

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



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Cover photo: Robinson and Selwyn's joint Women's Football Team, see page 26, courtesy of Miss Emma Altmann - Richer

Forthcoming Events for Members and Friends

- 25/3/17 - Alumni Buffet Lunch, visit to Lord Lewis Memorial Garden at Trumpington Meadows, Cambridge Science Festival
- 25/3/17 - Pegasus Society Seminar, AGM and Alumni Dinner
- 28/3/17 - Robinson in Asia Dinner, Hong Kong
- 29/4/17 - MCR - SCR Research Day
- 20/5/17 - MA Congregation and Lunch
- 16/6/17 - May Ball
- 30/6/17 - Graduation Dinner
- 5/7/17 - Annual Reception, The Armourers' Hall, London
- 23/9/17 - Reunion Dinner
(1982/1987/1992/1997/2002/2007)
- 5/11/17 - Commemoration of Benefactors Service and Supper
- 2/12/17 - Christmas Concert and Freshers' Parents' Lunch

Being an Ambassador by Samantha Benson (Geography, 2014)

What is the RGS-IBG Geography Ambassador Programme?

The Geography Ambassador Programme recruits, trains and supports undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate geographers from universities and organisations to act as Ambassadors for geography. Essentially, we, as Ambassadors, visit schools and sixth forms, and run sessions and activities designed to promote the study of geography and encourage students to pursue it beyond compulsory stages. We act as role models to students and we present fun, informative and interactive sessions that explore topics differently to the way they are often taught in school. The Ambassador Programme is voluntary and free for schools to take part.

The Programme was established in response to evidence, which suggested that young people and their teachers and careers advisors often failed to appreciate the relevance of studying geography. Since its inception in 2005 it has involved over 200,000 school children in sessions across the United Kingdom.

Why did I join the Programme and what have I done?

I joined the RGS-IBG Geography Ambassador Programme in January 2015, whilst in my first year. I welcomed the challenge of encouraging students (and often their parents) to take up geography and understand the benefits of it as a subject and I thought this would be a great way to talk about something that I was passionate about.

Whilst I was anxious about meeting the compulsory five visits quota in my first-year, I soon realised that this would not be a problem, as the sessions were so much fun to organise and run. After attending my first careers based session and hearing of the other sessions being run by ambassadors, I was inspired to organise more!

Since being on the Programme I have visited and worked with approximately 20 groups of students from 13-17 years old. I have participated in numerous careers fairs at an array of schools from St Charles Catholic Sixth Form to Dulwich College. I have also been invited to talk about my dissertation topic and the dissertation process at a 'Going Places with Geography' event at the Society. Some of my favourite visits have been those that involve fun activities, such as the famous 'rap battles'. Essentially, we encourage the children to consider issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals, or challenges of the 21st century, either by having an interactive presentation, or by getting them to guess the theme from an array of related items. We then ask them to write and perform a rap to their peers, complete with confidence and sass! It's such a fun session and really rewarding to see children engaging with complicated issues in an interesting

and less-than-usual way. We do this to encourage students to consider the broad range of topics that can be studied at GCSE, A-level and even university level.

How has the RGS Ambassador Programme been useful to me?

Most notably, the Programme has provided me with the opportunity to travel to other parts of the country whilst having fun with my friends. I have had a particularly great time going to schools with another Cambridge geographer and delivering presentations to young students. It's also been very helpful to use the Programme as a form of revision. When we are invited to visit older groups, I have run sessions very similar to the lectures I have experienced here at Cambridge, which has allowed me to brush up on some of the key theories and readings. It has also provided me with the opportunity to practice my presentation skills. Furthermore, it has encouraged me to learn new skills associated with teaching younger students, such as patience and having the ability to simplify hard theories.

Above all though, it has given me a great bunch of friends who are kind, fun and all share the same interests as me! It's been so lovely to hear experiences of studying geography at other universities and hearing about people's dissertation topics, as well as seeing what careers the Ambassadors have progressed into. The RGS Ambassadors are an incredibly supportive group of people, and I have had such a wonderful time sharing my experience as an Ambassador with them.

The Programme is immensely rewarding. I have received wonderful feedback from schools, and it really is heart-warming to see children engaged and responsive to a session, and then to see them have fun whilst discussing and presenting new and challenging geographical ideas. I am incredibly grateful to the RGS for the opportunities provided as part of the programme and I am pleased to see that the University of Cambridge continues to welcome the Programme and encourages students to sign up.

Photo: Samantha, holding letter "A", with other geography ambassadors and coordinators of the programme at a "Going Places with Geography" event, summer 2016, at the Royal Geographical Society.



'A Treasured Possession'

My life in Kenya and how my time at Robinson led me here

by Sophie Grant

Sophie Grant (née Mills, 2000)

owns and runs El Karama Lodge, an award-winning, intimate and family-friendly eco safari lodge in Laikipia, Kenya. Specialising in wildlife and walking safaris in Kenya's most private areas of wilderness including her own home, El Karama Ranch.

Laikipia, is a 3,385 square mile area of mixed habitat in the heart of Kenya, East Africa. Known for its incredible wildlife diversity, this region has had great successes in conservation and habitat stabilization through progressive management strategies and private- and public-sector initiatives.

It is now 13 years since I left Robinson and in the intervening years since leaving Nairobi where I was involved in eco-building and community training, I have set up a business in Laikipia, married and made a home with my husband Murray, a talented bronze sculptor, and together we have had two children, Archer (5) and Celeste (2).

My safari lodge business employs a permanent team of 15 local Kenyans to host and manage safari experiences for guests from all around the world. It is an affordable and intimate safari lodge (award-winning!) and is just one part of a much bigger habitat stabilization project – El Karama Ranch. El Karama means 'an answer to prayer' or 'a treasured possession'. *On a Kenya Ranch* and *A Small Piece of Africa*, by Lavinia Grant, describe the history and life of this piece of Kenya.

This 14,000 acre private, working livestock ranch with wildlife, has over 50 years of cattle breeding and wildlife protection under its belt.

The lodge brings around 2,000 bed nights a year to the property and contributes to wildlife monitoring programmes in Laikipia for the 80 mammal species and 427 bird species to date identified here. In addition to offering 'straight' eco tourism products, we also offer short courses, retreats, special events and a mentorship programme for young Kenyans. We welcome school children free of charge throughout the year to learn about self-sustaining private sector business, tourism, conservation, renewable energy (100% solar



powered we are!) and other interesting subjects that relate to our operations.

Guests can expect to see four of the Big Five including leopard, lion, hippo, buffalo, elephant, cheetah, reticulated giraffe, and northern species like gerenuk, Grévy's zebra and vulture guinea fowl. We are also extremely fortunate to see African hunting dogs, bat-eared foxes, aardwolf and the ever elusive armadillo! The only large mammal we don't have is rhino, but you can do a day trip nearby to see both black and white rhino.

Bush walks are a memorable way to explore this landscape. We walk a lot here, always armed, as the potential for encounters with cape buffalo and elephant here are quite high. We are trained to carry a .458 calibre rifle, which is essentially a 'buffalo gun'. The aim is not ever to have to use it, but it is a necessity and we wouldn't ever leave the lodge area on foot without it. I recently completed an advanced rifle-handling course in Kruger, South Africa, as part of my guide training, but I can safely say no blind loading drills or simulated charges will ever compare to the moment a buffalo charges you in thick bush!

With direct views of Mount Kenya and the Ewaso Nyiro river marking our western boundary, this high altitude, mixed habitat is a haven for naturalists. Forget the image you have in your mind of endless dusty, game drives and think rather of walking quietly in the bush with your binoculars, surrounded by browsing giraffe and feeling the sandy soil crunch under your feet. The narratives of the bush are everywhere; the tracks and signs, scat and spoor, if you know what to look for: a good guide can conjure up a fight between two male impala from a mere sliding track in the dust. Geology is also a huge part of the landscape we explore here. The property is located on the edge of a significant lava plateau, the result of Mount Kenya's active phase as a volcano. Walks can yield calcite deposits from ancient lake beds, worked obsidian and most enticingly, rare handaxes hewn by long-dead hunter-gatherers.

In addition to walks, we take guests on game drives, night drives, fly camping and bush meals, all of which are done at 2,000m right



on the Equator. Guests come back during the heat of the day to a gorgeous swimming pool: a pioneering technology and the first of its kind in Kenya. Our pool is chemical free/salt free and uses a de-ionising system with copper plates that kill bacteria in the water, making it ideal for guests and small insects and bird life too!

There is no phone signal or wifi in the lodge itself, just in our office, so people can have a real break from their lives at home. The sparkle comes back to all of us after a few days under the stars eating delicious food and falling asleep with the sound of elephant rumbling and lion calling in the distance.

The stars at night here are mind-blowing with no light pollution, and our proximity to the Equator makes it seem like we can see the curve of the Earth itself. A recent astronomy event we hosted showed guests perfect views of Mercury and Venus, the surface of the Moon and all the constellations including Orion's belt, which often used to sit above the apex of the chapel roof at Robinson when I sat in the dark watching the skies.

Although the wildlife and the birds are something we all marvel over, the people in Kenya are also a huge part of its attraction. Our team is made up of Kenyans from all over the country, half of whom built this lodge from scratch. Lovi came to dig a trench 11 years ago and now he is running the lodge as the Assistant Manager. Another member of the team Adan the 'askari', spent many years with my husband doing rhino security work in the North of Laikipia and saved his life from several vengeful rhino. He is now in charge of keeping our guests safe, because nobody is less afraid of an elephant at night than Adan.

It's a strange and visceral life we all lead here, full of challenges, never dull. We have had to adopt a fairly Zen attitude to change though, as the political landscape here is fluid and never predictable. Especially now when the natural resources of this country are being stretched to their absolute limit, which in turn makes the intrinsic value of wildlife and habitat insufficient to justify the conservation of large tracts of land for wildlife and biodiversity alone. This life is not for the faint-hearted nor is it for those stuck in their ways. To survive you have to be flexible, forward thinking and definitely not work shy.

I read English Literature at Robinson and back then it would have been hard to predict that this is what I would end up doing. I was not particularly confident and although I rowed for Robinson, sang in a band and studied very hard, I didn't spend time doing the things I had grown up doing: fishing, walking, bird watching. Term-time was for reading, writing and friends. At home in Wales on our farm I helped out with lambing in between writing dissertations. There never seemed enough time to do it all.

I am certain that my family life and my time at Robinson prepared me for what was to come. The rigours (and

insecurity) that come from placing oneself outside of a comfort zone, the adaptation skills and work ethic required to survive and flourish in a highly competitive and creative environment, gave me some serious foundations for what we face in this country today. I could not have done what I do without that part of my education. The people who come through this lodge: anthropologists, geologists, writers; I wouldn't have a clue how to relate to them had I not been exposed to all those wonderful ideas and people at Cambridge.

In English, we were always given the freedom to read, explore and discuss, we were rewarded for original thought and as much for the creative process as the results. I am extremely grateful to my tutors and also to the inspiring colleagues I had at Robinson (who were always far cleverer than I was, but who were unfailingly kind and encouraging). They have all gone on to do great things and I hope one day they will visit us out here on the wild side.

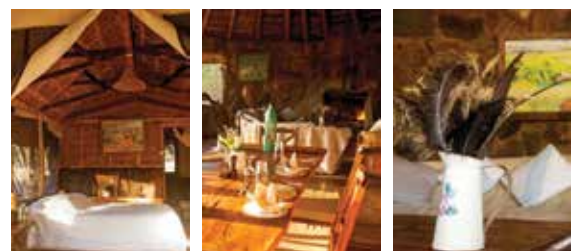
So don't worry if you leave College unsure of where you are going...the things you learn here at Robinson will come in useful in ways you could never imagine.

For safari information you can contact us directly on through www.laikipiasafaris.com or you can reach me (Sophie) direct on sophiemills16@gmail.com anytime.

All Cambridge alumni will be given special rates on all safari packages. Just ask for Sophie.



INFO FILE



Brickhouse Theatre Company – A Rising



Samantha Benson (2014), third-year Geography student and President of Brickhouse Theatre Company, 2016 - 2017.

At matriculation dinner in the Michaelmas term of 2014 I was fortunate enough to sit next to a Fellow who informed me that Robinson's own theatre company, Brickhouse, was being re-invigorated after some years of inactivity. It didn't take me long to find out more and get involved in expressing my ideas for the future of the theatre. In the two years since that dinner, Brickhouse Theatre Company has put on 12 shows, including two student pantomimes, three pieces of new student writing, two Gilbert and Sullivan shows, an opera and a French play, all under the presidencies of Luke Main (matriculated 2012) and Douglas Robinson (matriculated 2013). I have always been involved with the performing arts, and since arriving at Cambridge I've been fortunate enough to perform in the Week 5 Main Show at the ADC Theatre, *A New Musical* also at the ADC, the 2016 Magdalene Musical Performance Society show, *Godspell*, and with the Cambridge University Show Choir. Consequently, I had a very clear vision for Brickhouse Theatre Company when I took on the role as President in Michaelmas 2016. I wanted it to be a theatre that was accessible and inclusive, one which continued to support new writing, but that also put on bigger shows, that would, in turn, challenge the ADC as the sole 'hub' of Cambridge Theatre, which is often the impression that freshers have of the student theatre scene.

Our production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in Lent 2016 was just the start of this. It received some of the highest audience numbers of the year and provided new opportunities for students who hadn't yet delved into the theatre scene. It was off the back of this success, that the Brickhouse Committee 2016-17 began its ambitious year.

Michaelmas 2016 was an exceptionally successful term for Brickhouse. We secured over £9,000 from the RCSA to purchase new metrodeck for the stage, which continues to allow us to work with more adventurous staging and set design. There is also work underway to expand the space available in the Theatre Workshop to increase the storage for the May Ball and the Brickhouse Theatre Company and its expanding repertoire of shows. In future, we also hope to redesign the dressing rooms of the theatre.

We have welcomed more guests than ever into the theatre. Nearly 1,500 attended last term and it was a real pleasure to see so many families at the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Many of the children were experiencing their first ever trip to the theatre and we received excellent feedback about the level of care taken to provide for all guests. We had a fifteen-member children's choir from the local Stagecoach Group supporting the production.

We were also very pleased to be in touch with a number of Robinson alumni. Notably, the Brickhouse President of 1999-2000 (**Anna Vaughan 1997**), who since went on to work for the National Theatre, came to see *Joseph*, and discussed the possibility of more alumni coming to productions in the future. It was so lovely to hear that she had been eagerly following our progress on the Brickhouse website.

Furthermore, Brickhouse Theatre Company is no longer financially restricted in the shows it can perform. Last term we increased our assets by 83%, having made nearly three-and-a-half times more profit than in Michaelmas 2015. This money is being reinvested into shows and the improvement of the theatre facilities. We have already been able to purchase a new sound mixing desk, to improve the sound quality of the musicals we perform as well as the rights for four well-known productions.

Finally, as well as increasing the number and quality of shows, and increasing audience numbers, we have remained committed to providing opportunities for Robinson students. Last term, we saw **Luke Dell (2015)** take on a new role as Director of *Joseph*, and the Musical Director and lead role of 'Joseph' were both also filled by Robinson students (**Anthony Gray** and **Harry Normanton 2014**). The upcoming *Songs for a New World* is also being directed by Robinson undergraduate, Anastasia Raymond (matriculated 2014). In addition, the Brickhouse Committee itself has grown to a total of nine students, having created additional roles for a Secretary and two Front of House Managers. The number of Robinson students involved in the theatre as Front of House staff has also expanded.

This term we welcome another four shows: Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World*, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem* and the nostalgically entertaining *Back to the 80s* musical.

g Star in the Cambridge Theatre Scene

by Samantha Benson

Looking ahead, Brickhouse has lots of ambition. We want to continue to provide a minimum of eight shows a year, including two musicals. We want to remain open to new students wishing to showcase new skills and new writing. We want to continue to mark ourselves on the Cambridge Theatre Map and encourage prospective students to see Robinson as a hub of extra-curricular and theatrical activity. Most of all, we want Brickhouse Theatre Company to continue to provide fun, inclusive and new opportunities for Cambridge students, and leave a legacy of good theatre behind us.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to extend our gratitude to all those who engaged with the theatre during Michaelmas and Lent terms. We thank you for your continued support. I hope to welcome return visitors back again in future, and invite everyone else to come and see the excellent range of shows available.

Tickets for our upcoming shows can be purchased here:
<https://brickhouse.tessera.info/>

Keep up to date with Brickhouse Theatre Company and our current shows via our website and our social media channels:

Website: www.brickhouse.soc.srcf.net/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrickhouseTC/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/brickhousetc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/brickhousetc/

Photo: Recent productions including: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Vanessa*, *Cymbeline*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Rover*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Peter Pan*, *Brickhouse Comedy Night*.



The Bard Abroad

by Toby Marlow

‘When I was at home I was in a better place; but travellers must be content’

(*As You Like It*: Act 2, Scene 4)



Toby Marlow (2014) is a third-year English undergraduate. He is a member of Pembroke Players, founded in 1955 and run by the students of Pembroke College. The company stages over 25 drama and comedy productions a year. It is the only college drama society to run its own international tours.

For many English-speaking people, Shakespeare can sound like a foreign language. The extinct words, outdated colloquialisms and nonsensical word order, not to mention the lengthy plots with their convoluted subplots, can often alienate modern readers and audience members. Personally, I didn’t “get” Shakespeare until I was eighteen during my final year of school, and even after almost three years of studying, performing and composing music for Shakespeare plays at Cambridge, I’ll still find myself mid-play stopping to think ‘I genuinely have no idea what’s been going on for the past five pages’. Bless you, Sparknotes. However, imagine, or perhaps remember, going to see a production of Shakespeare in a foreign language that you don’t speak, or hearing a group of students perform a play for you in your own language but in a plethora of their own native accents without any context, translation or plot summaries from Sparknotes (God forbid!). Having now performed Shakespeare on three international tours, in the USA, Switzerland and Japan, I’ve realised that you don’t need a BA in English and an endlessly-studied collection of his complete works to understand a Shakespeare play, and you don’t need to have trained at RADA and be a lifelong member of the RSC in order to act it comprehensibly. Shakespeare does all of that work for you in his language, so that language itself doesn’t have to be a barrier. But more about that later.

Believe it or not, performing Shakespeare in different countries is a completely different experience each time. Communicating Shakespeare was the hardest in the only fully English-speaking country out of the three, the USA.

This was by no means anything to do with the students themselves or the quality of their education, the situation was different in every place we went to. Over a month, we travelled from the south to the north of the East Coast, from Florida up to Rhode Island, and we performed in a range of academic environments, from very young children up to Ivy-League university students, but mostly middle school students; some had studied several plays in class, some had never heard Shakespeare before in their lives. What was challenging about the production was the nature of the play itself. We performed *The Taming of the Shrew*, a play consistently featuring misogyny, mental and physical domestic abuse, and ultimately the female protagonist submitting to the will of her abusive husband and imploring the young women around her to do the same – it was shocking even for its time. It’s a highly problematic play, made even more problematic when performed today, made even more problematic when set in the 80’s between second and third-wave feminism, made even more problematic when performed as a farce. The director decided to do it as in 80’s farce in order to make it less horrific for the younger audiences, therefore the domestic abuse became a game of wits between Petruchio and Kate, which otherwise would have been inappropriate. *The Taming of the Shrew* is one of Shakespeare’s hardest plays to understand; there are so many subplots and disguises, there is so much fast-paced and outdated banterous dialogue between the protagonists, and our production made this all so much quicker due to the farcical approach. We had workshops after the performances to discuss the context of the play and the issues that a modern performance raises. These were difficult discussions to have with the younger students, particularly because I was playing Petruchio, the abuser. In this case, I learned that despite the fact that we were in an English-speaking country performing to bright students, it was the hardest play to communicate, as sometimes even though the language is dated, it is the outdated subject-matter that proves untranslatable.

The show for the European tour was far less challenging to communicate to our audiences than the American, and again, this was to do with nature of the production. We performed *Hamlet*, and even though it’s a play with a lot, and I mean a lot, of impenetrable existential soliloquising, there were a lot of elements to our production that made it exciting for school children. Firstly, the famous lines – every time our Hamlet came on stage for ‘To be or not to be’ or every time he shouted ‘Get thee to a nunnery’, there were so many excited giggles and shush from the audience due to their collective recognition of the best-known

collection of words in the English language. Secondly, the plot – *Hamlet* is fairly slow-moving and without too much subplot, so when we cut away the chaff so that plot took precedent, the story was easy to follow. Every time Gertrude unknowingly drank from the poisoned cup, there was a unanimous gasp of horror from the whole room. Thirdly, the aesthetic – our production was visually and audibly entertaining due to the director's concept. It was set on a boat during the Napoleonic war, so there was a giant wooden mast surrounded by crates, period costumes, dramatic blue lighting, and live music in the form of sea shanties and folk dances that I composed for the show. All of these elements maintained the interest of the students throughout. On this tour, some of the students barely spoke English, and some were bilingual, but due to focus on the production elements, the show was successfully communicated.

Unexpectedly, the easiest tour in which to communicate a Shakespeare play was in Japan with *Romeo and Juliet*. The majority of our audiences had very minimal understanding of the English language, if any at all. However, one must bear in mind that the story of *Romeo and Juliet* is well-known in Japan and there are many Japanese literary and cinematic adaptations, and the plot of the play itself is the simplest of the three plays; two households both alike in dignity, with a couple of star-crossed lovers. Unlike the other two plays, the production values were low and the dramatic concept was simple, taking place at a modern birthday party, with only a couple of balloons and fold-away table with a cake and snacks for the set. The reason the production was so successful with our audiences was due to the language of the play and the way we were told to perform it. Our director taught us about verse performance, how there didn't need to be any other distractions happening on stage, as language was the most important thing. We practiced saying the lines in their natural iambic rhythm and not shying away from the metre, and as a result this brought the pulse of the words to life. This heartbeat throughout all of Shakespeare's plays rises above the language, so that anyone can feel the drama of the lines. We also focused on bringing out the antithesis and consistent contrast in the lines; speaking to audiences after the shows, they said that although they didn't understand most of the words, they often knew what the actors were saying in their lines, as they heard the conflict and the changes in the speed of the pulse. By keeping this pulse and this conflict at the centre of our performances and delivering the lines at a fast pace, even though there was less visual stage business, the audiences had a greater understanding of the characters and their emotions, simply by feeling the language.

These three tours have really communicated to me the genius of the Bard, and how the meaning of his words isn't necessarily constrained to the language in which they were written, but in fact the way in which his plays were written means that they speak to everyone. I still use *Sparknotes* though.

Photos (left to right: : Petruchio (Toby) and Kate in Japan, Hamlet at a Danish Tavern in Europe, Meal with students in Japan, Posing in Tokyo, Post show Q&A in the USA, Shakespeare in Central Park, New York, The Pembroke Players in Brussels, With students in Japan.



Peak Communism - Tajikis



Cambridge, one from Glasgow) who would travel to Kyrgyzstan in the summer of 2015, with the aim of summiting an unclimbed peak. Will already had significant experience of high-altitude mountaineering, having previously summited two 7,000m peaks in Central Asia (Peak Lenin and Peak Korzhenevskaya). Cameron, however, had absolutely no experience at this point, and so his Russian skills were a crucial part of his selection to take part in the expedition, as he would act as the team's interpreter. It also seemed appropriate to travel to the former Soviet Union given his academic interest in the area – a chance to combine two of his greatest passions: climbing and foreign languages. The team was successful, making the first ascent of a 5,023m peak, naming it Nutcracker Peak. This then led to bigger plans and the idea for an ascent of Peak Communism in 2016.

Cameron Holloway (2013), above left, is currently in the final year of his Modern and Medieval Languages degree. He is keeping up his climbing with trips to Spain, Scotland, and the Peak District, before a long trip to Chamonix in the French Alps in the summer, where he hopes to climb a large number of harder routes to improve his alpine climbing skills for future expeditions to the Greater Ranges. He is undecided on his plans for after graduation, but is currently very tempted by a gap year, which would probably involve as much travelling and climbing as possible.

Will Kernick (2013, Theology, Downing College), above right, is working for a hedge fund as part of a gap year. He is saving up and training before two exciting expeditions in the summer: the first to Alaska to attempt the Cassin Ridge, a famously hard route on Denali, the highest mountain in North America; and the second to Peru, where he hopes to climb a new route on either Caraz II or Siula Chico in the Cordillera Blanca range. He is also applying to the Royal Marines, which he hopes to join in September 2017.

In the summer of 2016, Cameron and Will set out on a five-week expedition to Tajikistan, where they would attempt to summit Ismoil Somoni Peak (more commonly known by its previous name of Peak Communism), which at 7,495m, is the world's 50th highest mountain and the highest outside the Himalayas.

The pair met in their second year at Cambridge, when they both joined a team of four students (three from

Cameron writes: on 15th July, Will and I boarded the plane hugely excited for the trip ahead, when we would attempt to become the youngest British team to summit Peak Communism (7,495m). After a day in a hotel in Dushanbe, we headed off the next morning. The journey was an interesting experience, with rocky roads, dodgy Tajik music, faulty brakes, and a door that had to be held shut by the driver's son. But we did finally get to Djirgital, where, after a two day wait due to weather conditions, we took a helicopter to base camp (4,300m).

The next few days were spent acclimatising on nearby Peak Chetiroch (6,200m), before returning to base camp to prepare for our assault on Peak Communism. With the alarm set for midnight, it was never going to be the best night's sleep, and this was not helped by the sound of two enormous avalanches crashing down our prospective route just two hours before we were due to set off. Luckily it all went smoothly and, after nine hours of slogging, we found what we thought was a great camp spot. Unfortunately, it actually turned out to be a terrible spot, as it was tiny, very cold, and exposed to huge waves of spindrift. We therefore woke up feeling slightly worse for wear and Will's day did not improve from there, with frozen boots, a snapped pole and a crampon-ripped trouser leg. He soon cheered up after some food and water at our next camp (5,900m), but high winds meant that the next day would have to be a rest day. We then squeezed in 500m the following day in a short weather window before another fun-filled day in our sleeping bags. The highlight (or lowlight) was my spilling a litre of water, carefully avoiding my own sleeping bag and drenching Will's! The next day the weather was much better, so we headed

stan 2016

with Cameron Holloway and Will Kernick

up to 6,850m, where we established our final camp. We got an early night, hoping to summit the next day. However, our plans were completely thrown out the window by the events of that night. At around half past eight we heard footsteps outside our tent. Curious, I looked out and saw a lone climber, whom I beckoned round to the front of our tent. It was an old Iranian man, hypothermic, with no head torch, severely dehydrated and very confused. We decided we had no choice but to take him into our tent, where we warmed him up and gave him water and food. Unfortunately, Abdi (that was his name) took up most of the space, with me and Will left squashed against the sides of our tiny tent. This led to a cold and sleepless night, whilst Abdi slept soundly. At about 4 in the morning, he woke up and announced 'I sleep very well!' We had decided we would take him down to base camp, but Abdi had other ideas. He protested strongly, saying, 'I very good. I go to summit.' A very long and tedious argument ensued, lasting three whole hours. In this time, we had decided that he must have cerebral oedema, as nobody in his right mind could want to go up after the sort of near-death experience he had had the previous night. We therefore gave him a variety of pills and waited for him to see sense. However, he just became more animated and started trying to force his way past us out of the door. Soon, we realised that we would have to let him go, especially as he clearly wasn't ill, just an idiot. We gave him a litre of water and some chocolate bars and watched carefully as he left the tent, still not quite believing what we were seeing.

Exhausted from a night of no sleep, we were forced to take a rest day. At that altitude we struggled to sleep and recovery was almost impossible. At about 5 in the afternoon, Abdi returned, but our relief turned to disbelief as he asked to come in our tent again! We told him he could go and find his own tent spot, but did watch carefully to check that he was competent enough to put up his tent.

Finally, rid of Abdi, we were free to concentrate on our summit attempt the next day. At 3 in the morning, we set out and for the first half hour it went well. That was until Will was struck by diarrhoea - hardly the ideal time at almost 7,000m, in temperatures below -30 degrees. What followed is probably best left to the imagination, but the result was that Will got extremely cold, and fearing the possibility of frostbite, we were forced to return to the tent to warm up. We didn't venture out again until half past seven, once the sun had risen, but we still both suffered from pretty cold hands and feet. This time we made it further, about two hours, before the

dreaded stomach rumblings struck Will again, at 7,050m. He sensibly made the tough decision that he was too weak to carry on, but we both agreed that I should still try to reach the summit. Unfortunately, whereas the day before we had planned to go with two other pairs, today nobody else was attempting the summit and the tracks from the previous day had been erased by the wind. This left me breaking trail alone for five hours, leading to painstakingly slow progress kicking my way up the slope towards the summit ridge. Eventually, with my pace slowing to snail-like proportions and the clouds coming in, I realised I was fast running out of time to get back before nightfall, and that even if I could reach the summit, I would be left with little strength or light to get down. Consequently, at 7,250m I turned around and headed down, retracing my footsteps through the falling snow. Now in a whiteout, I was relieved to finally reach the top of Peak Dushanbe (the subsidiary peak) and catch a glimpse of our tent, before collapsing into the tent where we both had a long night's sleep.

Fortunately, Will felt a lot better in the morning, which was good because I was feeling battered, bruised, and mentally exhausted after my ten-hour battle the day before! It was therefore a very slow start, but Will led us down through deep snow. Luckily it didn't take long to get down to the plateau. We then faced the irritating trudge back up Peak Semyenova and, as the snow came in, we decided to camp at the top of the peak, before descending the next day. We eventually arrived back in camp around 7 in the evening, after ten days on the mountain, just in time for some free dinner from the base camp staff. After a couple of days in basecamp, then in the capital Dushanbe, it was time to head home. Not a successful trip in the way we hoped, but certainly an eventful and exciting one. Peak Communism, **we WILL be back!**



Ethical trekking in Tanzania

with Trekking MAD



Jonathan David Mills (1985) studied Veterinary Medicine at Robinson. Recently he has personally funded the start-up costs of a not-for-profit trekking company in Tanzania, set up with the intention of earning revenue to support socially responsible projects, like education for disadvantaged kids in the Kilimanjaro/Meru areas.

I read Veterinary Medicine at 'Binson back in the day, and I was one of the furniture pyromaniacs mentioned in Mike Bearpark's "Burning Shed" reminiscences in the Lent 2015 edition of *Bin Brook*. After graduating, I spent a few years in mixed practice trying to find myself, and then a few more with PDSA. Between jobs, marriage and family, I've spent as much time as I could enjoying wilderness adventures and playing soldiers. In 2011 I finally got tired of being told what to do and co-founded West Midlands Referrals, a predominantly surgical referral practice in Lichfield offering a quality service at an affordable price.

I have enjoyed mountaineering for decades, and in recent years I've taken my son with me (see top photo on p. 13). When he was 12 we climbed Mont Blanc and, in 2015, we shared a simply wonderful trek up Kilimanjaro. We started at 1,700m in steaming jungle and climbed above the tree line and the clouds into bush land bathed in crisp sunshine. Rocky paths wound through the Alpine desert zone and on past the retreating glaciers, to the ash cone of the dormant volcano. Sunrise on the summit at 5,900m, a riot of red, was nothing short of spectacular. We were humbled by how hard the locals worked at serious altitudes with woefully inadequate kit for subsistence wages, while first-world trekkers minced around in their Gortex and gluttonous first world companies reaped the profits. The porters carried heavy, awkward loads, often balanced on their necks or heads. Most wore old trainers; few had waterproofs or sleeping bags, and fewer still had much hope of a better life ahead. Our guide, Nelson, a consummate professional with 25 years of experience on the mountain, constantly worried that everything was to our satisfaction – one client with a bad attitude complaining to the head office of the trekking company could seriously jeopardise a guide's future work opportunities.

I mulled over the conundrum of how to help poor, disadvantaged people to help themselves. Giving hand-outs just promotes dependency culture. Back in the UK, in a burst of altruistic enthusiasm worthy of a naïve 18-year-old fresher, I decided to do something

positive. I set up Trekking MAD (to Make A Difference), a not-for-profit trekking company registered in Tanzania with a sister company registered in the UK. I funded the company start-up costs, shipped a pile of tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, mattresses and the like to Tanzania, and spent many hours setting up a website, www.trekkingmad.com. With the help of the Tanzanian High Commission in London I recruited a Tanzanian engineering graduate, Sara, to run the company. She had impeccable references and a track record of running local NGOs and managing budgets. Nelson was only too happy to jump at the chance of managing the mountain operation.

Trekking MAD generates income by taking trekkers up Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru. We are committed to equipping and caring for our staff properly and to investing 100% of our profits into the local community. While we pay our staff well, we are mindful that violent inflation will not help the local economy, and nor will making non-skilled work look more attractive to Tanzanians than pursuing further education and skilled employment. Consequently, we pay standard local rates plus the equivalent of the usual tips plus 20%. The aim of Trekking MAD is not to make any individual rich, but rather to make the whole community richer. We think that the most efficient means of usefully dispersing funds in the local community is to support well-established NGOs with a proven track record. In time, Trekking MAD intends to expand its support to include medical NGOs, but the first NGO that we identified for our support is the Excel Education Foundation Tanzania (EEFT), which provides education support for disadvantaged children in the Kilimanjaro area (see bottom photo on p. 13).

In 2016 EEFT helped 30 children to get hospital treatment for ophthalmic problems. There are dozens more children in the locality of Kilimanjaro in urgent need of help for eye problems which limit their education. The principal factors are malnourishment and the limited availability and relatively high costs of vision services and glasses. Ayubu, a 13-year-old, had been blind in one eye his whole life and he was finding reading progressively more difficult as his remaining eyesight deteriorated. He lived with his aunt and he was terrified about what the future held for him. With only \$40 per month and three other children to look after, she simply could not afford medical treatment. But with the help of EEFT, Ayubu received a successful surgery and his sight is improving every day.

Tanzania has good initial enrolment of girls and boys in primary education, but many students, especially girls, soon drop out. The Tanzanian government tries to keep education affordable, but the numerous fees for tuition and contributions for watchmen, school furniture, uniforms etc rule out education for many children. EEFT sponsored 75 children in 2016 to keep them in education and, with Trekking MAD support, they are sure to reach more. Monica, an articulate and academically able kid, was one of the children helped by EEFT in 2016. Her mum was terminally ill with an abdominal malignancy. Treatment for this was not a financially viable option and Monica became an orphan at the age of 10. Before this happened, EEFT helped provide food for Monica and her mum and transport when walking became impossible for the poor lady. As the end approached, Monica's mum knew that the continuing support from EEFT would allow Monica to be able to continue in education after her passing. Monica now lives with her aunt and a cousin. They can give the support of family and a roof over Monica's head, but they would never have been able to afford her schooling if it hadn't been for the ongoing help of EEFT.

By the careful targeting of relatively small sums of money and effort at key points in the lives of disadvantaged children like Monica and Ayubu, Trekking MAD hopes to make a real difference to their development and to the communities that they could grow to serve and lead. The Tanzanian government, under its new president John "The Bulldozer" Magufuli with his refreshing anti-corruption reputation, should provide a good environment for this kind of socially responsible investment to be effective.

We take trekkers of all ages and abilities, but we particularly welcome families with teenagers and youngsters doing school expeditions and gap-year adventures. These are the young minds we want to influence, and for those who are interested, there is the opportunity to spend time - a day or more - getting directly involved. Simply sitting and listening to kids read English is an incredibly useful contribution because, as things stand, at the end of primary education only 1/10 Tanzanian children can read basic English and only 3/10 children can read basic Swahili.

Our website has comprehensive information on choosing and preparing for a trek on Mounts Kilimanjaro or Meru. We recommend the popular Machame route from the southwest and the peaceful Lemosho route from the west for their fantastic scenery and excellent acclimatisation profiles. We offer treks of 7 days or more on Kilimanjaro rather than shorter expeditions, unless we are completely satisfied that clients will have pre-acclimatised, for example by climbing Mount Kenya or Mount Meru. This is because we want our clients to have the best chance of acclimatising well and of getting to the summit, healthy and happy, without the headaches or worse that can come with climbing too high, too fast. Mounts Kilimanjaro or Meru can be scaled by anyone who is reasonably

healthy and has a bit of determination. There is absolutely no need for successful summiteers to be fitness fanatics or to submit themselves to punishing training schedules. This is a great place for families with teenagers to have some "soft" adventure that begs to be combined with world class safari and fantastic beach holiday extensions. We use all our profits to support the local community.

So why this article in Bin Brook? Well, we'd like your help and support. To get this project well and truly off the ground we need to generate publicity and interest. Please consider us for your up-coming holidays and spread the word of what we are trying to achieve amongst your social networks and to the expedition organisers at your children's schools. I hope that in years to come I will look back and be mightily proud to have trusted my two very capable Tanzanian colleagues and empowered them help themselves and their communities.

if you fancy a great trek up Mounts Kilimanjaro or Meru with friends or family or even old 'Binson mates, and wants to help the local people who only wish for opportunities to create a better life for themselves and their families, check out www.trekkingmad.com.



Engineers Without Borders U



Richard Sargeant (2002), read Social and Political Sciences at Robinson and co-founded Engineers Without Borders (EWB) UK in 2001 whilst studying at Cambridge. Currently, Richard is a Director at ASI Data Science, leading their growing consulting practice.

In 2001, at the original suggestion of Parker Mitchell, a graduate of mechanical engineering and the co-founder and former co-CEO of Engineers Without Borders (Canada), a group of students at Cambridge University laid foundations for Engineers Without Borders UK. One of the group, Richard Sargeant, who was studying Social and Political Sciences at Robinson College at the time, became a co-founder and one of the first directors of Engineers Without Borders UK. Richard says the time he spent developing that organization between September 2001 and February 2003 was one of the most exciting and fascinating chapters of his life. He has always believed that the right skillsets, imagination, and a positive drive can kindle and fuel local and global transformation. Engineering has always been key to that transformation, to human development that would facilitate a positive change to the world we live in.

Engineering was to be the catalyst between people and technology to initiate improvements to human condition and the environment. And yet it is not only about technology. Engineers embody a creative application of service to solve problems for people, to improve the lives of people under varied geo-political and social circumstances. Engineers need to be good at interacting with people of different cultures and traditions. Richard saw in university students the potential for developing and nurturing such understanding of people, of a social context to an engineering undertaking. Universities have a task and a goal to prepare students of engineering to work anywhere in the world with the understanding and appreciation of sometimes complex contexts to projects,

where they could apply that engineering knowledge not only to solve engineering tasks, but especially to tackle social issues they come across when working outside their country. At the very beginning of EWB UK, Richard and other co-founders, volunteers and enthusiasts worked with several NGOs, private companies and businesses to raise funds for their activities. They established partnerships with universities across the UK to ensure engineering students had a chance to learn about how and why to create change. Those partnerships and the awareness of the key role engineering plays in effecting positive change in a world, are growing through student-run chapters of EWB-UK. The aim is to educate a new generation who have the knowledge and opportunity to be globally responsible citizens today and globally-responsible engineers of tomorrow.

Engineers Without Borders UK believe that people everywhere deserve a world where they can achieve their potential and lead happy, healthy lives. Their vision is a world where people everywhere have equal access to the benefits of engineering and work towards this by leading a movement that inspires, enables and influences global responsibility through engineering. Through the work of their members and volunteers, a network of students and professionals from across the UK who organise local events, they are creating a new generation of globally-aware engineers, who are well equipped to face the challenges that the global community encounters, now as well as in the years and decades to come.



Stephanie Brown (2011), read Manufacturing Engineering at Robinson and was Cambridge Brand President of Engineers Without Borders 2013 - 14.

The principles of EWB are as follows: to enable partner organisations, people and communities to use and develop their engineering capabilities to address global challenges, to inspire students, educators and engineers at all levels about the principles and

UK - global responsibility

potential of ethical, environmentally sound and culturally sensitive engineering, to influence the engineering community to lead by example and make a positive contribution to the world as responsible global citizens. In my role as Cambridge branch president 2013-14, I encountered first-hand how young engineers benefit from the organisation at a student society and UK level.

As part of the enablement of its members and partners, each year EWB UK offers 6-12 month placements in developing countries with key local organisations in a variety of engineering areas. These are in high demand; only the most suitable graduates are selected for placements. For students looking for involvement in overseas projects, university branches also fundraise for their own EWB UK-approved projects, such as the Cambridge-Cameroon project, which ran from 2010-2013, and gave a number of students the opportunity to implement WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) practices in remote Cameroon in partnership with the charity OK Clean Water. Primarily to equip the volunteers, but also open to other members, EWB provides training at a UK and a branch level to give the skills for tackling complex issues with appropriate technology. Additionally, the national Design Challenge offers students the chance to use their ingenuity and creativity to solve a real problem: a rare opportunity for students on more theoretical engineering courses. Unlike at some universities, such as Imperial College London, the Challenge is not yet run within the curriculum at Cambridge, but in 2013 Cambridge students competed in teams against other university branches to propose the most appropriate sustainable development initiative for a community in Timor Leste. These experiences not only teach invaluable practical skills and problem solving in difficult environments, they also open doors to those seeking a career in international development.

I was originally attracted to EWB for the opportunities it provides all over the developing world, but in my experience it also gives the students involved in the Cambridge branch valuable experiences and inspires others much closer to home. A huge success within the Cambridge branch is the Outreach Programme, which sees student volunteers lead workshops within local primary schools and community groups, such as the Scouts. By teaching children about engineering and sustainable development early in their education, EWB helps to instill the idea that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers are an interesting option, and also raises awareness of global issues in an engaging way. Alongside this, I personally saw students grow in confidence and take a valuable break from their studies to help out at events in the Cambridge community.

Finally, the EWB network is key in influencing the path of many young engineers and it gave me the chance to meet fascinating and inspiring professionals, who have used their skills to have a significant and positive impact on communities in the developing world. This was through talks and events organised by the branch and at the EWB UK conferences, where I also met students from other universities who were starting their careers with similar aspirations.

I am confident that my involvement in EWB at university will shape my career. I matriculated in 2011 and graduated in 2015 and after a year at a management consultancy specialising in Procurement, I am now the Ops and Logistics Manager for Rebel Kitchen. A growing FMCG (Fast-moving Consumer Goods) start-up, Rebel Kitchen makes organic coconut 'mylks', water and yogurt, with the aim of promoting sustainable business practices throughout its supply chain.

"We, after all, are the architects of the urban world...Looking down on this great metropolis, the ingenuity with which we continue to reshape the surface of the planet is striking. But it's also sobering. It reminds me of just how easy it is for us to lose our connection with the natural world. Yet it's on this connection that the future of both humanity and the natural world will depend. It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create the planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on earth." (Sir David Attenborough)



Updates, announcements and Births

Keith Bailey (1997) and his wife Sonja are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Iva, who was born on Keith's birthday, 30th January, 2016.



Rory Campbell (1993): "Our third little girl was born In May 2016: Lúcia!"



Lisa Colbear (née Marley, 1999) and her husband David are delighted to announce the birth of Zachariah Alexander on 10th May 2016. Georgina is very pleased with her new baby brother.



Gill Davies (née Webb, 1998) and Barney Davies (Jesus 1998) had a baby boy, Ryan Benjamin Davies, on 13th October 2016. Their daughter Carla, who is almost 3, is loving her new role as big sister!



Andrew and Laura Ewart (both 2002) welcomed their daughter Arianne Caila Ewart on 6th May 2016. They are living in north London and always enjoy hearing from Robinson friends.

Vicky Ford (née Howard, 1995) and Martin Ford are delighted to announce the arrival of Amelia May on 5th May 2016. Sophie is a very proud big sister!



Sian Knight (1996) and Darren Farmer welcomed their first child, Joshua James, to the world on 25th August 2016, weighing in at a healthy 10lb 2oz.



Jo (1998) and Matt Luscombe (1996) welcomed Cassandra (Cassie) to the world on 7th February 2016, a little sister for Theo, who turned three in April.



Neil Maurice (2001) is delighted to announce that in July 2016 "we had a son, Elichai Micha, a baby brother for Eliora, Elisha and Eliav. Without wasting time, we then emigrated 3 weeks later on 24th August 2016 to Ra'anana, Israel where we now live. Feel free to come visit!

Sarah Moreau (2004) and Jack Schennum are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Maia Moreau-Schennum on the 21th July 2016. She's awesome.

Michael Napper (1989) and Claire are delighted to welcome Emily, a baby sister for 2-year-old Jack.

d College news

Megan Pearson (2004) and **Graham Allsop (1995)** are delighted to announce (slightly belatedly!) the birth of Theophilus (Theo) on 12th September 2015. His godparents, **Chris Singleton (2004)**, **Kate Browne (2004)** and **Ashley Young (1995)**, are all Robinsonians.

Richard Pygott (2003) announces: "Our son, Edward John Islwyn Pygott was born on 28th April 2016 in the JR, Oxford. He weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and is an absolute delight."



Adam (2004), right, and Sara **Scott** are very pleased to have had their first child, Melissa Estella Scott, born on 27th October 2016



Jen Toll (née Rolfe, 2003) and her husband Ed, welcomed baby Rosie to the world on 12th March 2016.

Charlotte Whitaker (2003) and her husband, Matthew, are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Oliver, who joined them in September 2015.

Daniel Workman (1997) and his wife Helen were delighted to welcome the safe arrival of their second child - a daughter, Katherine (Katie) Jane, in February 2016 at Bedford Hospital. Katie enjoys sleeping, milk, and smiling at her big brother James.

Marriages, engagements and anniversaries

Thomas Acland (2007) and Edwina Hayward (Girton 2007) were married at St Peter's Church, Siddington, Gloucestershire on 18th June 2016. **Dominic O'Connor Robinson (2005)** was an usher and played the organ.

John P Fackler Jnr (Bye-Fellow 1992) and his wife Naomi celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in September 2016.

Maria Farrimond and Harry Brunton (both 2010) were married at Robinson in December 2016. A beautiful service in the College Chapel was followed by a wonderful reception in the College Hall. Many 'Binson friends joined the celebrations, taking to the ceilidh dancing with the same enthusiasm (and talent) as the bop room floor. Our thanks go out to all the brilliant Robinson staff, who made the day so perfect.



Mark Ferguson (2003) and Helen Jamieson (Homerton 2004) were married on 23rd July 2016 in North London. It was a wonderful day and fantastic to have several Binsonite guests, including **David King (2003)**, **Lily Stock (2002)**, **Cian O'Lunaigh (2003)**, **Lucia Yandoli (2004)** and **Daniel Powell (2003)** who was a groomsman.



Hannah Marshall and James Griffiths (both 2005) married in Robinson College Chapel on 30th July 2016. The service was followed by tea & cake in the garden. Lots of Robinson friends were there to celebrate with us.



After almost 10 years together, **Kirstyn Gower (2007)** and Dan Goodchild got engaged in November 2016.

Jude Holland (2004) and **Andy Nowacki (2004)** got married in Wakefield in July 2016, and were joined to celebrate by many Robinson friends, with **Alex Eeles (Natural Sciences, 2004)** acting as chauffeur.



After fifteen years together, Gavin Beattie and **David Price-Hughes (1995)** married (in secret!) on 28th January 2016 at Chelsea Old Town Hall in London accompanied by just two witnesses, both sworn to silence. We have since told both families and celebrated with parties in Wales, Northern Ireland and at home in London.



Fei Jin (2010) is so happy to share his greatest moment with Robinson alumni. Fei married Lan, a graduate from Trinity Hall, on 10th November 2015.



Richard Margetts (1989) and Jennifer Wright were married in Edinburgh on 11th June 2016. They plan to return to West Africa together, supporting Bible translation into local languages and working with local communities in promoting the use of the translations.

On 4th January 2016, **Florencia Cano (2003)** and **Vittorio Montemaggi (1997)** held a service of prayer and thanksgiving to celebrate their marriage with friends and family in the Robinson Chapel.



Alumni updates

Lisa Anderson (née Bailey, 1989) writes: 'We had a fantastic weekend in Wales with Robinson friends and family. L-R: **Karen Murphy, Ben Trueman, Sarah Davies, Karen Postlethwaite, Karen Hunter, Darren Peart, Beth Harding and Lisa Bailey (1989).**



After nearly 30 years as a teacher, first of secondary science and later at a primary school, **Alison Battye (1983)** was ordained as deacon in the Church of England in July 2016. She is serving her title as Assistant Curate at St Mary's Whitkirk, Leeds.

Peter V Broadhurst (1978) took an opportunity for early retirement in December 2015 after 34 years working in the chemical industry for Union Carbide, ICI and Johnson Matthey. To keep him occupied part-time, he has set up his own company, Pevicon Limited, to provide consultancy services on industrial catalysis for the chemical, petrochemical and oil & gas industries and is enjoying some success with the venture.

Sir Hugh Cortazzi, Honorary Fellow, has been involved in publication of three new books in 2016: *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, volume X, published for the Japan Society by Renaissance Books. *Japanese Studies in Britain: A Survey and History*, edited and compiled with **Professor Peter Kornicki**, published for the Japan Society by Renaissance Books. *Carmen Blacker, Scholar of Japanese Religion, Myth and Folklore: Writings and Reflections*, published by Renaissance Books. Sir Hugh is in his 93rd year, but intends to remain as active as possible as long as possible.

Having spent more than 20 years in publishing, **Antonia Cunningham (1984)** changed direction in 2013-14 and retrained as a teacher at St Mary's University, Twickenham. She writes: "Going back to university after so long was a killer! I don't remember having to rigorously footnote essays or provide bibliographies back in my Robinson days. However, suffice it to say that I love my job - three days a week in a Year 3 classroom, though the 18 hours on my payslip certainly do not reflect the 40+ hours that I actually work. New experiences abound, including going on strike."

Anuj Dawar (Fellow) writes: “I have spent a semester (from August-December 2016) in Berkeley, California. I was a visitor at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing on the University of California, Berkeley campus, where I was one of the organizers of a four-month-long programme on “Logical Structures in Computation”. The programme involved a large number of visitors from around the world converging for periods of research collaboration, workshops and sharing of ideas. It was an intensely intellectually stimulating experience and I am now looking forward to being in Cambridge to continue to digest all the new ideas, as well as get back to my routine duties and my family.”

Panayiotis Demopoulos (Composition, 2004) is the chairman of the historical Library of Kozani. The Library is moving this year to a new purpose-built complex. Its collections hold more than 10,000 old prints and manuscripts dating back to the XIth century and is going to be part of a small network of historical libraries in Greece, headed by the National Library, in an effort to make Hellenic culture the spearhead of the country's effort to recover from the current economic crisis. Please visit their website: www.kozlib.gr

Although retired from the University of Alberta, **Ray Egerton (Former Bye-Fellow)** continues with research related to electron microscopy. He also teaches at the annual Winter School at Arizona State University and the Summer School at McMaster University (Ontario, Canada). In 2016 he completed a second edition of his undergraduate-level textbook, *Physical Principles of Electron Microscopy* for Springer.

Murray J Evans (Bye Fellow, 1986-87) retired in 2016 as Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg, Canada. His career as a Medievalist and Romanticist has spanned 38 years. He plans to continue work during retirement on his second book on Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Murray and his wife Grace still treasure memories of Robinson's kind hospitality during their year at the College.



In January 2017 **Vreneli Farber (Bye-Fellow, 1989)** translated into English the subtitles of a Russian documentary, *Stanislavsky and Yoga*, shown on television in Russia. The film is partly based on the book of the same title that she translated into English and that was published in 2016. The film will be screened at the “S Word: Merging Methodologies” conference on Stanislavsky in Prague in March 2017.

Paul Farber (Bye-Fellow, 1989) published an article ‘Dobzhansky and Montagu's Debate on Race: The Aftermath’ in the *Journal of the History of Biology*, and submitted another article on the history of the concept of “race” to the same journal. He and his wife Vreneli were delighted to welcome their new granddaughter, Tali Norman, into the world in November 2016.

Congratulations to **Dr Caroline Furness (1998)** on her first consultant appointment at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Now she is living in Bath with husband **Dan (1997)** and son Harry.

After seven years, in 2016 **Mark Galeotti (1984)** left New York University (where he was professor of global affairs) to move to Prague where he will both be a senior research fellow at the Institute of International Relations Prague, as well as running his own consultancy firm, Mayak Intelligence. He enjoyed his time in NYC, but is looking forward to returning to the Old Continent!

After 10 years in Portland, OR, **Dan Griffiths (1994)** will be moving to the Monterey Peninsula, CA, to be the next Head of the Pebble Beach Campus (grades 9-12) at the Stevenson School. Stevenson is a pk-12 independent school on the Central California coast.

Congratulations to **Professor Christopher Hall (Senior Member)** who has recently been elected Curator of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Simon Head (1995) works at Chafyn Grove school in Salisbury. Anyone from Robinson living around Wiltshire please get in touch.

Lydia Heilmann (née Breen, 1995) has moved to Denmark from the USA with husband Per Heilmann (Downing, 1997) and children Lars and Tor. They now live in Gentofte near Copenhagen and would love to hear from any other alumni in the area.



Professor Larry Hurtado's (Former Bye-Fellow) latest book: *Destroyer of the gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World* was published by Baylor University Press in 2016. Professor Hurtado is Emeritus Professor of New Testament Language, Literature & Theology at School of Divinity (New College) University of Edinburgh.

In 2015 **Daniel Seth Helman (1988)** wrote a play that has now been produced. It is entitled *Hypatia's Math* and focuses on the life of Hypatia of Alexandria, the oldest woman mathematician whose name is known to history. He continues to work in fine arts, mostly painting now and some sculpture, and also works as a scientist in geology focusing on a few areas, including crystal physics and earthquakes. He is near to finishing a PhD degree in sustainability education.

Alex Hui (1988) returned to Robinson College for the first time in 20 years. Alex, his wife Elaine, their sons Nathan (11) and Reuben (8) stayed at College for 2 days near the end of June 2016. The porters and College staff were as friendly as ever and the garden was even more beautiful than he remembered. They were able to catch up with two friends from university days who still lived in Cambridge. Alex returned to Hong Kong in 1998 after working as a junior doctor in Leicester and Nottingham, and he is a practicing Gastroenterologist now.



Having spent thirteen years since graduation working as a teacher and in charities working in prison reform, **Benjamin Jarman (2000)** returned to Robinson in October 2016 to start a full-time MPhil in criminological research. He is enjoying being back in Cambridge and would like to get in touch with his contemporaries still living in Cambridge or visiting. "It would be a pleasure to hear from you", writes Benjamin.



Rupal Kantaria (née Sachdev, 1999) was recognised with a number of awards in 2016 for her leadership in banking and finance, diversity and social impact: *Brummell's 30 Ones to Watch 2016: Rising Stars of the City*; *Rising Stars Diversity Winner 2016*; *Asian Woman of the Year 2016 Shortlist*; *Precious Outstanding Woman in Banking and Finance 2016*.

At the end of 2016, **Percy Kirkman (1994)** and his wife Anna moved to Chamonix, to open an office for Blue-Square.com real estate. They continue to run 4vallees4saisons.com business in La Tzoumaz (Switzerland) which is just over an hours drive away. They are looking forward to lots of mountain sports!

Professor Robin Kirkpatrick (Life Fellow 2011) writes: "On October 15th and 16th 2016 a group of some thirty-five theologians, literary critics, poets and performers from Cambridge and from the USA came together in Robinson College to pursue the meaning and implications of Grace, under the heading of *Grace in Question: Art, Act and Awkwardness*. Robinson College look forward to continued co-operation with the University of Notre Dame du Lac."

David Knightley (1999) writes: "I reside in Sandbanks, Dorset with my wife and daughter and commute daily to the city of London, where I work as a contractor in the banking industry."

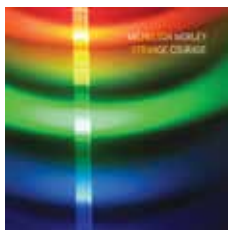
Professor Kornicki (Fellow) writes: "2016 was my busiest year since I retired! I spent a month teaching at the University of Tokyo and gave lectures at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Paris Diderot in Paris, at Cornell, at the University of British Columbia and at the Bibliotheca Ambrosiana in Milan. In October a work put together by Honorary Fellow Sir Hugh Cortazzi and me, *Japanese studies in Britain: a survey and history*, was published and in December I finally managed to finish off the book I have been writing for Oxford University Press. The highlight of the year, however, was my father's 100th birthday on 18 December: a great age for a former Spitfire pilot!"

After 25 years in clinical psychiatry, **Stuart John Leask (1982)** started writing film scripts (five shorts and seven features). Genre broadly 'Sci-fi', probably ghastly; if anyone knows about these things, I'd value their opinion!

Professor Tim Luckhurst (1980) was appointed a director of KMTV, the new television news service for Kent that will launch on Freeview in July 2017. KMTV is based in studios at the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism, of which Tim remains head. Students from the Centre are already gaining invaluable work experience in the KMTV newsroom and studios. Tim's latest research article, 'A Sovereign Editor: Arthur Mann's Yorkshire Post and its crusade against appeasement, 1938-1939' was published in *Ethical Space, The International Journal of Communication Ethics*, Vol. 13 No. 4 2016.

John Gerard McInerney (Former Research Fellow 1984-1986) was elected Dean of the Faculty of Science at University College Cork, Ireland in May 2016. He has been Professor and Head of Physics there since 1992.

Jacob McMurchie's (1990) band Michelson Morley released it's second CD *Strange Courage* in June 2016. The CD had very favourable reviews, including 4 stars in *The Guardian*, and toured nationally to promote the release.



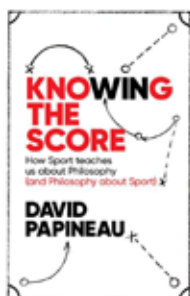
Nicola Morgan (1987) had busy last couple of years. She gained specialist qualification in palliative care, moved to the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia and commenced work as a Palliative Care Consultant Physician and Hon. Adjunct Assistant Professor for Bond University. She feels particularly excited to be engaging in her dual passions for excellence in patient care and education of our next generation of doctors.

Antonella Mantovani (1989) won the seat of Representative of the Latin Catholic Community in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus following the Cyprus parliamentary elections of 22nd May 2016.



Christopher Graham Oldroyd (1983) has been made a Visiting Fellow of Durham University Business School.

David Papineau (Fellow in Philosophy 1987-1990) currently teaches at the City University of New York Graduate Center each spring and at King's College London in the autumn. His new book, *Knowing the Score*, to be published in May 2017, discusses a range of sporting issues from a philosophical perspective.



Rachel Pettersson (née Lowson, 1980) has signed up for a further three year period as Adjunct Professor in Corrosion Science at KTH Royal institute of Technology in Stockholm.

When **Dr Jan Pilditch (Former Bye-Fellow)** retired four years ago she was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Waikato, which meant she kept her email, and some office space, but not, alas, a parking space. She retained her research students and the last one finished her PhD and graduated in 2016. The student is from Iraq and took Dr Pilditch on an interesting journey from the Crusades to the present day as she investigated depictions of Middle Eastern women in Western Literature. Jan's own work suffered somewhat, but in 2015 she finished editing the correspondence of Catherine Carswell, Scottish novelist and critic and most famously perhaps the one friend of D H Lawrence with whom he never quarrelled. She has almost finished helping with a History of Alexandra (editing) being written by a retired farmer in the South Island - his family have farmed the area for four generations and his book contains a wealth of local history that the local museum is very keen to have. Both should be out in 2017, after which Dr Pilditch hopes to get back to her own writing. Otherwise, she shares her retirement with a dog rescued by the SPCA (NZ) and seven grandchildren. She writes: "I don't know how I ever found time to go to work!"



James Radcliffe (1995) has recently moved to Lincoln, to lead a church family that meets in a school on a new housing estate. He writes: "I'm enjoying playing cricket when time allows. Any Binsonites in Lincoln, do be in touch at www.stpeterineastgate.org.uk. Enjoying life with Katie as our children grow fast: Isabelle (5) and Josh (3)."

Mauro Galetti Rodrigues (1992) has just celebrated 20 years since his PhD Viva, (13/12/2016). He is a professor at São Paulo State University.

Sylvia Sage (née Beck, 1985) and her family have successfully completed their transition back to the UK and now reside in Dorset. She says: "It would be really nice to meet up with some of College friends sometime (sylvia.sage@cantab.net). Hope you are all well and happy."

Professor Marcus du Sautoy (Senior Member, Former Research Fellow, 2000) was made an Fellow of the Royal Society in 2016 and also published a new book *What We Cannot Know* (Fourth Estate).

Paul Simpkin (1980) is still working at the House of Commons and is busy as part of the Petitions Committee team.

Brian Skeet (1985) is currently working on the pre-production of two feature films both starring a wealth of major talent including Deborah Kara Unger, alongside newcomers Jennifer Munby, and Matthew Ewald in *White Lilies* and Deborah Kara Unger and Greg Jackson as the leads in *Disorientated*. He is also currently in production of *Lazarus*. A movie set in the 1950's tackling abortion (a controversial subject for its time), with a biblical storyline running through it, starring Jamie Chambers as the lead.

Talbot Allen Stark (1992) was promoted to Global Head of Institutional Sales, Global Markets, BNP Paribas.

Simon Stocks (1986) continues to work in theological education, providing training to candidates for ministry in the Church of England and other students of theology. His institute has recently re-branded itself as St Augustine's College of Theology, with a wonderful new teaching facility at Malling Abbey in Kent, and offering classes at Southwark Cathedral. Simon is also Chair of the Theological Educators' Network, which provides conferences and other support for all those in the sector

Helen White (née Hardy, 1990) moved to Sydney, Australia 10 years ago after marrying an Aussie, Shane. They live by the beach and have two sons, Charlie (10) and Alex (5). Helen is currently CEO of Girl Guides New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory, which has the wonderful mission of empowering girls and young women. If you are ever 'down under' feel free to get in touch.

Mary is now Professor **Mary Wild (1982)** and Head of the School of Education at Oxford Brookes University.

Congratulations to **Sandra Smith (Senior Member)** on winning The 2016 Jewish Book Award in Biography category for the translation of *But You Did Not Come Back* by Marceline Loridan - Ivens.

For the last four years **Rebecca Williams (2001)** has been Associate Dean for Undergraduates and Access in the Law Faculty, as well as continuing her work as a law tutor at Pembroke. Her research is on the questions underlying the grounds of judicial review in administrative law, and on conditional intent and sexual offences in criminal law. She is hoping to go on sabbatical with her family to New York in Michaelmas term of 2017, to visit Columbia Law School.

Mark Woodward (1987) is still enjoying life at Bablake, Coventry. He has been there since 1987 as Classics teacher, i/c Careers, website, magazines, press et al. Mark is still enjoying photography, music and sport.

At the end of 2016, **Anna Williamson (née Webb, 1990)** and **Andrew Williamson (1990)** moved back to Cambridge after 20 years in the US. Andrew is an Investment Director at Cambridge Innovation Capital and Anna continues to work for Genentech, a US-based biotechnology company. Their 5-year-old son, James, is happily settled into his new school which is just across the road from Robinson. They are enjoying being back in Cambridge and would love to connect with old friends.



Farewells

Earlier this term we learned the sad news that our Fellow Director of Development, **Helen Cornish**, will be leaving us after over 12 years at Robinson to take up the position of Development Director at the Woolf Institute, an independent interfaith research institute in Cambridge. Many of you will have met Helen or come into contact with her through the work of the Development Office. Under her leadership that office has been built from the minimal scale operation that was functioning as our development effort in 2004 to the office it is today, handling our fundraising activity, telephone calling programme and the numerous alumni relations publications and activities that the College undertakes. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her the best of good fortune in her new job. A search is currently underway for Helen's replacement and we shall let all our friends and alumni know about our new Director of Development just as soon as an appointment has been made.



Elizabeth McGougan, known by everyone in College as **Lizzie**, retired after 36 years and two months in the Catering Department. Lizzie was the longest-serving member of College staff, and watched this institution grow from its inception to College as it is now. She joined as a Catering Assistant in October 1980 and year after year saw students coming and then going to start a new life after Robinson. We wish our Lizzie all the best for her well-deserved retirement and we hope to see her in College when she comes to visit her friends and colleagues.



had gained valuable experience working part-time within the catering side of the College. We had no hesitation in offering her the post as Deputy Bar Manager and Clare did an amazing job and was highly thought of by staff, students and conference delegates alike. She will be sadly missed by those who knew her and her pleasant smile will be fondly remembered. Our thoughts are with her family and especially her two daughters, Rebecca and Louise, at this particular sad time."



Obituaries

The Warden, Fellows and Staff were saddened to hear of the death of **John Grieve Smith** who passed away aged 89 on 13th February 2017. John was Senior Bursar of Robinson College from 1982 - 1995. A further obituary will appear in the 2017 *Robinson College Record*.



It was with great sadness that the Warden and the College members heard about the sudden passing on 1st January 2017 of **Clare Hardy née Langford**, a former Deputy Bar Manager. Clare originally joined the College Housekeeping Department in April 1997 before moving to the College Bar. She was a respected member of staff for her commitment, work ethic and radiant personality. She will be fondly remembered for her smile and kindness. We offer our sincere condolences to her family. Former Bar Manager Malcolm Trotter (1980-2003), writes with memories of Clare: "Clare worked for me part-time and then full time as my Deputy Bar Manager (2000 to 2004); prior to that, she was in the Housekeeping Department, though she

Professor Elliott Schwartz (Senior Member, Former Bye-Fellow) passed away on Wednesday, 7th December 2016 at the age of 80. Professor Schwartz was a distinguished composer and Beckwith Professor of Music Emeritus at Bowdoin College in Maine. His music, while challenging for some audiences, was extensively recorded and regularly played. He had held visiting posts at a range of universities around the world, including at both Cambridge and Oxford. Professor Schwartz was a regular visitor to Robinson until his health started to fail after the death in 2014 of his wife Deedee, who always accompanied him on his trips. He was a great supporter of our College choir and he was an eager and regular attendee (and performer) at all the College's musical events whenever he was in College. A performance that involved "doctoring" the stringing of the piano before he began to play was particularly memorable. A concert of Professor Elliott Schwartz's music (celebrating his 80th birthday) took place at Symphony Space, New York, on 21st September 2016. His String Quartet No.3 received its premiere performance, by the Kreutzer Quartet, at Robinson College on 3rd November 2016.



New artwork for College

The artist, Paul Ashurst, has generously donated one painting and loaned another to Robinson, and these are hung in the new Crausaz Wordsworth Building in Adams Road. Both are acrylic on canvas, and the smaller painting, *Exorcism* is an homage to Paul's former partner, Trevor, who died a few years ago. By "exorcism", Paul means "driving away spirits" (and he emphasises he does not mean evil spirits), and the painting is an attempt on his part to move on. When Paul first came up to see us, the fact that Dr Gary Doherty, Chair of the Arts Committee, works with cancer and that Trevor died of cancer, together with the bricks at Robinson, made the College seem like a perfect home for "Exorcism". The other - larger - painting *Adventureland* is part of an ongoing attempt to capture ephemera that reminds Paul of already existing paintings, accidentally created by unknown wall painters. In this instance, he was reminded of a Barnett Newman painting.

All of Paul's paintings are worked on from photographs, and so even though they might appear initially to be abstract, they are always very closely photo-realistic. Paul finds this happenstance intensely beautiful; as he says, beauty can be found in the most unlikely places, and if we could slow down we would find it.

Paul has painted since he was a child, and attended art school in both Farnham and London. He has never given up painting since then.



Mr Paul Ashurst, Mrs Susanna West Yates and Dr Gary Doherty standing in front of "Adventureland".



"Exorcism"

Gardens Trust Conference - the Legacy of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown

On 2^{nd-4th} September 2016 **Dr Steve Trudgill**, Fellow and Chair of the Gardens Committee, hosted a conference in College to mark the tercentenary of the famous landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. This was a joint venture with both the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society and it celebrated the life and work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in Cambridgeshire. The Conference was run by the Cambridge Gardens Trust chaired by Dr David Brown, a former Robinson Head Gardener, who also carried out the tree survey for our gardens guide available in the Porters' Lodge. It included three lectures on Capability Brown, a research symposium, guided tours of Robinson College Gardens by Head Gardener Guy Fuller, Brown's Manor at Fenstanton, Wimpole Hall, 'The Backs' at St John's, Madingley Hall and the University Botanic Garden. There were also a reception and buffet with a welcoming speech by Lord Fairhaven and a reception and conference dinner with a speech by Dr Steve Trudgill thanking the Cambridge Gardens Trust for their help with our garden apprenticeship scheme. Some 90 delegates attended, including the President of the UK Gardens Trusts, with a total of 24 different County Trusts represented.



Sporting life

Swan Blues wins a cup - Perth, Western Australia

Fiona Giles (2006) reported from Perth: "Following eight Sunday mornings of coffee and cake-fuelled training, Cambridge alumni met Oxford alumni on the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia for, three hard-fought races: 'Blues' (won by Oxford), 'Goldie-Isis' (won by Cambridge), 'Ospreys-Atalanta' (won by Oxford). Spectators enjoyed a picnic on the river bank and cheered us along! Our outings are social in focus, but it was nice to put our training into action, take home the trophy for Goldie and make the most of the beautiful weather!" The next boat race will take place at the end of November 2017. You are all welcome!



Society of Western Australia



Cross country running

Alex Short (2015) was selected to compete for the British u23's in the European Cross Country Championships in Chia, Sardinia in December 2016. His teammates, European Junior 5,000m champion Alex George worked hard to finish thirteenth, Ellis Cross fifteenth, and Alex was the final counter for the team, coming in at twenty-fifth. Alex trained with the Blues squad whilst studying at Robinson, won the Varsity match, and competed for Britain as a junior in 2014. He impressed the British selectors following his performance in the American College Nationals, where he finished twenty-second, a phenomenal achievement given the quality of distance running in the US.



Sailing success

Congratulations to Robinson second team **Arthur Henderson (2011)**, (Captain 2013/14), right in the photo, and **Tom Maxwell** (Captain 2014/15), left in the photo, on taking the Bronze medal in a star-studded



Firefly fleet of 66 boats at the BUCS/BUSA Fleet Championships, held at Draycote Water on 5th/6th November 2016.

Some 250 sailors from 25 universities took part in the event, spread across four different fleets. The Firefly fleet was more than twice the size of any of the others. The second Cambridge entry of Josh Flack (Captain 2012/13) and relative novice Alice Tebboth (Magdalene 2013) finished a respectable twenty-second in the same fleet.



Women's Football Team sit at the top of the First Division

Congratulations to the joint Robinson and Selwyn Women's Football Team who have had a very successful Michaelmas term, winning three out of four league matches: 3-4 to Homerton (loss), 13-0 against Emmanuel (win), 6-0 against Trinity Hall (win), 16-0 against Trinity (win). That's a grand total of 38 goals scored in league matches (not including cuppers and Old Girls). This is an impressive achievement because that's greater than the combined total of all the goals scored by the other teams in their division (1st Division). Faced with ups and downs, the cuppers match against Queens' didn't go so well; as they lost 4-8 and were relegated to the Plate, which will begin next term. Lent term saw a more a brilliant degree of football teamwork on the Jesus pitches. An amazing 5-2 to the Selwyn/Robinson (Selwynson) team! The game started off very evenly matched, with no subs and the sun against them, they managed to finish the first half 1 - 1 against an extremely tough and intimidating opposition. They came out strongly in the second half and really showed what they were made of. It was an amazing return to the field after long weeks off. The Selwynson team connected up and down the field and it showed in the final score.



Photo: Victorious team: Top row: Libby Jones, Victoria Braid, Freya Hufton, Rose Jump, Penny Brearley, Coral Bays-Muchmore; Bottom row: Ziyi Yang, Elena Cornaro, Dominique Aman, Caitlin Allt, Emma Altman-Richer (Captain).

Supporting College

Thank you to all our readers who have given gifts to support Robinson's educational purposes. Overall, 15.9% of Robinson alumni gave in 2015/16, representing 17% of former undergraduates and 7.9% of former graduate students. 25% of Fellows gave and other generous donors included parents of current students and alumni, Senior Members, College staff and the families and friends of all these groups, as well as a number of organisations.

Gifts help the College to provide the best possible learning, teaching, research and living environment for current and future members. As a result, in 2015/16 the College was able to support 135 bursary awards, provide 3 PhD and 3 MPhil scholarships, fund language courses, contribute to year abroad costs and fund medical elective expenses, fund new books for individuals and for the College libraries and contribute to the cost of student fieldwork, volunteering projects, expeditions, sporting endeavours and cultural activities. Admissions activities and College teaching were also enabled by donations and the College's buildings and facilities were updated and maintained.

If you would like to know more about how Robinson's work is financed and the areas for which we particularly need support, more information is available on the College website at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/running-robinson-college-current-and-future-funding and you can make a gift using the form on the back of this issue of *Bin Brook*, or online at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/general-donation.

There are other ways in which you can also support Robinson, including by using the easy fundraising link below, or by treating yourself to some Robinson College memorabilia – a small selection is shown below and the full range can be seen at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/.

However you choose to support Robinson's work, thank you!

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