to Teaching Room 2, Full Term only. A large table, made from ash, and a dozen matching chairs furnished the room. The Law Fellows provided the pictures.

Watson, Farley and Williams continued to sponsor the library, which was named after them, for the next twelve years, providing monies for journal subscriptions and text books. Law is only one of two subjects where duplicate copies of titles are purchased automatically, although numbers are

reviewed each time as a new edition is published. Two other sponsors were Lovells, and Freshfields. The current sponsor, from whose support the College has benefited for 16 years now, is Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, who very generously provide the funding for text books. Over the years the College has added new furniture, including a bench under the window in Teaching Room 3, a small table to match the larger one in Teaching Room 2, and additional matching chairs. The chairs have been recovered on several occasions and the carpet has been replaced. The Law Library retained its card catalogue for several years after the retrospective catalogue conversion project, because there was no computer access. When the Teaching Rooms were wired for Wi-Fi, the Law Library was included.

Although Robinson is not unique in having a separate Law Library, those studying Law appreciate having a separate space and all their books in easy reach. The generosity of the sponsors allowed the College to create a well-stocked and useful library. ■



FOCUS ON LAW

ROBINSON'S OWN LAW SOCIETY



Alex Martin (Law, 2018) is a Second Year Law student and Co-President of RC Law Society with interests in Criminal Law, Family Law and Contract Law.

The Robinson College Law Society is one of the College's oldest societies, founded not long after the College first opened its doors. It is a student-led society primarily comprised of Robinson law students and Fellows. We organise several career events, dinners and other social gatherings throughout the year to offer insight into the legal world and strengthen connections to legal professionals and alumni.

This year we have looked to expand our appeal to non-law students who are interested in a career in law, and our membership now includes students from a range of different subjects, including History, Geography and Natural Sciences. We would like to do more to involve non-law students in the future and are encouraged by the early progress we have made.

Our first event of the year was our flagship Robinson Law Information Evening (please see the photograph reproduced above), which took place in October and welcomed graduate recruiters, associates and partners from our five sponsoring city law firms of Baker McKenzie, Hogan Lovells, Norton Rose Fulbright, Slaughter and May and Venner Shipley. Their representatives were able to provide useful tips for vacation scheme and training contract applications, as well as to tell us about what a career as a solicitor actually entails. There was also a panel discussion on the future legal implications of blockchain featuring academics and practicing solicitors, as well as pizza and champagne for all attendees.

We were also fortunate enough to enjoy a five-course dinner with Sullivan & Cromwell at Browns Brasserie later in Michaelmas term, where second-year students got to learn about life at the firm as well as what being a solicitor more generally is like. It was a wonderful evening with great food and company, and we are very grateful to Sullivan & Cromwell for their generous sponsorship of the evening.

Last term we decided to write a constitution for the society, as whatever original document was used had been lost in the sands of time. However, as keen budding lawyers, this was a task we undertook with vigour, and we enjoyed drafting it as a group. Our Co-Presidents also hosted weekly Commercial Awareness sessions in a relaxed environment for first-year students, and we introduced a reusable water bottle scheme for the Robinson Law Library.

Unfortunately, our remaining plans, including for our annual Robinson Law Dinner, The Professor Forsyth Revision Week and End-of-Year Formal, were prematurely curtailed by the outbreak of a global pandemic, but rest assured we plan to return with a vengeance next year, with even more activities in store for our members!

Special thanks go to Professor Alison Young and Dr Elaine Freer, our Directors of Studies, for all their constant support, and to the Warden, Professor Forsyth and Dr Brian Sloan for all their help with keeping the legal machine running smoothly at Robinson. Special thanks also to the indispensable Catherine Biggs from the Development Office for all her guidance, and to all the alumni who continue to engage with the college and its students.

As Co-President of the Robinson College Law Society, I have really enjoyed organising events for the law cohort this year. It has been logistically challenging but incredibly satisfying seeing everything we planned in Michaelmas and Lent terms come together. My personal highlight was the Robinson Law

Information Evening, which I was lucky enough to organise, promote and host. Seeing many students from across the university attend was vindication for the effort and speaking to interested students and professionals was very rewarding. Meeting Baroness Hale after she gave the annual Sir David Williams lecture was another highlight.

I have also really enjoyed studying Law over the past two years. My favourite modules have been Criminal Law, Family Law and, a little to my surprise, Contract Law. I particularly enjoy studying law that you can see in action in the real world, be that in the gritty context of crime or family conflict, or in helping the commercial world run efficiently. Law really does touch every element of our lives in some capacity. What I think sets Law apart from other subjects is that it provides the opportunity to not just to give a correct answer but also to evaluate whether that is what the answer should be. You learn what the law is, but also form opinions of what it ought to be. Most degrees seem to focus primarily on one or the other, but I greatly enjoy both of these aspects of the course.

My future plans have been somewhat disrupted by recent events, but it remains my ambition to become a solicitor in the city, and I am currently hoping that my summer vacation schemes will still be going ahead! This career path remains a popular choice among the current Robinson law students, but many have other goals, such as working in different legal sectors like environmental law, or instead aspiring towards a career at the bar, or even in other industries entirely. I think the rigorous and logical nature of the law course at Cambridge prepares you well for any career, and we are fortunate that we live in a time where so many doors are open, and so many opportunities are available. I am grateful for all the possibilities my time at Cambridge both has provided and continues to provide and am eager to see what the future holds! ■

RCLS MEMBERS 2019-20 LAW

FIRST YEAR

- Patrick Connolly
- Ines Letellier
- Christopher Symes
- Simon Ulvsgaard
- Sam Williams
- Max Willis

SECOND YEAR

- Ciara Agnew
- Drew Chateau
- Daniela Hohwieler
- Alex Martin
- Rory Winterburn

THIRD YEAR

- Chelsea Austin-Ajaero
- James Baylis
- Chyna Fairclough-Jones
- Milo Howes
- Adriana Lee
- Chiara Rohlf

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- Oscar Burman
- Aaron R. Fritzler
- Nikita Garg
- Femi Gbede
- Rattapon Punthongpund
- Xingliang Yang

NON-LAW

- Caitlin Arnold
- Freddie Fisk
- Alexia Wilson



MY LIFE, TIMES & BRILLIANT CAREER

Philip Moser QC (Law, 1987) is a barrister practising competition, procurement, EU and public law in London. He took Silk in 2012 and is joint Head of Monckton Chambers. He read and later supervised EC law (part-time) at Robinson and is a Bencher and member of the Executive Committee of the Inner Temple, Vice-Chair of the Bar European Group and Vice-Chair of the EU Future Relations Working Group of the Bar Council.

Above:
Philip Moser QC

Robinson College and my Director of Studies, Christopher Forsyth, introduced me to the Law and in due course to the Bar. I joined the Inner Temple while still at university and entered the profession straight from Cambridge, via what was then the Inns of Court School of Law. Barrister remains the only job I have ever done. What seems, at a distance of thirty years, a deliberate and linear path was however an almost accidental one: I had chosen law out of intellectual curiosity, but soon came to understand it as a vital part of how society works and that those able to apply it could make a real difference. The Bar and courtroom advocacy are at the interface of academic legal argument and real-world consequences. I decided on this career as a second-year, although the early years would take a great deal more determination and perseverance than perhaps I had bargained for.

Advocacy and justice, both in their conduct and documented results, are public matters. Even in the coronavirus lockdown, online court appearances continue to be open. There is of course an element of performance, which I confess I enjoy, but the greatest satisfaction is when an intellectual argument achieves results for the client. Sometimes the setting will be as grand as the result, like the case winning access to justice for my client, who had been falsely accused of being a terrorist, in the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union in *Abdulrahim*. That was the first case on which Christopher Vajda sat as UK judge; a former member of my chambers, I had inherited his room when he went to the bench and earlier this year I attended the moving ceremony held on his departure as the last UK judge at the CJEU. As a junior, a memorable case was the *Metric Martyr* case, in which I did some

of the advocacy in front of the late Sir John Laws, himself a Senior Fellow of Robinson College and a friend, whose judgment in that case is now taught to undergraduates and whose recent death from COVID-19 caused great sadness throughout the legal world. Other cases are much less heralded, yet no less satisfying, like overturning a fraudulently obtained judgment that had been obtained against my illiterate client after a false promise of marriage.

Alongside the 'day job' as advocate, and the joys of having a family, I now also perform tasks for which I received rather less training at Robinson. As head of chambers you effectively run an SME [Small Medium Enterprise]; leading a specialist bar association or taking part in the running of an Inn of Court you are everything from a trade representative to a director of a library. Apart from being a lawyer, I have to be a part time employer, financial officer and a wellbeing expert. Working with law students and pupils, including through the ability to set up and administer scholarships, has proved most rewarding. This is especially relevant once more in the time of Corona and the hardships it brings to those starting out. Being active in the Bar European Group for over twenty years, most of them with John Laws as BEG President, gives a paradigmatic example of the opportunity the profession provides to combine academic endeavour, collegiality and solidarity, through writing and lectures, annual conferences abroad and the provision of student scholarships.

I hope to be able to continue doing all that for the next twenty-odd years. ■

FOCUS ON LAW

FROM LANGUAGES TO LAW — WHAT CAN THE EAGLE LEARN FROM THE MONGREL?



Keith Heddle (MML, 1987) graduated from Robinson in 1990. Now he runs a company, Mackrell International, managing a network of independent law firms across the globe.

‘Why do you want to work with lawyers?’ ‘I don’t,’ I said with a grin, ‘and anyone in my shoes who says they do is either a lawyer or needs one...’

And yet, here I am, 30 years on from graduating in Modern Languages from Robinson (13th Century French and Latin American literature and history...), running a network of almost 100 independent law firms in more than 60 countries across the world.

Herding cats? Nah, that would be easy by comparison.

So, what is it about lawyers that makes them so unique and so challenging – and why would they need an ex-Robinson linguist as a guide?

Well – intellectual powerhouses though law firms may be, after all that investment in education and legal training, sometimes some of the broader commercial skills and/or the softer management skills get neglected. They can have a tendency to soar, skim and float, then suddenly swoop down, pecking forensically over the minute details, examine them from every possible perspective and then, swoop off again – commercial decision-making can be an ‘interesting’ process...

So, my role is to allow the falcons freedom to fly, but be able to harness and direct them when the need arises.

We have challenges in common with most international businesses – how to navigate an ever-changing world, how for a traditionally conservative, uber-educated, white-male sector truly to embrace and nourish diversity; how to harness AI effectively, how to remain agile for clients, how to recruit and retain talent and how to engage a next generation who connect and communicate differently to the ‘old guard’ who are often running the firms.

As for me, I have a mongrel spirit - half Chilean, half Glaswegian, born in Singapore. So I loved the all-embracing and accepting nature of Robinson and our invariable underdog status when we went into battle, whether academically, sportingly or otherwise (things have changed a bit,



Nothing, not even Coronavirus, stops Mackrell International and the rule of law

I understand, though the value of rankings will always be a moot point... - and try telling that to a lawyer!).

Learning languages and being cross-cultural wires you differently. It gives you big listening ears, a curiosity and an openness; an ability to adapt. Fundamental for navigating life, I feel, and certainly life in business. It probably accounts for a ‘career’ journey from Singapore Airlines through the international wine trade, to dot.com, to Foster’s Brewing Group, to quirky luxury assets and now, to harnessing legal eagles.

‘My’ 4,500-odd lawyers look to me to be their connector, challenger and commercial champion, so they can continue focusing on what lawyers do best.

We’re a real family of mid-sized law firms and I love that – in some ways, no match for the large, pedigree law firms – but as the ‘mongrel’ always says, it’s not the size of the dog in the fight that counts, but the size of fight in the dog.

Right now, in the eye of COVID-19 storm, we need lawyers more than ever. With much of our social and economic fabric overturned or swept away, we need both rule of law and the structure and relative certainty legal frameworks can provide. Our lawyers have been doing everything from helping repatriate foreign nationals trapped behind closed borders, to helping both individuals and businesses re-set and sometimes simply cope.

Our Chinese firm, where it all started, recently sent a message of support and solidarity around the whole network to be like bamboo; you may sway and bend but you don’t break easily. That’s both the lawyer spirit and the human spirit shining through. ■

FOCUS ON LAW

PET PIRANHAS AND COBBLERS: FROM RED BRICK TO RACE TRACK



Adam Babiker (Law, 1999) graduated from Robinson in 2002. He went on to complete the Legal Practice Course in Nottingham in 2003, before joining Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, where he trained and qualified into the corporate team. While at Freshfields, he spent time on secondment to Goldman Sachs and Save the Children, as well as to the firm's New York Office. Adam is Chief Counsel, Corporate at Formula 1®, where he has worked since 2013. He lives in Berkshire with his wife Eleanor (also a lawyer) and his children Marla and Rory (current career aspirations: children's author and F1 driver, respectively).

My undergraduate years in college feel like a lifetime ago, which I suppose is exactly what they were. Unless my maths has failed me (always possible), there are Robinson students born in 1999 – the year I matriculated – who will graduate this summer.

I arrived after a gap year, firmly convinced that I was ready for university life. With over two decades of hindsight, it is very clear that in certain critical respects I was spectacularly wrong. The academic rigour of the law course came, to put it mildly, as something of a shock. Thanks to the (mostly American) TV series and movies I had been watching during the 90s, I had the notion that being a lawyer essentially involved dabbling in Ally McBeal-level investigation and occasionally having the opportunity to shout 'DID YOU ORDER THE CODE RED?' at a beleaguered witness in open court. My first few supervision sessions with the inimitable Dr – now Professor – Forsyth quickly put paid to that. Never one to shy away from dismissing submitted essays as

'cobblers' (not mine!) or from punishing an incorrect answer with a comment along the lines of 'if you think that is the answer, you should go outside and [redacted]' (not me!) he presented a formidable challenge to those of us who were keener to sample the many extra-curricular activities on offer than to knuckle down and study. Not much less unnerving were our sessions with Neil Beresford, who liked to sprinkle in practical demonstrations of the feeding and care of his pet piranha Ajax during tort supervisions.

A few memories stand out: I recall Janet O'Sullivan starting off the very first lecture I attended by telling the assembled students that the point of a law degree at Cambridge was not to teach us all of the laws of England, but to teach us to think like lawyers. This was borne out over the duration of the course; by the time the third year came round I had eagerly grasped several opportunities for more esoteric study, such as Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy, Medical Law and a dissertation on the (lack



Bits and pieces from my Robinson years

of) moral justification for the imposition of the death penalty. Learning the ratio of case after case after case wasn't what studying law at the university was supposed to be about (well, not the only thing, anyway) – the Tripos was designed to be a broader intellectual training.

I also recall many moots, both within Robinson, against other colleges and even, on one memorable occasion, an away trip to St Katherine's College, Oxford. These were typically entertaining, boisterous and port-fuelled affairs, but woe betide anyone who had not done adequate research; Professor Forsyth delighted in eviscerating the under-prepared in his role as judge (OK, maybe this one was me...).

Our annual revision weeks in Norfolk were always hysterical fun in amongst all the actual work, and serve as an example of the efforts that Professor Forsyth and the other supervisors went to in order to assist us. We had a close group of lawyers in our year, and living and working alongside people from a wide diversity of backgrounds and perspectives, both in terms of the law students and the broader Robinson population, added immeasurably to my college experience. Many of my contemporaries remain close friends to this day.

Like many Cambridge undergraduates, my career has ultimately taken me in a direction that I didn't necessarily envisage when I started on my course, or even when I finished it. For one thing, I'm still a lawyer; my yearbook entry predicted The Future as an Achillean "short but glorious legal career". As it turned out, I

spent several years in the corporate department at Freshfields before moving to a role at Formula 1, with a brief stop at Aegis Defence Services, a private security company, in between. From multi-million pound M&A deals to guns and armoured trucks to the Monaco Grand Prix, the journey so far has been nothing if not varied.

Formula 1 has changed a lot in the seven years since I joined, the first half of which took in the last part of the Bernie Ecclestone era. In February 2017 the business was acquired by Liberty Media Corporation and underwent a significant transformation, going from private ownership to becoming a subsidiary of a US publicly listed company. The years since have seen a series of further changes in the sport, both on and off the track, each involving its own strategic, commercial and legal issues. The world of top-tier motor racing experiences near-constant change and innovation even in normal circumstances; at the time of writing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ensure that my job will continue to involve unpredictable and complex challenges for the foreseeable future.

To date I have spent half of my career in private practice and half in-house. My role at Formula 1 certainly involves less in the way of black letter law than working for a large international law firm did, but I can still feel the strong influence of my time at university after all these years. I definitely didn't learn all of the laws of England – outside of the Companies Act 2006 I could well be in single figures – but I believe thinking like a lawyer continues to serve me well both at work and further afield. ■



Above:
Creating Pathways
Committee Dinner

CREATING PATHWAYS: READING LAW AT ROBINSON



Pamela Dusu (Law, 2000) is a Project Development Lawyer with a focus on power and infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pamela is currently in-house senior counsel at Globeleq, a private sector developer and owner of power plants comprising renewable energy and traditional energy sources. After spending some time working at Deutsche Bank and UBS over 16 years ago, Pamela trained as a lawyer at the London office of American law firm Shearman & Sterling before moving on to DLA Piper.

READING LAW AT ROBINSON

Black letter law and the practice of law has been a central part of my life for nearly 20 years and that journey started at Robinson. I arrived at Robinson in October 2000 at 19 years old having just completed a gap year and unsure of what to expect from the three years ahead of me.

Highlights of studying law at Robinson were the residential revision week (that I understand still continues to this day), Roman law supervisions (I was surprisingly good at this subject!) and my Director of Studies at the time, the formidable Professor Forsyth.

As a college, Robinson was the perfect fit for me and I knew I had made the right decision immediately after setting foot in its

red brick hallways. I was involved in many College activities including sitting on the JCR, helping to organise the 1920s prohibition themed 2001 May Ball and performing in Brecht's Threepenny Opera at Brickhouse Theatre and in our show tunes choir "Star Struck".

BBC DOCUMENTARY

In 2004, I featured in a BBC documentary series called 'Black Ambition.' The BBC production crew followed me and seven other British-born African and Caribbean students during our final year at Cambridge to see whether our experience of studying at the great institution gave us any advantages at the beginning of our careers. In the end, the documentary was more like a tapestry of 8 individual stories rather than answering any deep and meaningful

questions, but it was a great experience to be involved in the programme nevertheless. Furthermore, we all received a lot of positive feedback from people in my community who applauded the positive representation of young black men and women.

I felt it was paramount to be involved in a project like this as the issue of low representation of black students at Cambridge was acute. In 2000, the year I matriculated, there were only nine British born black students in my year (not including post-graduate students and overseas students). If my involvement in the documentary encouraged at least one person from a non-typical background to apply to Cambridge then I achieved what I set out to do.

BUILDING MY CAREER

I didn't actually start training as a lawyer immediately; I spent a few years working in the city at UBS before starting my training contract at the London office of American law firm Shearman & Sterling.

I completed my training contract by rotating through four different departments and was lucky enough to spend one rotation in the firm's New York office.

I chose to qualify into Project Development and Project Finance practice with a focus on oil, gas and power. At the beginning of the last decade, the traditional markets in Europe and the USA were decimated due to the credit crunch. However, by contrast, emerging markets were showing great growth. Some African countries were exhibiting double digit growth rates. The energy and infrastructure sectors in Africa needed over \$1billion of investment in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN so there were many exciting opportunities for development on the continent.

At my second law firm, I joined a team in which 80% of our deals were in Africa. It was here that I began to focus more heavily on the power sector and moved away from traditional oil and gas deals. I was involved in advising sponsors and lenders on power deals in Kenya, Ghana and Tanzania. In 2016 I moved to Rwanda to take up a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to advise the Rwandan government on foreign investments in power and infrastructure. Through my work with the Ministry of Energy and the Rwandan Energy Group, I advised on the \$330 million 80 MW peat-to-power project which was financed by African development institutions AFC, EADB and DBSA. Another work highlight was advising on the project development of the new international

airport at Bugesera, to support Rwanda's vision of being a business tourism hub for Africa.

I returned to London in 2016, to take up my first in-house position as legal counsel with a private power developer in Africa. Here I continued much of the same work advising on power and infrastructure projects across Africa, albeit from a private company perspective. Throughout my career I have experienced private practice within a law firm, advising government and acting as in-house counsel at a small corporate and a mid-sized corporate. I am now a Senior Lawyer at Globeleq, a company owned by the CDC Group plc and Norwegian Investment Fund (Norfund).

EACH ONE, HELP ONE – CREATING PATHWAYS

After a lunch time conversation that took place six years ago with my best friend and fellow Cambridge alumna, Akima Paul Lambert (Clare, 2001) about the lack of diversity within the City law landscape, we designed a mentoring programme called "Creating Pathways" to develop and promote cross-firm mentoring relationships between senior lawyers and mid-level black and minority ethnic (BAME) associates both in private practice law firms and in-house corporates.

Each year, we aim to identify up to twenty high performing mid-level BAME mentees to pair with senior City lawyers, most of whom are partners in law firms or senior in-house counsel. Mentors provide tailored mentoring and career coaching to their mentees against planned objectives. Almost all of the mentees on our programme reported feeling more empowered to create and nurture better mentoring and sponsorship relationships within their firms or organisations and in a number of cases to make timely and important strategic career choices. We have been fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Shearman & Sterling LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP and we recently partnered with Facebook to host a panel event at their London offices. We are currently guiding the fourth cohort of mentees on ways to build relationships with clients and their key stakeholders amid the coronavirus shutdown.

From working with access schemes at Cambridge, to sitting on diversity committees at my organisations to spearheading the Creating Pathways mentoring scheme, making meaningful changes to increase the diversity of the environments I find myself in has always been a core passion of mine. I would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to support Creating Pathways either by volunteering to be a mentor or by nominating a talented BAME mentee within your firm or organisation. ■

FOCUS ON LAW

FROM THE OTHER CAMBRIDGE WITH LOVE...



Elliot R. Stevens. Elliot matriculated to study law at Robinson in 2013. After graduating from Cambridge with a B.A. in Law in 2016, Elliot studied for an LL.M. degree at Harvard Law School and then moved to New York City, where he joined Proskauer Rose LLP as an associate attorney in Proskauer's bankruptcy and restructuring group. In August 2019, he married the love of his life, Allison. Elliot and Allison have since moved back to Cambridge, Massachusetts as Allison embarks on a Ph.D. at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Elliot continues to work at Proskauer in the firm's Boston office.



Top row left to right: Elliot Stevens, Michael Panayi. Middle row, left to right: Elle Mackenzie, Julija Stukalina, Laura Ridley, Ng Liang Yaen. Front, left to right: Professor David Yates, the Warden, Professor Christopher Forsyth, Dr Brian Sloan

Reflecting on my years at Robinson College from my home in the 'other Cambridge'—Cambridge, Massachusetts—I am struck by the variety of ways that my time at the College has shaped me and continues to benefit me to this day. I studied for a B.A. in Law at Robinson College from 2013-2016. It was the first time that I had been surrounded by such brilliant people—professors and students alike—and immersed in an environment where ideas reigned, where I was actively encouraged to seek out knowledge, read all I could about an area of law, and then think of new ways to apply it or bend it or—most fun—argue it was entirely wrong and should be jettisoned before it incurably corrupted the thinking of less enlightened jurists. I remember very fondly my time at Robinson, from my first supervision, with Professor Christopher Forsyth reclining on his captain's chair and asking piercing questions on Roman law while sharpening his paper openers (a sight liable to terrify until you realized how much of a heart Professor Forsyth has for his students), to the law dinners and Revision Weeks where we all ate good food, played games, and (though only when absolutely necessary) revised for exams. Albeit, I will admit the sands of time may have diluted my memories of the stress possibly occasioned by the Warden's assigned reading lists for contract law and the amazingly specific questions he asked (such as about how Lord Wilberforce distinguished one particular case on the final page of one of the hundred cases he had us read)!

After graduating from Robinson College, I moved across the pond to study for an LL.M. at Harvard Law School. Because of my (admittedly uncommon) love

for quite technical areas of law, which I know can be attributed in great measure to learning subjects like Contract Law and Commercial Law from the Warden, Land Law and Equity from Dr Brian Sloan, and Tort Law from Dr Janet O'Sullivan (of Selwyn College) and being fascinated by their insights and ideas, I decided to take a class on US Bankruptcy Law (an exceptionally technical subject). After graduating, I was (somewhat providentially) hired as an associate bankruptcy attorney at a large U.S. law firm in New York City, and I have since worked on a variety of fascinating cases and issues, including the ongoing restructuring of the government of the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

I often reflect on how my time at Robinson continues to aid and mould me. Because it was such a formative experience, it is hard to choose specific examples, but three things shine brightest: (i) the sheer brilliance of the Law Fellows and how their teaching inspired me and showed me new ways to think and to reason, (ii) the true care they continue to demonstrate for students, and (iii) the amazing friends I met at Robinson and the great memories I have with them. I remember the Robinson College Mooting Cup, and how competing in it developed my skills at oral argument in ways I still feel to this day. And I remember how successful Robinson College was at (a) creating a feeling of community among law students and professors, and (b) conveying a sense of continuity and tradition even though it is one of the newest colleges. While truly this must be experienced to be understood, I feel it is indicated in part by the Nicola Blakeman Memorial Prize and Fund, one of the college's prizes for academic achievement in first year law subjects, named in honour of a Robinson College law student whose life was tragically cut short during her studies. The prize and fund blesses new students at Robinson by providing them (including myself) with books and monetary funds in Nicola's memory.

Overall, I am exceptionally grateful for my time at Robinson and how it has shaped me both personally and professionally in ways that I still feel to this day. Last year, I was lucky enough to visit Robinson College, see the Law Fellows again, and show my wife the beautiful college gardens. The sense of community and care developed by Robinson and cultivated so well by the Warden, Dr Sloan, Professor Forsyth, and Elaine Freer (among many others) still shone strong. I look forward to continuing to see it grow and enrich the lives of future students. ■

FOCUS ON LAW

IS IT POSSIBLE TO STEAL YOUR OWN UMBRELLA?



Edward Levey QC (Law 1993),
Scholar of Robinson College and one time 'Master of Moots',
married to Anushka Levey (née Rosen) (Trinity Hall, 1993-6)

Left: Edward Levey QC Photo credit' Fountain Court Chambers website

I went up to Cambridge to study Modern Languages, but having spent a gap year in Israel, my French was a little rusty to say the least. By the time I reached Grange Road, I had already decided that languages weren't for me and that, if permitted to do so, I would change to a different subject.

I waved goodbye to my parents with the words of my Dad (a former law graduate whose career in the law had been short-lived) ringing in my ears, 'Do not study law! I can't think of anything that you would be more unsuited for - it's very dry and you'll be bored out of your mind.'

Two weeks into Michaelmas, and after a brief foray into the history department, I still hadn't found my home. Luckily for me, Robinson's then law tutors – Dr Forsyth and Martin Dixon – were willing to consider me for the Law Tripos. After a gruelling admissions interview, spent debating whether it was possible to steal one's own umbrella, my journey in the law began.

Robinson was an incredible place to study law – the Robinson lawyers were a community within a community. With our own law library, our annual moot competition, our residential revision week, and the endless support we received from Messrs Forsyth and Dixon, we punched well above our weight in the Tompkins Tables, competing with the likes of Trinity Hall and Downing. The rivalry with the Trinity Hall lawyers brought with it its own benefits for me, as I ended up marrying one of them (and we now live in north London with our four children)!

After Cambridge, I went to the 'other place' to complete the Bachelor of Civil Law at Wadham College and then spent a year as a research assistant at the Law Commission



On the Graduation Day with his parents
Nigel and Linda Levey, 1996

and part-time law tutor at UCL. I completed my pupillage at Fountain Court Chambers in Middle Temple and I have practised there ever since, specialising in commercial law, regulatory law and civil fraud.

In March 2020, only a matter of hours before the country was shut down due to the Coronavirus, I was appointed a QC, one of Her Majesty's counsel, supposedly "learned in the law". The appointment was made by the Lord Chancellor and the ceremony took place in the Palace of Westminster. It was a momentous and emotional day – the end of a long journey which began more than 20 years ago at Robinson College.

Despite the parental warnings, the journey so far has been anything but dry and I have certainly never been bored (although I never did manage to work out if you can steal your own umbrella), and I am now looking forward to the next stage of my career 'in silk'. ■



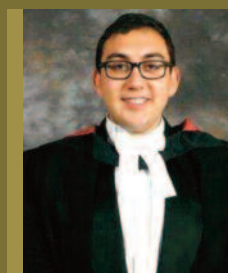
Edward with his wife Anushka Levey (née Rosen) after receiving his silk, the Palace of Westminster, March 2020.



On Graduation Day:
from left to right:
Michael Panayi,
Vicky Bates and
Jonathan Ellis

FOCUS ON LAW

FROM ENGLISH TO LAW: WHICH IS MORE DIFFICULT?



Michael Panayi matriculated to study English at Robinson in 2012. After two years he switched to Law to continue by taking the LLM, specialising in EU Law. Following his graduation in 2017, Michael embarked on a career with Clifford Chance. As a newly-qualified solicitor, he is practising in the firm's restructuring and insolvency team.

'Like all city lawyers, I began my career in law as a passionate, semi-inspirational, and somewhat over-bearing teenager, determined to rectify global human injustice and equally determined to out-quip my way to the top of every debating competition I could find. Naturally, the next step for me was to work as a lawyer at Clifford Chance in London.

In between those two seminal moments in time, came my red-brick home. I matriculated in 2012 to read English, and after two of the best years of my life, decided to switch to Law to re-ignite the adolescent flame that nourished me during deep, meaningful conversations occurring in staircases D and then P of the red fortress. Not wanting to leave, I stayed at Robinson to take the LLM, specialising in EU Law.

I had an incredible time studying Law, and I am very much indebted to Dr Brian Sloan and Warden David Yates for not only imparting knowledge (even when I was ill-prepared), but also for revealing different ways of problem-solving. Fellows were also very supportive with mooted competitions, arranging for esteemed judges to oversee the finals, including the late Lord Justice John Laws, who was a discerning and kind judge at the final of the mooted cup I participated in (may he rest in peace). I was also grateful to receive the Nicola Blakeman Law Bursary, which helped tide me over in a financially distressed time.

I was also heavily involved in the organisational side of college law, not only as the so-called Master of the Moors, but also as Co-President of the Robinson College Law Society with Laura Ridley, who is now a tax lawyer at Slaughter and May. As the Robinson network grows, I encourage alumni to stay in touch with the Development Office and the Robinson College Law Society: it is often difficult to find speakers for events and to secure funding, but

actually, in my experience, having a strong human network is very important for students. It is also a pleasant thing to be able to have Binsonian Water Cooler Conversations at your place of employment, at least every now and then.

There are incredible opportunities for Robinson Law students during vacations too: I was a research assistant at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, and also worked on EU law projects during the Brexit referendum. I also helped out around College, calling alumni during the Telephone Campaign (you may remember me) and taking nervous applicants to their interviews. What I am trying to say, is that Robinson is a magical place where nothing is scripted, cookie cutter, or conventional: it is what you make of it, and I made it a five-year experience I will be grateful for, always.

Similarly, my work at Clifford Chance is exciting, unconventional, and certainly non-scripted. I am a newly-qualified solicitor, practising in the firm's restructuring and insolvency team, being involved (most recently) on the insolvency of British Steel, the restructuring of the Nyrstar Group, the drafting of securitisation and insolvency laws for Jordan, and a cross-jurisdictional reform project on insolvency laws and temporary moratoria during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am also very involved in the work of Refugee Action, a charity that helps refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

To conclude, as someone who studied both English and Law at Robinson, I am able to finally answer the age-old question, 'Which is more difficult, English, or Law?'

My answer: 'Finding the courage to ask alumni for money during the Telephone Campaign, so please, pick up!'. ■

FELLOWSHIP IN PROFILE: DR ELAINE FREER

A BALANCING ACT

Dr Elaine Freer has been a part-time College Teaching Officer in Law at Robinson since October 2016. She took her undergraduate Law degree (2007-2010), and MPhil in Criminology (2011-2012), at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Between the two, she completed the Bar Professional Training Course in London as a Lord Denning scholar of Lincoln's Inn. From 2012-2015 she undertook a PhD at Keele University on an ACORN scholarship, jointly funded by Keele and the Inner Temple. From 2013-2015 she was also a College Teaching Associate at Robinson. Her PhD thesis was entitled 'Social Mobility and the Legal Profession: The Case of the English Bar', and was published as a monograph of the same name by Routledge in 2018. Following her PhD, Elaine completed pupillage at 5 Paper Buildings (Chambers of Miranda Moore QC and Julian Christopher QC), where she then became a tenant in October 2016.



It had never occurred to me that I might be capable of becoming an academic. I was the first in my family to go to university, and neither of my parents had been educated past O-Levels (as GCSEs then were). I wanted to become a barrister, but pupillage places were so scarce that it began to seem unlikely I could become one of those either.

At the end of my MPhil, whilst wondering what to do next, I came across an advert for a fully-funded scholarship at Keele University to undertake a PhD on specific issues relating to social mobility and access to the Bar. I had not seriously considered doing a PhD, partly as I had no idea what I would write about. However I was intrigued by the project, which solved that problem, and the three year scholarship made it a financially viable option.

Without a doubt that was the moment that my path turned significantly towards academia. At the same time as starting my PhD, I began supervising CSPS (Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System) for Selwyn, and really enjoyed it. In February 2013, Robinson advertised for a College Teaching Associate. I applied, and after a terrifying interview, was appointed. No-one was more surprised by that than I was.

During my PhD I wrote, rowed and taught. I covered as DoS when Dr Sloan took his sabbatical, and although I was technically part time, I lived in Cambridge and based myself at Robinson.

Robinson was a very welcoming community, and a crucial source of support during my PhD.

I was really delighted to return to Robinson, as a part-time College Teaching Officer in October 2016, when I was also taken on at the set where I had done pupillage. Since then I have combined the two. My practice is almost entirely criminal law-based, and I supervise Criminal Law, and CSPS, and lecture Criminal Procedure and Evidence. Practising and teaching in criminal law-based subjects is unusual, and often leads to a fairly serious sleep deficit, but the thought of giving up either is unbearable.

Whilst I try to spare my students endless stories that start with 'I was in a case where this happened and...' I have no doubt that my practice informs my teaching, and that my teaching means I have a better understanding of the law I am applying everyday than I would otherwise have. They are mutually reinforcing, and each increases my enjoyment of, and confidence in my ability to do, the other. Although my day-to-day research tends to be journal articles on criminal law, evidence and procedure, I am still interested in socio-legal research like my PhD, and hope that I will be able to return to a larger project on it in due course.

Interacting with students (I am a Tutor, and cover as Director of Studies as needed) reminds me that the world is not filled with people in dreadful situations doing dreadful things to each other with

dreadful consequences, which is one way that a criminal law practice can often be summarised. In contrast to many of my clients and the people whom I prosecute, our students are, on the whole, loved, supported and valued, both at home and in College. They have enormous potential and they will go on to achieve a huge range of things. On the other hand, I have had clients who perhaps could once have had the same potential, but who in fact cannot read or write; have bounced around the care system; have been damaged by drink, drugs and abuse and who have extremely limited prospects for the future and even less hope for it. Sometimes the contrast between their experience of the world and life at Robinson is hard to reconcile, and seems dreadfully unfair. Seeing the worst of humanity alongside some of the brightest in the space of a few days can sometimes be a strange situation, but it's always good to have balance. ■



Daniel Chatfield (cox), stroke - Amy Wilson, 7 - Elaine Freer, 6 - Vicky Bates, 5 - Heather Keenan, 4 - Rosalyn Old, 3 - Annie Richardson, 2 - Thomasina Periera and bow - Fiona Howells.

ROBINSON RESEARCH NOTES

City Women in the 18th century



Dr Amy Erickson is a Teaching Fellow at Robinson College and Reader in Feminist History in the Faculty of History. Her research focuses on women's employment in England particularly in the period between 1500 and 1800. She is a member of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure and co-directs the research programme there on 'The Occupational Structure of Britain 1379-1911'



Photo credit:
Graham Copekoga

A recent outdoor exhibition in the heart of the City of London (21 September - 18 October 2019) marked the locations of women entrepreneurs in the luxury trades over the course of the 18th century. On a 700-metre exhibition trail from Paternoster Square in the west, along Cheapside to the Bank of England and the Royal Exchange in the east, 44 panels on the pavement introduced passers-by to the shops of goldsmith Mary Owen, jeweller Susannah Passavant, fan maker Esther Sleep, and whalebone seller Elizabeth Bowen, among

some fifty shopkeepers. These women ran businesses in and around Cheapside, the most expensive shopping street in the City of London for some 500 years.

The exhibition arose from my research on women's employment in the early modern period. The British Museum holds more than 15,000 business cards, most from the 18th century. While the majority of cards give simply a surname, or a surname with '& Co.', a significant minority give a first name which allows identification of women in trade.

In the 18th century, as now, the City of London was a separate jurisdiction from Westminster, Southwark and the rest of the metropolis. The City's guild structure, and requirement that women as well as men held guild membership and City 'freedom', makes businesswomen in the City easier to trace -- but that doesn't mean that women were not just as common in manufacturing and commerce elsewhere. The women whose cards were featured sold goods made in their own workshops above the shop fronts, made by journeymen and journeywomen, and they coordinated outwork in other parts of London. They also sold goods imported from elsewhere in England (such as china and glass) and from abroad (such as lace and fans). Most of the traders advertised their wares wholesale as well as retail, so they were acting as merchants for retailers based in the provinces and in the colonies.



Susanna Papsavant
at the Plum of
Hill opposite
London.
(From the late M^r Willcox, the Corner of S^t Paul's Church Yard.)
Sells all sorts of Toys, Plate, Jewells & Jewellers Work, Designed
and Executed by the very best hands & in the highest Taste, and
other the most Valuable Curiousities with variety of very fine
Curious China and some of the rare Old Japan &c.

Susanne Papsavant
à l'Enseigne de la Plum sur le mont de Ludgate, vis à vis le vieux Bailly,
LONDRES.
demeurant cy devant Chez feu M^r Willcox, au Coin du Cimetière
de S^t Paul,
Vend toutes sortes de Bijoux & Quincaillerie, Orfèvrerie, Joyaux &
Quincaillerie de France et Fine par les meilleurs Ouvriers & d'un goût
tout particulier, Et plusieurs autres Choses rares Et Curieuses.
Comme aussi de très belle Porcelaine du Japon &c.

Photo credit:
Trustees of the
British Museum

The principal reaction of viewers was surprise at the presence of wealthy women in trade. Marriage seems to have had little effect on a woman's business, since single women trained by their parents or in a formal apprenticeship continued their trade after marriage and through widowhood. My research suggests that there was no prohibition on middling level women working; rather, there was a positive expectation that they would work in these luxury trades, which were highly skill- and capital-intensive. The exhibition materials were designed to be as 'factual' as possible without didactic interpretation in order to let the viewer draw their own conclusions about the prevalence of women in business in the 18th century and about the significance of the fact that this history is so little known. Several viewers commented on the absence of 'grand statements', and the fact that the 'quiet repetition' of details had a cumulatively powerful impact.

The website at citywomen.hist.cam.ac.uk incorporates an introductory video, the full text and images of the exhibition, and audio recordings of the public lectures given to accompany the exhibition. Plans are in process for a similar exhibition in Cambridge.

City Women was supported by the British Museum, the City of London, the Clothworkers' Company, Metro Bank, Cheapside Business Alliance, the University of Cambridge and the History Faculty. ■



Mary Owen
Jeweller & Goldsmith
at y^e Wheat Sheaf, in Cheapside, LONDON.
Maketh & Sellecth all sorts of Large & Small Plate,
Jewells of y^e Newest Fashion, Gold & Silver Watches,
the best sort of Riddle Buckles, Earrings, Rings &c.
LIKEWISE
Buyeth & sellecth Second hand Plate,
Watches, Medalls, Pearl & other Curiousities.
The Best Engraving on Plate & Seals.
Silver Buckles by the Maker.



ESTHER SLEEPE
at the Golden Fan & Seven Stars
opposite the Old Jewry in the Poultry
London.
Makes Monies and Sells all sorts of India & English Jewels,
and great variety of French & English Jewels, Diamonds, Pearls, &c.
after the most modern Taste.
Wholesale and Retail at reasonable Rates.
As Jewels mended after the newest Manner.

ROBINSON CALLING!

TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN 2019



George with his Mum

George Cook is a Second Year student of MML:

French and German. He is a keen sportsman, having won his Blue in last year's [2019] Rugby Union Varsity Match at Twickenham.

For over 15 years Robinson has run an annual telephone campaign to raise much needed funds for the College and its students. Many alumni have not only given to this appeal but have also been members of the all-important student calling team. Preparations are now underway for the 2020 campaign and the recruitment of this year's callers. Selecting the team for a campaign is a key part of the preparations because when done correctly, the calls made can be a really beneficial experience for both the alumni and the student. Second year MML student George Cook reflected on his time on the calling team in 2019.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of a community as welcoming and enriching as Robinson, and, on a wider scale, Cambridge. I spent my first year juggling my studies, social life and involvement in the University Rugby Club, all of which contributed to a Cambridge experience which was both extremely busy and a real privilege. It's this, I think, which made me want to apply to be a caller and have the opportunity to contribute to a project which will enable more and more people to experience life at Cambridge to its fullest.

I also feel privileged to have had the opportunity to make valuable connections with alumni, who were always very willing to offer their nuggets of wisdom, related both to academic and extra-curricular life. I have my eye on a career in corporate law, so I was extremely grateful for the advice I received from those who have pursued careers in the legal world.

The team often spoke about the fascinating conversations we'd had with alumni during an evening's shift. Even if our debriefs were sometimes discouraged by the campaign leader, who was, of course, keen for us to make as many calls as possible, we all relished the

opportunity to hear about the insights given by each generous alumnus/a.

When the Telephone Campaign began I had already spent the best part of a month in Cambridge when the Telephone Campaign began, because of my involvement with the University Rugby Club, so it was great to be able to put some of my spare time to good use. The campaign, which was managed fantastically by both the Development Office and the staff at Buffalo, also gave me the opportunity to inform alumni about sport at Robinson, and its need for funding. I hope that some of the money generated can, in the future, be used to fund accommodation and living expenses for fellow sportspeople whose ambitions demand an early return to Cambridge for training.

I'd like to extend my thanks not only to the team at Buffalo and to the Robinson Development Office, both of whom made the campaign a pleasure to be a part of and steered the ship to ensure our fantastic sum of donations, but also to my teammates – I hope to be involved in the campaign in future years and enjoy more evenings of lively discussion and games of 'Name that Tune'. ■

WE MET AT ROBINSON

Camilla Hall (née Rooney) (Natural Sciences, 2010)
and **Peter Hall** (Engineering, 2010)

We both matriculated in the same year back in 2010 and are having trouble believing this was nearly ten years ago! Camilla studied Natural Sciences and I Engineering. Despite being in the same year, we didn't become friends until our second year of university. There was a little bit of romance at first with a few dates at Bill's and some drinks in the Red Brick Café but the timing wasn't right and we spent the rest of our time at university as friends.

We grew closer during our third year when Camilla would come around and watch 'How I Met Your Mother' in my set on a weekly basis. It was the only time that I ever cleaned my room as I was trying to make a good impression on Camilla. Despite this, she would generally roll her eyes from a distance as I enjoyed making a fool of myself at any opportunity, particularly on stage in the Robinson pantomime.

After graduating Camilla left and studied for a year at Le Cordon Bleu as a Patisserie Chef. I then graduated and began working in Formula 1. We kept in touch but had begun to drift apart before meeting again at a Robinson friend's barbecue in London. We instantly hit it off again and started dating. It wasn't long before we moved in together in London and were on our way back to Robinson for our MA graduation. It was amazing to be back as a couple and it brought back a lot of memories of May Balls, nights out in Life or Lola Lo's and the amazing brunches in the Garden Restaurant. We still haven't found many places that beat it.

In 2017, I got an offer to move to work a Formula 1 team in Switzerland. Fortunately, Camilla was incredibly supportive and moved out to join me. She took this as a time to start a new career and trained as a yoga teacher. We have been living in Zurich for nearly 3 years now. On a trip back to the UK in August 2018 we got engaged when I proposed at the top of the Shard. On the 25th January this year, we got married in the Union Chapel in Islington, London. We were incredibly lucky to be surrounded by many Robinson friends on the day and I had two Robinson Alumni, Josh Lomax (Geography, 2010) and Toby Hayward-Butcher (Politics, Psychology and Sociology, 2010) as my best men.



Camilla and Peter

Wedding photos: Poppy Carter Portraits

The day was made even more special by the months leading up to the event. After a long time of trying and disappointment, we found out that Camilla was pregnant, and we are expecting our first child at the beginning of August.

At the same time, I was offered a new job back in the UK and we will be moving back in the middle of the year. We can't wait to see lots of old faces and to have many more opportunities to head back to Robinson and relive some of the old times.

A group of our old Robinson friends got together to contribute on our behalf to the Archive Building! [with a brick]. I was very involved in College life in my time there. Most of my time was spent playing Rugby but I had some dreadful cameos in other sports as well (rowing, hockey, netball)! I also was involved with Ents in the bar and bop room a lot. Camilla was a bit more study focused but was always a familiar face for everyone in the college. Significant moments were always May Balls for us but some of our best memories will always be the smaller, sillier things like taking some time off to watch Pokemon with Alex Marshall (History, 2010) and Joe Pritchard (Law, 2010). ■



Dr Steve Trudgill is Emeritus Fellow in Geography, and a member of the College's Visual Arts Committee

NOTES ON ART

Second Open Art Exhibition, February 2020

The 52 items submitted and exhibited ranged from iPad art, glass bowls, silver gelatine and palladium prints, colour prints, quilts, oil paintings, pencil drawings, chalk pastels and sculptures together with combinations of watercolour, pen drawing and gouache. The submissions came from undergraduates, postgraduates, staff, Fellows and those having links with College members. The Exhibition was organised by Dr Steve Trudgill (Robinson College Visual Arts Committee: VAC) and curated by Dr Gary Doherty (Chair of the VAC).

The prizes were announced at a reception for the exhibition and the judges were Diane Firth (Cambridge Drawing Society and College Portraitist) and Susanna West-Yates (VAC). Prizes (which included a College Cake baked to order) were donated by Susanna West Yates, Dr Steve Trudgill and Dr Gary Doherty. The judges commented on the high standard and the difficulty of picking out winners. Their decisions were as follows.

First Prize: Trinity Street in gouache and pen by Sarah Beth Hsieh; college link Kuan Hsieh Postgraduate

Second Prize: James Marshall 'Jimi' Hendrix in Pencil by Oliver Gottlieb; Undergraduate

Third Prize: Tiger in chalk pastel by Linda Hunns; Staff: Tutorial Assistant

Specially Commended:

Lace Bowl 2 glass powders fused, cold worked and slumped by Judith Richards; Senior Member

Thornham Norfolk 1 (sky and water) photograph by Andy Barker; Staff: Maintenance

Story Lines (Women Painting Series) in oils by Judith Brown; Staff, Librarian

Stream, Scotland Silver Gelatine Print by Donald Richards; college link: Judith Richards, Senior Member
Quilts by Elizabeth Milton; College link: Anthony Milton, Senior Member

Congratulations to all!



L to R: Exhibition in the Chapel. Sarah Beth Hsieh and Kuan Hsieh with prizewinning picture *Trinity Street*. *Hendrix* by Oliver Gottlieb. *Tiger* by Linda Hunns. Quilts by Elizabeth Milton. Robinson skip sculpture by Isabel Mathers

Of rather singular interest was the sculpture by Isabel Mathers. When she submitted her 'Robinson Skip' sculpture she wrote, 'I thought it would be appropriate for the exhibition to show the incredible things that end up in the college skip'. By an even stranger coincidence, note the surname of the artist: Victor Henry Thomas Skipp (1925 - 2010), was an English local historian, art collector and amateur philosopher, and who left his estate to Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. Part of the oddments of his collection were sold at an art auction at Cheffins in Cambridge to raise money for Kettle's Yard Museum. Gary Doherty went along and, wanting to support the museum, bid for one of the lots which no one else bid for. He found that he had bought some boxes containing a large number of assorted items, so he placed them around his rooms, but not all of the items fitted in so, reluctantly, he thought to dispose of some. Imagine his surprise – and indeed pleasure – when, as he was curating the Open Art Exhibition, he saw a piece of wood which he had reluctantly thrown away. The very piece which Isabel had seen in a skip, thought it looked interesting and recycled as the basis of her sculpture. A chance event? Perhaps not. Perhaps it was all meant to be.

Our thanks go to Chaplain, Choir Director, Choir and Robinson College Music Society who worked with us

and round us to make the exhibition possible as well as to all the staff who set up and helped to arrange the exhibition – and especially with thanks to the exhibitors for their commitment and enthusiasm.

This is the ninth exhibition which has been arranged by Robinson College Visual Arts Committee with Dr Gary Doherty as Chair. We have enjoyed photographs by Donald Richards, Steve Trudgill's 'Castle, Cove and Coast', College Fellows' Portraits by Diane Firth, 'Mud Sky and Figs' by John Trudgill and Susan Drucker-Brown, Anthony Milton's collection of Ruth Ensign's paintings, 'The Art of Caring' – raising money for medical charities, and John Woodman's 'The Window' as well as Open Art 1 and 2. Gary has now resigned from the VAC to concentrate on his medical work so we thank him for all his contributions over recent years.

To celebrate the Open Art Exhibition, there were sermons on Art and the Art of Seeing in the Lent Term Chapel Services, including ones by the Chaplain Rev Dr Simon Perry, Dr Mary Stewart, Professor Morna Hooker, Dr Steve Trudgill and Dr Gary Doherty as well as outside speakers; these can be found at: www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/chapel/sermons/art-and-art-seeing. ■

NEWS: Alumni events

Reunion Weekend and Dinner, 21 September 2019

Robinson was thrilled to welcome 240 alumni and their guests to the 2019 Reunion on Saturday 21st September. The evening began with a drinks reception at the Crausaz Wordsworth Building amidst glorious September sunshine, followed by a dusky walk through the gardens to dinner in the Dining Hall. Alumni from 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 enjoyed a delicious dinner and continued their conversations into the small hours in the College Bar. It was an enormous pleasure to see everyone and we hope you can join us again soon. We can assure you of another warm welcome. ■



**Pegasus Boat Club London Dinner,
16 November 2019**

The annual Pegasus Boat Club London Dinner was held on Saturday 16 November. It was great to catch up with rowers and friends from across the years and to welcome new alumni. Slightly over a quarter of a century of RCBC was represented. You might recognise at least a couple of attendees with boats named after them! As ever, there were stories shared of past triumph and mishap on (and off) the Cam, and news of how the current club is progressing. Please join us at next year's London dinner. The Pegasus Boat Club Committee would welcome new officers; if you are interested, please contact Joe Griffiths or Bruce Bye (jrdgriffiths@googlemail.com and bruce.bye@cantab.net). Reported by **Joanna Waters (MML, 2008)** ■

Financial Services Recruitment Evening, 21 November 2019



Morrison Cleaver (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 2019), in his capacity as the Treasurer to Robinson College Finance and Investment Society, reported: 'The inaugural meeting of the newly founded Robinson College Finance and Investment Society (RCFIS) took place on Thursday 21st November (2019). With assistance from the Robinson College Development Office, distinguished alumni from the financial sector were invited to the Crausaz-Wordsworth Building for the event titled, 'Maximising Your Assets: How to get a job in Finance.' The event began with a recruitment fair followed by a panel discussion and a speed networking session. The discussion was chaired by Bridget Guerin with speakers Dr Joo Hee Lee, Louise De Paepe, Charles Prideaux and Talbot Stark. It was extremely beneficial for the students to hear from people who have experience in a variety of financial professions. The speakers were excellent at demystifying financial jargon and differentiating between areas such as M&A (Mergers & Acquisitions) and PE (Private Equity). Approximately 60 students attended the event, and all enjoyed the interactive nature of the Q&A and speed networking session. One attendee commented that the event provided a unique opportunity to connect with people in the industry in a more discursive setting. Co-presidents Nathan Kingsley and Oliver Gottlieb said 'We are delighted with the success of this event and, with the help of more alumni, we hope to host many more in the future.' ■

City Drinks, 18 November 2019

On Monday 18 November **Richard Forsdyke (Law, 1986)** and **Alexander Oddy (Law, 1990)** hosted this year's City Drinks event at the offices of Herbert Smith Freehills in the City. Richard and Alex were joined by the Warden, Robinson Alumni working in the City and current students of Law, Land Economy, Natural Sciences and Politics at Robinson. Our guest speaker for the evening was **Naguib Kheraj (Economics, 1983)** who reflected on his long and successful career in the world of finance, his change of career direction and what he learnt along the way. Over drinks, guests enjoyed chatting about their professional lives and experiences whilst catching up on College news. ■

11th Beer Festival, 2 February 2020



The 11th annual Beer Festival was another successful beer festival in which we were extremely happy to see a lot of old faces come back and mingle with the current crop of students, some of whom were enjoying their first Robinson Beer Festival. On the day we sold over 1,800 pints of beer and cider, our most yet! [22 Real Ales and 15 Ciders] Simon Murden, the Bar Manager remarked: "As always our students and Alumni were amazing and it means a lot to me seeing the support we get every year for the Beer Festival! See you in 2021!" ■

Annual Alumni Open Weekend, 23 March

President's Report 2019 – 2020

This year we did a 'Virtual' AGM of the Robinson College Alumni Association (Pegasus) and the result of emailing the Committee and those who had booked into the AGM was as follows.

All the outgoing committee were thanked and the incoming members, having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected.

Post	Person	Start Date	+4
President	Dr Steve Trudgill	2019	2023
Hon Secretary	Steve Jeffels	2020	2024
<i>Proposed Richard Burkinshaw, Seconded Jennifer Burkinshaw (née Walsh)</i>			
Hon Treasurer	Saul Nassé	2020	2024
<i>Proposed Dr Steve Trudgill, Seconded Dr Mary Stewart</i>			
Editor	Simon Perry	2017	2021
Ordinary Member	Charles Richards	2020	2024
<i>Proposer - Michael Taplin, Seconded - Owen Jones</i>			
Ordinary Member	Saul Nassé	2017	2021
Ordinary Member	Zhuan Faraj	2020	2024
<i>Proposed David Warren, Seconded Mollie Biggadike</i>			
Ordinary Member	Rosalyn Old	2017	2021
Ordinary Member	Rahul Mansigani	2018	2022
SCR Representative	Mary Stewart	2018	2022
MCR	mcr-president@robinson.cam.ac.uk		
JCR	RCSA President. president@rcsa.co.uk		
Deputy President	Sarah Westwood	2018	2022

RCAA Current Account is at £12,000 - to be spent subsidising events. RCAA Reserve Account £15,000. Its use is to be discussed but a possible use would be for supporting the College's 50th Anniversary in 2027.

The speakers from the cancelled Medical Forum in March have been asked if they can speak at the 26 September 2020 gathering and have indicated that they could. Timing and event to be confirmed. A formal invitation was sent to the Warden for the March Alumni Forum 2021 to celebrate his time at Robinson and he has accepted. Speakers and format to be confirmed.

Given that the September reunions are normally oversubscribed and there is capacity at the March dinner, from September 2021 the ten-year reunions will be held in September, and the five-year reunions will be held in March. It is proposed to discuss the possibility of retaining places at the March dinner for our loyal Open March Alumni weekend attendees. Both will feature speakers or some other form of entertainment before dinner.

More regional events are planned with regional alumni representatives; comments and feedback on events is always welcome.

Dr Steve Trudgill, President RCAA, Pegasus ■

SPORTING LIFE

THE MIGHTY BINSON WILL PREVAIL:

Robinson may be a new(er) college, but when it comes to sport it has already built itself a fearsome reputation and a tradition of widespread participation. This is a trend that has continued more strongly than ever over the last few terms.

From the Cambridge flagship sport of rowing to the perhaps marginally less well known ultimate frisbee, Robinson maintains strong representation and notable successes. Taking rowing as an example, the Lent Bumps campaign saw the women's boat maintain their position and the men's second boat narrowly miss out on blades, while the men's first boat, as mentioned above, is now sixth on the river. Other highlights saw the squash team reach the semi-finals of cuppers, the second badminton team getting further in cuppers than the first team (and consequently insisting on being known as the first badminton team), the women's badminton team getting promoted a division (thus claiming to be the only real first team), and the football third team gloriously continuing to politely allow the opponents to score goals. OK, so perhaps some of those aren't the victories that will be celebrated for generations, but it is symptomatic of the excellent spirit that accompanies all Robinson sport, and generally what you'd expect when you allow students to run sports teams. However, it's not all so light-hearted: Robinson members continue to be excellent sportspersons not only at college level but for the university, and while many varsity matches this year sadly won't take place, Binson maintains a presence in university-level tennis, athletics, lacrosse, cricket, squash and many other teams – even seeing representation at the official tiddlywinks club. Thus, you can be assured, whatever sport you support, whatever sport you play, the mighty Binson will be represented with aplomb.

Sport at Robinson remains a huge part of the college community, both for casual and serious players, and from pool to rugby, the Mighty Binson will prevail!

Reported by **Felix Enslin (History and Politics, 2019)**, RCSA Sports and Societies Officer. ■

NEWS: Alumni

1980



Tom Bell-Richards (Law) and Joan Monks have got married recently. They live in West Oxfordshire, Tom has a Chartered Accountancy practice and Joan, originally from Dublin, works for Oxford Bioscience.

After twelve happy years as Professor of Journalism at the University of Kent, **Professor Timothy Luckhurst (History)** took up his new position as Principal of South College and Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Engagement at Durham University in November 2019. South is Durham's new, seventeenth college and will admit its first cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students in September 2020. He was inspired to apply to be its first Principal by, as he says: 'my very happy memories of being one of Robinson's first undergraduates in 1980'. Timothy continues: 'I hope to make South College as welcoming and inspiring to my first students as Robinson was, and remains, for me. My new colleagues at Durham have made me very welcome and have reminded me delightfully of the importance of formal dining'.

Graham Oldroyd (Engineering) has been made a Distinguished Fellow, Global Private Equity Initiative, at INSEAD Business School, and an Honorary Fellow in the Faculty of Business, Department of Management and Marketing, at Durham University Business School.

Rachel Pettersson (née Lawson) (Natural Sciences - Physical) has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in Corrosion Science at Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (KTH) Royal Institute of Technology for a further period of three years (2020-2022). This complements her main role as a research manager with Jernkontoret, the Swedish steel producers' association.

1984

Professor Clare Harris (History), Tutorial Fellow in Anthropology of Magdalen College Oxford, Professor of Visual Anthropology at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, was elected Fellow of the British Academy (FBA) in July 2019. Clare engages with anthropology, art history, and critical museology. In her analyses of art, photography, museums, collections histories, colonial and post-colonial constructions of knowledge, and the politics of representation, she has pioneered new approaches to the study of Tibet, past and present. Clare is also internationally recognised for her collaborations with Tibetan artists, innovative exhibitions, digital projects, and award-winning publications.

1986



John Webber (Social and Political Sciences) informs us: 'We were very honoured to receive a visit from Malcolm and Lynnie Trotter (Malcolm was the former Bar Manager at Robinson College). They were our first Robinsonian visitors since we moved to La Rioja, and were on their first stop in their great Spanish road trip from Bilbao to Murcia. As you can see (the photograph left), Malcolm did not take long to strike up a "bromance" with one of

the legendary local barmen. They are virtually interchangeable - Malcolm is the one in the middle by the way! A superb weekend was had by all'.

1991

Keith Kahn-Harris (née Harris) (Music) published his sixth book in June 2019: *Strange Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and the Limits of Diversity* (Repeater).

Marcus Tomalin MA MPhil PhD (English) was appointed Fellow and Director of Admissions at Trinity Hall from Michaelmas Term 2019. He is responsible for all aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate admissions, as well as overseeing outreach and WP initiatives. He is also Project Manager of Giving Voice to Digital Democracies: The Social Impact of Artificially Intelligent Communications Technology, funded by the Humanities and Social Change International Foundation.

1992



Sarah MacDonald MA FRCO ARSCM (Music, Organ Scholar) is editor for a new series of liturgical choral music composed by women

(image attached) with a major American publisher. Female composers account for only about 5% of liturgical choral music programmed on cathedral/church/collegiate liturgical music lists, and this series intends to help remedy that imbalance.

1993



Edward Levey QC (Law) is a barrister at Fountain Court, Temple specialising in commercial law, professional discipline and civil fraud. He is married to Anushka Levey (née Rosen) (Trinity Hall, 1993-1996) and they live in London with their four children. In March 2020, Edward was appointed a QC by the Lord Chancellor at a ceremony which took place in the Palace of Westminster.

2002



Andrew Ewart (English) had his debut novel *Forget Me* published by Orion in February. A psychological thriller with a love story element and a dash of science-fiction, it will hopefully be enjoyed by fans of *Black Mirror*, *Eternal Sunshine* and *Inception*. He lives in St Albans with his wife **Laura (née Pope) (History, 2002)** and their three-year-old daughter Arianne.

2004



On 27th July 2019 **Amelia Beringer (Geography)** married Mr Oliver Jonathan Hickling. Their wedding ceremony was held at The Temple Church followed by a reception in Middle Temple Hall, London. It was a magical day, attended by several fellow Robinsonians including **Katy Gregory-Smith, Sarah Moreau, Sarah Carman, Sarah Smith, Romana Pugh (née Karim), Dal Channa and Jack Schenum (all 2004)**. Amelia and Oliver are delighted to be expecting their first baby in June - more excitement is on the way in 2020!

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2009

Florence Gracey (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) and Rose Johal are delighted to announce their engagement on New Year's Day 2020.

2010

Camilla Rooney (Natural Sciences (Biological)) and **Peter Hall (Engineering)** celebrated their marriage along with many other Robinson Alumni on the 25th January. Camilla and Peter met at Robinson, matriculating together in 2010. The ceremony



was held in Union Chapel, Islington followed by a reception in the Langham Hotel. They are currently living in Switzerland but will be moving back to the UK later this year as Peter changes job. They hope to see many more Robinson faces on a regular basis once they are back in the country.

2012



Dr Jyh-Miin Lin (Radiology) gladly announces the new release of PyNUFFT 2020.0.0, which is a Cambridge-born open-source software package. PyNUFFT has been applied to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), tomography and other scientific / engineering studies. Dr Lin's latest work will be presented in the 8th International Workshop on OpenCL, SYCL, Vulkan and SPIR-V, Munich, Germany. Dr Lin was previously working at the National Taiwan University and University College London. He is currently a senior research associate at the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), Grenoble, France.

If you have any news for the next edition of Bin Brook, please contact us at development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk by 1st October 2020. We look forward to reading your stories.

NEWS: Fellows/Senior Members



At the Charles University Assembly on 17 November 2019, **Dr Antonie Doležalová (Senior Member)** was awarded the Arnošt of Pardubice Prize for the most innovative teacher. This prestigious award is given to members of the academic staff for their outstanding pedagogical effort and their unique contribution to the quality of educational activities. Antonie won the award in recognition of her initiative to organize, in close cooperation with Dr Amy Erickson, a series of Cambridge Lectures in Economic History for the students of Charles University Institute of Economic Studies at Faculty of Social Sciences. This was a unique opportunity to research and study the latest topics and methodological innovations in economic history presented by academic from the University of Cambridge. Two Robinson Fellows in History, Dr Deborah Thom and Dr Amy Erickson delivered the opening lectures of the course as the visiting lecturers in March and April of 2018.

The award ceremony took place on one of the most significant dates in the Czech history when two events occurred that shaped the history of the country. In 1989, the Velvet Revolution brought down the Communist regime. In 1939, all the universities in Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia were closed down by the Nazi occupation regime. Today this day is known as the International Day of Students. In her acceptance speech Antonie said: 'Thanks to this award, I have realised there is no greater appreciation for your work than when its value is recognised by your peers. I would, therefore, like to thank all the committee's members for their decision to make this award for the Cambridge Lectures course, which is the

result of my efforts to connect Charles University with one of the best universities in the world. I would like to thank the students for having found the course and to thank Amy Erickson, Deborah Thom, Solomos Solomou, Duncan Needham, Leigh Shaw-Taylor and Sheilagh Ogilvie of the University of Cambridge for never hesitating to accept my invitation to teach the students of Charles University!'



Chris Elliott has joined College as a Senior Member. He was an executive and then Managing Editor of the Guardian from 1998 to 2010 and then Readers' Editor and columnist from 2010 to 2016. Other activities have included acting as an Editorial Standards Advisor to IMPRESS, independent press regulator, giving evidence to the Leveson Inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the British press in 2012 and working for 'Speakers for Schools', a charity, which provides state schools with free talks from the UK's leading figures to inspire and empower the next generation. He has been a trustee of the British subsidiary of Concern Worldwide, a charity that concentrates on the poorest of the poor in fragile states and developing countries. He has also been closely involved with the training of journalists and in industrial relations with the National Union of Journalists. In the 1980s he worked for the Sunday Telegraph specialising in crime and terrorism. He lists his interests as 'the challenges facing 21st century journalism: ethics, freedom of expression, media law, diversity, and how technology is changing cultures in the newsroom.'

ARC Humanities Press has recently published *Everyday Sermons from Worcester Cathedral Priory: An Early-Fourteenth-Century Collection in Latin*. Edited and with commentary by **Dr Joan Greatrex**, this book makes available for the first time in printed form the sermon manuscript, MS Q. 18, which survives in its original home in the medieval cathedral library at Worcester. At first glance this small, untidy quarto-size manuscript appears to be merely an unremarkable collection of early fourteenth-century Latin sermons. However, unlike other surviving sermon manuscripts from cathedral priories and major Benedictine abbeys, which had sermons of notable figures like Augustine, Gregory the Great, and Bernard of Clairvaux, Worcester MS Q. 18 is by contrast a home-grown production consisting only of homilies prepared by mostly anonymous members of the Worcester monastic community. And they are a rare, if not unique, example of working copies of sermons, with the Latin text reworked, altered, and corrected by a number of monks, giving us a unique insight into the mind and the mentality of a medieval monastic community.



Professor Judith Lieu, a Fellow in Theology and until recently the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, has been bestowed an Honorary Degree from the University of Heidelberg.

NEW COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome to Robinson College

Gyongyi Ajtai (Housekeeping),
Lesley Bolan (Housekeeping),
Kevin Breeze (Conference),
Leah Cook (Housekeeping),
Christina Curtis (HR),
Patrycja Debiec (Housekeeping),
Martyna Dominiak (Housekeeping),
Nicola Donald (Porters),
Michael Durrant (Gardens),
Lucy Francis (Catering),
Paul Gethin (Maintenance),
Dannii Harris (Gardens),

Krisztina Kiss (Housekeeping),
Georgios Kontozisis (Catering - Bar),
Ewa Lubarska (Housekeeping),
David Lucas (Catering - Kitchen),
Jonathon McDonnell (Catering - Food Service),
Kate McPherson (Gardens),
Nelly Mora Pineda (Housekeeping),
Irina Nalimova (Housekeeping),
Jodie Pallett (Housekeeping),
Izabela Salamacha (Housekeeping),
Soniya Sawant (Conference),
Daniel Smith (Conference),
Mary Smith (Catering - Food Service),
Lianne Stroud (Catering - Food Service),

Barnabas Szamado (Housekeeping),
Thomas Test (IT),
Dr Zhi Chen
Mr Nick Milne
Mr Saul Nassé (former Senior Member)
Ms Elizabeth Rawlinson-Mills
Dr Konstantin Röder
Dr Jeremy Yallop

SENIOR MEMBERS

Mr Chris Elliott
Professor Susan Sellers
Professor Ioannis Kontoyiannis

FROM THE ROBINSON ARCHIVES

A TRADITION OF MOOTING



ROBINSON COLLEGE MOOTING SOCIETY 1993-1999

Joan Bullock-Anderson studied MML at Robinson from 1980 to 1983 and qualified as an archivist in 1985. Since then she has worked in a wide range of UK archives, including local authority, business, higher education, the NHS and private family archives. She has been contributing to work on the Robinson College Archive since 2017, alongside Wing Commander Peter Milloy, the Fellow Archivist.

The Robinson College Archive shows that the tradition of mooting amongst our student community is deep-rooted and has been an inseparable part of the teaching of Law in our College. The reports from 1993 to 1999 contained in the Robinson College Record, a College annual published at the end of Michaelmas term, show that the Mooting Society was probably established in 1992/3.

The Mooting Society was a platform for organising moots [legal debates based on factual situations] for law students and for encouraging wider awareness of legal issues. Its chief activities were annual exhibition moots, a compulsory annual freshers' knockout competition and intercollegiate competitions. External judges and sponsorship played a regular part in these events.

The title of Master of Moots was awarded to the winner of the annual freshers' mooting competition, who then, along with the runner-up, represented Robinson in an annual moot against Robinson's sister college in Oxford, St Catherine's. The overall score in the 1990s appears to have been a 3-3 draw.

MASTERS OF MOOTS:

1992	Ahal Besorai
1993	Sok Theng Cheng
1994	Daniel Bromilow
1995	Edward Levey
1996	Faridah Mulliner
1997	Neil Beresford
1998	Tim Sandford
1999	Stu Macdonald

There appear to have been significant elements of fun and sociability in the College-based moots, but they were events which allowed lawyers to hone essential skills and put their learning into practice. A number of Robinson students achieved success on a wider level, including intercollegiate mooting and even international mooting - see below for a few key annual details. The dates are those of the Robinson Record so, as these editions were published in spring, the reports usually cover the previous calendar year.

1993: The moot against St Catherine's, Oxford was won by St Catherine's. The College mooting cup was awarded to Ahal Besorai. The Society took part in

Robinson Symposia by holding an exhibition moot on the issue of criminalising the sport of boxing.

1994: An exhibition moot was contested by Ahal Besorai, Chuen Ip, Tim Briggs and Stephen Holmes. The freshers' competition final was contested by Stanley Ng, Sam Millar, Robert Price and Daniel Bromilow. Robert Price was the runner-up, Daniel Bromilow the winner.

1995: The annual exhibition moot was a case involving a deaf and dumb German transsexual being raped on a visit to England. Arnie Siva, Robert Price, Daniel Bromilow and Nic Brown argued the case before Dr Forsyth and Mr Dixon. The freshers' knock-out competition final was a case involving a prominent politician caught in flagrante with his secretary. Edward Levey won with Emily Halliday a close runner-up. The 1994 Robinson team of Daniel Bromilow and Robert Price defeated St Catherine's in a moot presided over by Mr Justice Laws and sponsored by Slaughter and May. Daniel and Robert also reached the final of the intercollegiate competition.

1996: Freshers' competition moots included a case debating whether an employee suffering from cancer could sue their employer for allowing smoking in the office. The judges were Robert Price, Daniel Bromilow, Dr Forsyth, Mrs O'Sullivan of Selwyn College and Mr Hooley of Fitzwilliam College. In the final Andre du Plessis, Lisa Boocock, Perminder Ganda and Faridah Mulliner mooted a defamation case about an MP being 'outed'. Faridah Mulliner was the winner, Andre du Plessis runner-up. Edward Levey and Emily Halliday won the annual moot against St Catherine's Oxford, sponsored by Slaughter and May and judged by Lord Williams of Mostyn. Edward Levey also got to the semi-finals of the De Smith individual mooting competition in Cambridge.

1997: Faridah Mulliner and Andre du Plessis won the Cambridge Intercollegiate Mooting competition, beating Christ's College in the final, judged by Lord Justice Schiemann. In the exhibition moot Gus Black 'cast a highly entertaining light on the whole area of nervous shock', with submissions based on the O.J. Simpson trial. The freshers' competition final was contested between Brendan McGurk, Ipsita Roy, Ashley Young and Neil Beresford in ninety minutes of argument and interrogation before a panel of Dr Forsyth, Mr Dixon and Mrs O'Sullivan of Selwyn College. Neil Beresford won with Ashley Young runner up. The moot against St Catherine's Oxford was contested by Andre du Plessis and Faridah Mulliner and won by St Catherine's, judged by Lord Hoffmann.

1998: Neil Beresford represented Cambridge in the Telders International Mooting Competition. He was also selected to represent the University in the Observer Mooting Competition; and he and Ashley Young won the moot against St Catherine's College Oxford. This year, the College competition included all first year and change-over lawyers. The final was contested between Sophy Pern, Heather Panton, Edward Barker and Tim Sandford, judged by Dr Forsyth, Mr Dixon and Mr Bamforth. It was won by Tim Sandford, with Edward Barker runner-up.

1999: Tim Sandford and Edward Barker contested the annual moot against St Catherine's Oxford, won by St Catherine's. Duncan Speller and Toni Collins organised the Inner Temple competition, open to all Cambridge students.

Mooting Society reports in the Record cease after this date. It would be very interesting to hear from any alumni who recall mooting activity after 1999 or indeed before 1993. ■

Obituaries and tributes

Kevin Richard Beckett (1964–2020)



On 22 April our colleague and friend Kevin Beckett lost his battle to COVID-19. When Kevin joined Robinson as a Kitchen Porter, very quickly his enthusiasm, passion for cooking and his skills set him on a path of professional progress. The College recognised his potential and helped Kevin fulfil his life-long dream – to become a qualified chef. Through hard work, dedication and talent, Kevin gained qualifications as a Commis Chef. His diligence, thirst for knowledge and his academic exemplary work followed by continuous drive to succeed and progress in his field gained him recognition by The Meetings Industry Association's (mia). In 2015 on their prestigious miaList Kevin was recognised as the industry's most inspiring individual. When asked how Kevin felt, said: "It's truly amazing. I'm 51 years old and it doesn't get much better than this. You are never too old to learn and never too old to achieve." And yet his pride and joy has always been his family - his wife Louise and his son Stefan. Kevin is mourned, missed and loved by all those who have known him and worked with him at Robinson.

Professor Myles Burnyeat (1939-2019)

by Professor Malcolm Schofield



The death occurred last autumn of Myles Burnyeat, Fellow 1978-96, and Honorary Fellow 2006-19. He was a much loved and highly respected member of the Robinson community, which he joined from University College London.

Myles had gone to UCL in 1963 (after his undergraduate days in Cambridge at King's) to pursue graduate study with Bernard Williams in the philosophy department. UCL quickly appointed him to a lecturing position in 1964. He flourished, and soon became a leading figure in the study of ancient Greek philosophy on both sides of the Atlantic – his first visiting appointment in the USA came as early as 1970. But at UCL he had no colleague in Greek philosophy, despite a fruitful lecturing collaboration from 1970 with Richard Sorabji of KCL.

When a lectureship in the subject in the Cambridge Classics Faculty was advertised in 1977 he was tempted, since there he would be one of a team of colleagues all expert in that field. There were drawbacks. He would miss the philosophical stimulus and comradeship of his UCL colleagues, nor was he enamoured of the ethos of the more traditional Cambridge colleges; a not insignificant drop in salary looked likely. In 1977, however, Robinson was in its first year of existence as a college. Charles Brink, Chairman of the Trustees who oversaw its creation, was alerted to the possibility of recruiting Myles to the fledgling College's teaching strength. And in 1978 Myles joined both the Classics Faculty as University Lecturer and the Robinson Fellowship as Lecturer in Philosophy.

Myles relished being part of a small group of Fellows who took on the task of shaping from scratch a new and less hierarchical collegiate community, together with its physical embodiment and environment. I remember being his dinner guest early on, before any new buildings had been constructed, and the pleasure and pride he took in introducing me to other Fellows and in showing me beforehand Robinson's beautiful grounds. There was a wonderful family atmosphere, and good home cooking to match. Myles had spacious and comfortable rooms at 5 Adams Road. It was here that he gave graduate classes and undergraduate supervisions from a battered leather armchair he had brought with him from UCL, along with a no less battered small blue suitcase which housed books and papers in use. The rooms he shared precariously, as an inveterate pipe smoker (as well as snuff-taker), with his memorably enthusiastic mongrel Jenny, whom he carted around Cambridge on his bike in a knapsack.

He was elected to the Laurence Professorship of Ancient Philosophy from 1984, and in Robinson became Professorial Fellow. But Myles was always generous with his time. He continued to give undergraduate supervisions, and is warmly remembered by Robinson alumni whom he taught throughout all his years in the Fellowship. For him, as for his beloved Plato, dialogue or conversation was the very stuff of philosophy, as it is of the Cambridge supervision. His files eventually bulged with often protracted philosophical correspondence with a host of philosophers from all corners of the globe. He travelled a good deal, taking up a visiting appointment in Japan in 1980, the beginning of a strong continuing link particularly with Japanese Plato scholars. But it was Russia and Russian language and literature that had had him hooked since his national service days (he had qualified as a Russian interpreter in the Royal Navy). As soon as the Soviet thaw began, he initiated and by frequent visits fostered the philosophical links that I think meant most to him: with Russian, but also more broadly east European, scholars. Myles had a voracious appetite for expansion of his own horizons, but I think also a desire to support those trying to develop knowledge and understanding in contexts and countries where the resources for doing so have been less available than in the West.

After 12 years as Professor, Myles felt the need for a change, with more time to write and perhaps to stretch his philosophical legs beyond Classical antiquity more often. He moved in 1996 to a Senior Research Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, which he held and greatly enjoyed until retirement in 2006. Although productive in those years, and continuing after retirement too to live in Oxford with his partner Meg for much of the time, he retained his house and increasingly large library in Cambridge, which he always felt to be his intellectual home. Robinson elected him to a hugely appreciated Honorary Fellowship in 2006, and he was frequently in evidence in College from that time on. He was appointed CBE in 2007, and also got much pleasure from the award of an Honorary Doctorate by the University of St Andrews in 2012. But his health had been declining, and further deterioration continued until his death last September.

*Malcolm Schofield is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy and is a Fellow of St John's College, who has taught in Cambridge since 1972. He is probably best known for his co-authoring (with G.S. Kirk and J.E. Raven) of the second edition of *The Presocratic Philosophers* (Cambridge 1983). He was slightly acquainted with Myles Burnyeat in their undergraduate days. They argued fiercely with each other as graduate students. They were close colleagues from 1978-96. He is now involved in co-editing two further volumes of Myles's collected philosophical essays.*

Memories of Myles Burnyeat

by Caroline Shea

I was one of Myles' first students at Robinson, arriving to read Classics in 1980, but with a strong attraction in particular to ancient philosophy borne of studying Plato for Ancient Greek at A-level. Myles led our philosophy supervisions in that first year, and it was clear from the earliest sessions that a switch to philosophy, under his direction, would be a rewarding, not to say enchanting, academic adventure. He fully supported my application to do so at the end of the first year. I remember the excitement and pride with which I became a philosopher.

Supervisions with Myles were extraordinary, though not because of any grandiose gestures or academic pyrotechnics; there was no self-conscious, clichéd Cambridge don-ery from him. Quite the opposite: Myles' supervisions were oases of calm study, the piles of books on the floor, the paper strewn desk, and the pipe-puffing all adding to the focus, which was wholly directed to the subject matter, the thinking. To a keen young philosophical mind, his gentle encouragement to go deeper, to find the nuances, to articulate my passion for the subject, and the chance to be guided through the stumbling blocks, produced capsules of time of a quality I never experienced before or since. Myles supervised with quiet grace and kindness. Like the best of teachers, his thoughts were only

for our progress and welfare. His students were put under no undue pressure, and there was no sense that our achievement in the subject was required to enhance his own ego or professional credentials. Instead we were able to drink at the fountain of his unparalleled expertise and mental powers, as if it were our due, and he were merely the conduit.

I was not aware at that time quite how rare and exalted Myles' academic reputation was. Since then I have discovered his own place in the panoply of the gods of ancient philosophy, voted by his peers the single most influential ancient philosopher since WW2. I am glad I was not aware of the full extent of this; it would, I think, have overawed me, to the point of silence. Needless to say, Myles himself gave us no hint of his global academic superstar status.

His kindness and support continued after I graduated. Enthusiastic references were readily provided for a number of subsequent academic and professional forays, the most significant of which was my application to Falcon Chambers for a tenancy, when I became a barrister in the mid-1990s, and where I continue to practice.

I saw Myles only twice after I left Cambridge. In around 2010 I brought my then 17-year-old son to a philosophy alumni day at Robinson, and Myles presented a paper on whether the concept of human rights originated with the Ancient Greeks. Hearing his paper, I felt as though I had come home. My son (who was then taking philosophy A-level, and later studied Philosophy and English Literature) was enthralled. A second time, Myles and I had lunch in Chez Gerard in Chancery Lane. I remember Myles had given up pipe-smoking, replacing it with taking snuff. At that lunch I learned more of his life, his family, his thoughts and views; I basked in the warmth of the same grace and kindness I remembered from my undergraduate days.

At our graduation summer party, post finals in 1983, Myles revealed to me that King's College, which had been my first choice but which had put me into the pool, had subsequently asked for me to be released to them (they must have had a refusal or a deferral). Robinson refused the request. I had many reasons to be glad about that outcome. My time at Robinson had been very happy and fulfilling, and my activities in the wider university gave me friends and experiences across its fullest range. But way ahead of the many reasons I was glad to have spent my three years at Robinson was having had Myles as my Director of Studies. That was a gift, and a privilege, I would not have exchanged for anything.

It is a measure of Myles' lasting influence that I was devastated at the news of his death, in spite of having seen him so infrequently in the intervening 35 years. His influence on me far exceeds the countable minutes I spent in his presence. He somehow alchemised time itself; each supervision spent with him gave me access to an infinitely deep pool of knowledge, experience, learning, and profound intellectual pleasure. I am thankful, beyond any adequate words, that I was able to immerse myself in that deep pool, and for the pleasure and honour of having been taught by, and known, and been known by, Myles Burnyeat.

Caroline Shea QC studied Classics and Philosophy at Robinson from 1980 to 1983. After a career in management consultancy, she converted to study Law. She was called to the Bar in 1994 and in 1995 commenced practice at Falcon Chambers, specialising in property litigation. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2016. She married Alan Roberts in 1986, with whom she has three children (Holly, 29; Hamish, 27; Eleanor, 23). She lives in London and Dartmoor, and amuses herself walking Dartmoor, learning the cello, going to the theatre, and making prize winning damson vodka.

Christopher Land (1986–2020)



It with great sadness that we learned of the passing on 13 May 2020 of Christopher Land. Chris entered Robinson College in 2005 and graduated in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in 2009. Whilst at Robinson he captained our rugby team. Chris had just completed his first year of Law at the University of Edinburgh. He is greatly missed by his friends at Robinson.

Sir John Laws (1945–2020)



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on 5 April 2020 of Sir John Grant McKenzie Laws PC, Lord Justice of Appeal from 1999 to 2016. Sir John was the Goodhart Visiting Professor of Legal Science at the University of Cambridge from 2016 to 2017, and an Honorary Fellow of Robinson College. Sir John was a great friend of the College and spent many happy hours in the company of both Fellows and students, especially during his year as the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor in the Law faculty. He will be greatly missed. *Photo credit: Garlinda-Birkbeck*

Dr Brian Sloan, Robinson's Fellow in Law, remarked: "This is extremely sad news. Sir John was a legal giant, but also the kindest and most sociable of people. At Robinson we enjoyed his tenure as Goodhart Professor as much as he clearly did. He'll be much missed. Requiescat in pace." A full obituary of Sir John will be published in a forthcoming issue of Bin Brook.

Dr Mark Hayes (1956–2019)



Dr Mark Hayes passed away on 19 December 2019 at the age of 63. He became a Fellow of Robinson College in 2006 and Director of Studies in Economics in 2009. Mark was a founder of Shared Interest, an organisation providing loans and credit to help communities in the developing world to trade. He is very much missed by the Fellowship.

Dr Alex Morris (1947–2019)

Tribute delivered by **Dr Bill Nolan (Fellow of Robinson College)** on Saturday 1 February 2020 at the memorial service in Robinson College Chapel.

'I first met Alex around 2005 while I was a Tutor for the Land Economics here at Robinson and got to know her during my time as Senior Tutor and as a longstanding member of the SCR at Robinson.

I would like to begin this tribute with an observation: Alex always had time for others or rather she always made time for others.

Alex was a creature of habit and could be found pretty much every Saturday and Sunday morning in the SCR at Robinson. I'm also a creature of habit and am always in the SCR on Saturday and Sunday mornings and for the same reasons: coffee and cake (if there is any left) and to read the papers. We would sit at opposite ends of the SCR reading the papers: Alex the Guardian and Observer and me the Torygraph !! We would both fume out loud about the modern world etc. (from opposite ends of the political spectrum of course). Thankfully neither of us would comment on the others views...

This would usually be the pretext for us to have a chat.....and Alex loved to chat !!

Our conversations usually began with a good old moan.....the University was usually first on the list, then came our Departments then the colleges, and finally a good old moan about our students.....why can't they sort out supervision times? Why are they falling asleep in my supervision? Why can't they structure an essay? Why can't they do statistics???

But once our chat turned to the students...the entire tone of Alex's conversation changed. They were HER students. Yes they couldn't structure an essay but they hadn't been taught properly at school.....Yes, they were disorganised but they have so much work to do here.

They were her students and they were struggling. They needed support, guidance and encouragement and she would do something about it!!

And that is pretty much what she did.

continued...

As a supervisor Alex was often the first to contact a Tutor or DOS about a student. She noticed everything – a late piece of work, a missed supervision or simply the student not being their usual self in the supervision. Alex would always follow things up – are you OK? Email or ask their friend? Could she help?

Alex would always be ready to help and with practical, no-nonsense help – rearrange supervisions, postpone deadlines, catch -up sessions arranged at almost any time (hence the weekends in College – preparation for those afternoon catch-up sessions!!).

Her students responded to this. She would find the time to chat after supervisions and I think they confided in her and many other issues would come to light. Alex had a particularly soft spot for helping the Medics and Vets especially those facing the high pressure Part IA/IB exceptions. She would be there whenever needed to give extra help to those facing September resits.

Alex took great pride in seeing those medic and vet students through to graduation and made a great effort to be at their respective graduation ceremonies. Her greatest pleasure was I think with those who had struggled through at every stage but not given up.

Students confided in Alex because she always had time to chat - whatever she was doing she always had time or rather made time. Difficult to do in our very busy world, especially in our university.

Alex knew so many people in Robinson: all our Porters, Catering staff, SCR members and many more. And I'm pretty certain that was the same at the other colleges with which she was associated.

However, I'm not sure if any of us really knew Alex – she was a very private person and I believe she valued that privacy a great deal. I like to think that after a day's supervising, attending talks, concerts and dinners she would go off home for some peace and quiet after all that hustle and bustle.

I would like to take that thought and link the end of this tribute to the beautiful prayer of Cardinal Newman, which was written for the end of a busy day but which I think is very apt when the hustle and bustle of life draws to its close.....

So thank you Alex for giving so much of your time to others, time to listen and time to support, to guide and encourage so many many young people at the very start of their university careers here at Cambridge.

Thanks Alex.

May the Lord support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
And holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen'.

Professor Frank Rhodes (1927–2020)

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on 3 February 2020 of Professor Frank Rhodes at the age of 93. Professor Rhodes was an Honorary Fellow of Robinson College and a great friend and supporter of the College over the years. He was a distinguished palaeontologist and was the President of Cornell University from 1977 till 1995. He will be sorely missed by Robinson's members and fondly remembered for his invaluable support in the teaching of Music and English, especially during the early formative years of the College. *Photo credit: Cornell University File Photos*



Dr Mike Solomon (1967–2019)



Our good friend Mike Solomon will be remembered fondly by fellow Robinson and Cambridge colleagues from the late 1980s, not least for his profound calmness and compassion.

He joined the college as an undergraduate in 1986 to read Economics before switching to study Social and Political Sciences – precursors to a distinguished career as a Consultant Clinical Psychologist in London.

In his three years at Robinson, where contemporaries will recall he sported the finest Mick Jagger-style mullet, he was a stalwart of the college's soccer teams, renowned for his acrobatic feats in goal.

He was a keen observer of JSoc events, and his non-academic pastimes included drumming for an a capella band – 8 singers, bass and drums - which was booked for five May Balls. He was also the percussionist for the college production of Little Shop of Horrors, performed in the auditorium.

A room in no.6 Adams Road, and a somewhat cramped terraced house in Sturton Street (off Mill Road), were his accommodation for the 2nd and 3rd years, when local pubs such as The Dobbles Inn and a reggae venue near the railway featured regularly.

Cooking vegetarian meals for friends was another of his specialities, particularly lentil curries. However, the takeaway in Sturton Street eventually did a brisk trade in the spring of 1989 when he and his four housemates were revising for finals.

After graduation, Mike moved back to London and obtained a master's degree in social psychology at the LSE before working for a while at the King's Fund, analysing health policy.

Ever cerebral, he later completed a doctorate in clinical psychology at UCL before developing his career, with many accolades, as a clinical psychologist – a profession in which his talents as a non-judgemental listener and counsellor came to the fore. He obtained another master's degree from the University of East London in 2003, and later worked at the Tavistock Clinic. Through his work with people with learning disabilities, and with disadvantaged children and youths, he made a real difference to the lives of countless young people and their families in the Camden area.

Along the way Mike also got his own priorities right, marrying his beloved partner, Hilary. They had been teenage sweethearts. They made their home in East Finchley, enjoying a close community of friends and relatives nearby, across the capital, and abroad.

Mike's college-era passion for music and drumming proved irrepressible, resurfacing in later life when he joined a popular pub-gigging band, Sound of the Suburb, comprising a group of dads who had met through events at their children's school. He also enjoyed keeping fit, often swimming in the morning before work.

In 2016, Mike received a shock diagnosis of advanced lung cancer. Over the next few years when he was living with his illness, he still found the energy and time to meet frequently with Robinson colleagues - including Dave Clarke, Fiona Green, and Nigel Hanson, and Arasan Aruliah, formerly of St John's College - for exotic vegetarian meals at restaurants around London. Throughout this time, his resilience and positive attitude were an inspiration to those who knew him.

He is survived by Hilary, and his daughter and son, Rosie and Zack, and is missed by us all.

Tribute by **Nigel Hanson (Law, 1986)**

Dates for the diary

Our programme of events has been postponed temporarily because of the coronavirus pandemic, but please keep an eye on the events pages or our website, and on your email inbox, for further news.

robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events

Keeping in touch

Development Office
Robinson College
Cambridge
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:
www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/keep-in-touch

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W: www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/
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Souvenirs of Robinson College

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



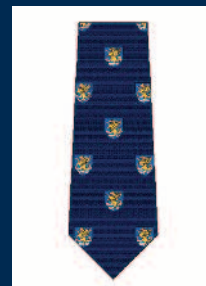
Bear



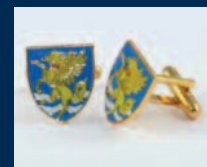
Mug



Port glass



Tie



Enamel cufflinks



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