

BIN BROOK



ROBINSON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

An Entrepreneur's Guide:

Adding value
to a start-up

**From the Pre-Socratics
to Nigerian Tapas:**

A restaurant journey

Dr Andrew Williamson:

From Robinson NatSci
to Venture Capitalist

Long Serving Staff:

Decades of contribution
to Robinson

Dr Steve Trudgill:

Memories of his life
and legacy



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WELCOME



Robinson was founded by a successful entrepreneur and honours Sir David's legacy by continuing to nurture his entrepreneurial spirit.

Innovative and dedicated, confident and passionate—these traits apply not only to our current students, striving towards academic excellence, but also to the alumni we feature in this issue of Bin Brook. Ifeyinwa Frederick describes her journey from a Classics degree to opening a now acclaimed Nigerian tapas restaurant in London, armed with no hospitality experience but with a flair for marketing and a drive to succeed. Dr Steve Fuller describes the chance encounter at a Robinson dinner that led to his being the first employee of a new pharmaceuticals company, which is now a global business leading on drug development for rare diseases. The stories in this issue of Bin Brook demonstrate that Robinson's alumni are bold enough to turn their business ideas and career opportunities into tangible success.

In this issue we also welcome a number of new Fellows and staff, including Karen Tate, the new Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare whose post was funded through donations to the Wellbeing Appeal. Already students are taking advantage of the new Wellbeing Centre, which

will soon also be home to Molly the dog, who will be available to students wishing to de-stress and get outside. We also celebrate in this issue the lives and legacies of two extraordinary individuals who have left indelible marks on our College and its community. Twenty years on, the Hugh Paton-JP Morgan Bursaries continue to celebrate and support our female undergraduates, in memory of Hugh Paton, the first Law Fellow of Robinson College. Our greatly missed Fellow Emeritus, Dr Steve Trudgill, is remembered in this issue by former students, friends, and colleagues. I cannot help but think of Steve every time I take a walk through Robinson's Gardens, of which he was one of the most devoted supporters.

As I write, the Michaelmas term is already nearing its end, and we are looking forward to the 'Bridgemas' events in College and to seasonal celebrations beyond Cambridge. For the first time these include the Cambridge in America holiday party in New York on Thursday 8 December, which the Warden and I will be attending.

On behalf of everyone at Robinson I wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and happy holidays—I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Sarah Westwood
Development Director and Fellow
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FRONT COVER:

Sibling duo Emeka and Ifeyinwa Frederick (Classics, 2011) inside their Nigerian tapas restaurant, Chuku's
Photo: Andrew Crowley

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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



Professor Duncan Astle

Robinson College is delighted to announce that **Professor Duncan Astle** has been appointed the first Gnodde Goldman Sachs Professor of Neuroinformatics within the Department of Psychiatry. Professor Astle is a Fellow and Director of Studies at Robinson, as well as a Programme Leader at the University's MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, and a member of the MRC's Neuroscience and Mental Health Board. Professor Astle is recognised for his outstanding innovative methods of analysing neural systems in childhood, and for his research in how they influence developmental disorders and respond to intervention. ■

Congratulations to **Tom Dyson (Natural Sciences – Physical, 2003)** for being awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2022 for services to Paralympic Rowing. Tom is the Head of Olympic Paralympic Performance Delivery at Great Britain Rowing. He was instrumental in the impressive victories of the GB Para rowing team at the 2016 Rio Paralympic games. ■



Mr Will Sims

Earlier this year, Robinson welcomed **Will Sims** as the College's new Director of Chapel Music, where he directs the Choir for their twice weekly services, rehearsals, concerts, and recordings. Mr Sims was formerly Director of Music at Durham Castle and is a prize-winning Choral Director of the Royal College of Organists. He has sung in the Cathedral Choirs of Lincoln, Peterborough, and St Mary's, Edinburgh, and maintains a busy schedule as an accompanist and

composer. He said following his appointment: "I am thrilled to have taken up the Director of Chapel Music position at Robinson. In our first month, the Choir has already demonstrated great potential across a wide range of repertoire, and we have very exciting plans for the near future, including a tour to Italy and a Christmas CD recording." ■

The Inaugural John Hinnells Memorial Lecture was hosted by the Warden, Sir Richard Heaton on 20 May 2022. It was the first in a series of lectures to be held annually at Robinson College in memory of its former Bye-Fellow and Senior Member, Professor John Russell Hinnells. Professor Hinnells was the Professor of Comparative Religion at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and lectured at numerous universities across the country. He was an authority on Zoroastrianism. The inaugural lecture "The Enemy Within: A Tale of Muslim Britain" was delivered by the Right Honourable Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Warsi. ■

DANTE ARRIVES AT ROBINSON



*Dante in the College Gardens
Photo: Norbert Truszczyński*

On 5 July 2022, a reception was held in the College gardens to celebrate the arrival of a new work of art. A statue of Dante Alighieri was unveiled in the garden of 2 Adams Road, presented to the College by its sculptor, Timothy Schmalz. The event included readings from Dante's *Commedia*, in both English and Italian, the singing of two of the psalms that are of central importance in Dante's text, and a short address introducing Dante's work and its sculptural representation by Professor Robin Kirkpatrick, a Life Fellow and Emeritus Professor of English and Italian Literature. ■



The crew of Queer Street. Photo: Phoebe Deller

ROBINSON DRAMATISTS LEAD THE WAY

Phoebe Deller's (Classics, 2021) play *Queer Street* was staged at Corpus Playroom in June, the first of hers to be performed in a professional theatre. Phoebe said, "I wrote this play for reasons other than myself – I pitched it to the ADC as a play about LGBT themes where no-one is the victim of a hate crime, dies of AIDS, or is kicked out by unsupportive parents. It is so important that queer people get silly trashy romcoms because so many of our love stories in the media end in tragedy." Phoebe also remarked, "I've loved doing QS. It's changed my life. I love our cast and crew and I'm so proud of them – and I'm thrilled with the way the audience has responded." Congratulations to Phoebe and the crew! ■

Toby Marlow (English, 2014) became the first openly non-binary composer-lyricist to win a Tony Award for Best Original Score, winning at the 2022 Awards for *SIX: The Musical*. Toby co-wrote the sensational musical story of the six wives of Henry VIII with Lucy Moss (Gonville and Caius) in their final year at Cambridge. ■

RCSA UPDATE BY MAX MASON, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

As I write, the traffic of Michaelmas Term has begun again in earnest, and the work of the Robinson College Students' Association remains unceasing. With a successful freshers week programme executed—an opportunity for new students to find their bearings within the invariably busy Cambridge schedule—we're now in the throes of another exciting term.

Already, however, can a number of RCSA leaders boast occasions where their industriousness and commitment to the College has borne fruit. One can look no further than Karolina Rawdanowicz and Faith Falayi, organising two outreach programmes with great success: the Pegasus Scholars Programme—a Bridging Programme for students with Widening Participation flags—and the BME Residential, a scheme designed to demystify the preconceptions of Oxbridge for Black and Minority Ethnic students in Year 11.

Intending to introduce the opportunities and demands of university life before the beginning of Full Term, the BME Residential engaged students in discussion and debate, presenting opportunities for academic enrichment and for participation in social aspects of college life. The Pegasus Scholars Programme—the first of its kind in Robinson—anticipates a minimum two-year extension thanks to generous donations. Elsewhere in the field of outreach, the Shadowing Scheme—mediated through Zoom last year—was offered in person: the efforts of Ethan Clack allowed college and/or sixth form students to experience university life in its fullest. Along with the Access and Widening Participation Team at Robinson, members of the RCSA were instrumental in the formation and success of these programmes—we are proud of their efforts to welcome students from disproportionately underrepresented backgrounds.

As is typical, RCSA members have also regularly contributed to the creative arts in College, whether this be the Open Air production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Easter Term—the first Robinson production of its kind to take Shakespeare alfresco in seven years—or helping to organise a well-attended art workshop for Black History Month, organised alongside the eminent painter and Cambridge graduate Joshua Obichere. The RCSA now looks forward to Green Week, as work is underway to promote environmental issues College-wide. Already the matter of good recycling practice has been raised, and the College's Cycle Recycle Scheme is now in full swing.

With RCSA elections only a matter of weeks away, I would like to thank the entire RCSA team 2021/2022 for their sustained efforts, coordination, and enthusiasm over the past three terms. We now look forward to where the committee will head next! ■

GUEST INTRODUCTION – EMMA KENNY ON ROBINSON'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT



Emma Kenny (Natural Sciences – Biological, 1981) spent the first part of her career in a variety of international marketing, general management, and consulting roles with companies including Mars Confectionery, McKinsey, Kingfisher, and Vodafone. In 2007, Kenny founded an award-winning procurement consultancy focused on the food and hospitality sectors. Since 2017, she has advised, coached, and invested in early-stage businesses, both independently and with other organisations. Some of these businesses include Rising Tide Europe—a programme designed to increase the participation of women in angel investing—and Oxford Innovation, which invests in science-based start-ups in the Oxford ecosystem. Kenny is also a Non-Executive Director of a housing association, and several early-stage businesses.

When I was asked to write this introduction, the links between Robinson College and entrepreneurship weren't entirely obvious to me. But, once I thought about it, I realised that Robinson in its early days was very much like a start-up.

Robinson College was, after all, endowed by a successful entrepreneur. In the 1950s, Sir David Robinson—already the owner of several

electronics shops—made his fortune through the radio and television rental business. After Queen Elizabeth II's televised coronation in 1953, and noting the growing popularity of television, Robinson spotted the money-making opportunity of bringing the medium to the masses and allowing people to rent their TVs from him. His business grew quickly, and fifteen years later he sold it to Granada for £8m (about £130m today). And in the 1960s he gave a sizable donation to Cambridge University to endow a new College.

Despite the generous endowment, Robinson College needed additional revenue streams to sustain itself. While I, and many other Robinson students, benefited from the ensuite bathrooms, central heating, and wall-to-wall carpets, we all realised they were not there just for our benefit but were designed to entice conference delegates away from the historic colleges in the centre of town. Which, despite their grandeur, had historic plumbing, dubious heating, and in certain cases a walk across the quad to reach the nearest bathroom in the middle of the night.

The first full cohort of undergraduates arrived in 1980, the year before I began at Robinson, I am sure it was not an accident of the admissions process that there was a student with the skills and personality to set up a boat club from scratch. There were students who knew how to direct a play or conduct an orchestra; a qualified hockey referee; students who just seemed to know how elections to the JCR committee were supposed to be run. Like the first employees in a successful start-up, it was the mixture of complementary skills, diverse personalities, and a willingness to give things a go that characterised Robinson in the early days.

One of my favourite examples: when it was discovered that everyone who finished the race in Cross Country Cuppers got a point, more or less every undergraduate in Robinson turned out to tackle the course, earning enough points for the College to move up to a higher division.

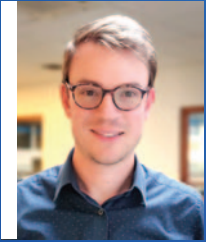
Sometimes we were gently mocked by people from other Colleges because we lived in a building that 'looked like a prison', but—much like a start-up that is doing something new—the internal loyalty and support were immense. Within the red-brick walls, the party room was legendary (or infamous depending on your perspective), the first May Ball sold out in days, the Robinson Bar was always full, the drama society productions starting selling out, and the sports teams worked their way relentlessly up the divisions.

Robinson is no longer the plucky, radical start-up College it once was: it has matured and evolved, distinguishing itself among the Cambridge community, but it retains that enthusiastic entrepreneurial spirit that made it thrive from the beginning.

And, as you will read in this issue of Bin Brook, that spirit is alive and well amongst Robinsonians past and present. ■

Happy reading,
Emma Kenny

MY ROBINSON DR CHRISTOPHER DE SAXE



Dr Christopher de Saxe joined Robinson as a Fellow in Engineering in March 2022. He is a Senior Research Associate in the Centre for Sustainable Road Freight (based in the Engineering Department), and a Visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand (“Wits”) in South Africa. Prior to joining Cambridge last year, he was a Principal Engineer at the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research in Pretoria. He obtained BSc(Eng) and MSc(Eng) degrees in mechanical engineering from Wits, and a PhD from Cambridge University where he was a member of Jesus College. He also maintains his status as a registered Professional Engineer in South Africa. He was recently involved in a £1.8m research project funded by the UK Department for Transport on the feasibility of an overhead catenary system for electric HGVs and is now working on proposals for a national trial.

The path which led me back to Cambridge in June of last year was by no means straight and narrow. I completed my PhD here in 2017, but then returned to South Africa to continue my work as an engineer at a state-owned research and development organisation, where I straddled the middle-ground between “real-world” engineering and academic research. I enjoy aspects of both, and this has served me well and has brought me many unique experiences and opportunities. It also means, however, that it can be difficult to fully associate with or integrate into each of these communities. This brings me, perhaps surprisingly, to Robinson College.

I knew relatively little about Robinson initially, but I was attracted by the College’s claim of having a truly open, inclusive, and welcoming culture. (The College is also very usefully located on my daily cycle commute to the Engineering Department!) The perfect opportunity then arose with Robinson seeking a Fellow in Engineering, and I was thrilled to be offered the position, which started officially in March 2022.

My initiation into the college community has been warm and supportive, buoyed by its many friendly Fellows and staff. Credit is especially due to the Warden, who has created a genuinely welcoming environment and has made every effort to ensure that new members feel at home from day one. Since joining Robinson I have enjoyed much of what it has to offer, including excellent dinners in Hall, meeting many esteemed Fellows and visitors, and wandering the beautiful gardens. On the first day of Michaelmas term this year, I even had the unique honour of delivering to several Robinson engineering freshers their very first Cambridge supervision.

My research focuses on sustainable transport, particularly the challenges associated with decarbonising heavy goods

vehicles (HGVs). In the UK, this means “lorries” up to 44 tonnes; in my home country of South Africa this means “trucks” up to 56 tonnes. Although battery electric vehicle technology is all but certain to dominate the net-zero transition for passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles, the jury remains out for HGVs, given their high energy requirements and the complexities of the logistics systems in which they operate. Possible solutions include “big-battery” electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles, or battery electric vehicles supported by an overhead catenary system—enabling trucks to dynamically charge on the motorway and to have smaller battery packs. Determining the optimal decarbonisation pathway for HGVs in the UK is not only an engineering exercise, but also requires grappling with difficult economic, political, commercial, and social questions. I am fortunate to have knowledgeable colleagues at Robinson in a broad range of fields who are happy to engage with the topic, challenging my own assumptions and ideas. It helps to have a rather esoteric field of study!

More generally, in matters of sustainability we need to be forward-facing rather than backward-looking, and Robinson’s status as a modern and innovative college makes it ideally positioned to play a leading role in the University’s wider sustainability efforts. Indeed, Robinson has a strong sustainability agenda which it has taken concrete steps to implement through its many green initiatives—such as the water source heat pump—which have earned the college its deserved Platinum Award from Green Impact.

Seven months into my time at Robinson, I can safely say that I feel fully integrated into the wonderful Robinson community and I am looking forward to the rest of my time here. ■



IN CONVERSATION WITH DR ANDREW WILLIAMSON: FROM ROBINSON NATSCI TO VENTURE CAPITALIST | INTERVIEWED BY MORRISON CLEAVER

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Morrison Cleaver (*Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, 2019) is a fourth-year undergraduate student at Robinson College, reading Chinese. He recently returned from a year abroad in Taiwan, during which he spent three months working at the British Chamber of Commerce Taipei as a researcher. Since the age of 15, Morrison has been interested in the world of entrepreneurship and hopes to one day become an entrepreneur.

Today, Dr Andrew Williamson is the Managing Partner of Cambridge Innovation Capital (CIC), a venture capital firm turning Cambridge's most exciting deep-tech ideas into commercial successes. CIC currently has over £500 million invested in more than 30 companies that came out of Cambridge. Thirty years ago, however, Dr Williamson was sitting in our familiar Robinson library, pouring over his worksheets. I was lucky enough to interview Dr Williamson about his path to CIC, and to find out how he went from an undergrad at Robinson to one of Cambridge's preeminent venture capitalists.

THE JOURNEY

Following his BA in NatSci, Physics, Williamson went straight on to do a PhD in Physics, also at Cambridge, working on simulations of materials on high performance computers. "At this time in the mid-90s," he said, "Cambridge was a very different place. It was essentially an academic, ivory-tower-town." The science park, built in the 70s, was still under development, and many of today's staple Cambridge companies, like ARM, were only just being established. The seeds were sown for an innovation ecosystem to spring to life, but they had not yet sprouted.

After completing his studies at Cambridge, Williamson moved to the US in 1996 to join the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as a postdoc. There he worked on solar panel technology, which at the time was only used for niche purposes, like on the Mars Rovers. From there he joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a project leader of material sciences research.

It was during this time that Williamson was first exposed to the fiery entrepreneurial culture of the San Francisco Bay Area. "Every dinner party you [went] to, or when talking to the other parents at the school gates, you found everyone was involved in tech, bio-tech. Everyone had a start-up or was consulting for a start-up, and pretty soon I was being invited to consult for start-ups." To get involved in the start-up culture, he took up formal training in the form of an Executive EMBA at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley. Williamson chuckled as he reflected on this crazy period, when he was leading a research group during the days and studying for his EMBA in the evenings and on the weekends. Nevertheless, he believes it was very worthwhile.

Through the EMBA he landed his first job in investment at Phys Ventures. For the next ten years, he led the fund's investments in the field of sustainability. He returned to the UK in 2016, and spent his last three years in America at True North Venture Partners scouting globally for disruptive innovations across the fields of energy, materials, water, and more. Dr Williamson spoke very fondly of the US and believes that "even if you plan to have a successful academic career in the UK, the best way to start that is by moving to the US." In fact, until being headhunted for his current role, he and his wife (Dr Anna Williamson, also of Robinson) had no plans to return to the UK.





Dr Andrew Williamson

CAMBRIDGE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In my opinion, Dr Andrew Williamson has one of the most exciting and important jobs in Cambridge. CIC is one of the largest venture capital firms which has a particular interest in Cambridge-based start-ups. It specialises in deep-tech businesses in fields including, but not limited to, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), quantum technologies, Machine Learning (ML), diagnostics and genomics.

Thanks to increased engagement with firms like CIC, Cambridge is certainly now one of the leading entrepreneurship ecosystems in Europe. Upon his return to Cambridge, Williamson couldn't believe the difference in atmosphere between 2016 and a decade earlier. The same invigorating, non-stop start-up chat that first pulled him into the world of entrepreneurship in California was present at the dinner parties and school collections in Cambridge. "20 years ago," he said, "there was even a decent fraction of academics who viewed entrepreneurial activity with some scepticism because it would taint academic pursuits [...] but now there is a broad recognition that [it] can lead to societal benefits, economic growth and development."

With this interview, Williamson hopes to spread the message that there has never been a better environment for entrepreneurial activity in Cambridge. For example, students looking at working with start-ups—often a risky pursuit—can take comfort in the current level of activity: if one start-up fails, a bevy of others will be looking to hire. As Williamson says, "the risk equation has changed."

Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives have also been established for Cambridge entrepreneurs, contributing to this 'better-than-ever' environment. CIC itself has a focus on supporting women in tech entrepreneurship and reducing the gender gap in employment figures. To this aim, they have become a signatory on the Investing in Women Code—a commitment to improving female entrepreneurs' access to tools, resources, and finance. CIC were also one of the founding parties of LSX Female Founders, which connects female entrepreneurs in the health and life sciences fields to a network of 10,000 investors.

Our interview concluded with Williamson's advice for current students: "Opportunity for entrepreneurship is everywhere in Cambridge and you shouldn't be afraid because the scarcest resource right now is you, talent!" ■

FROM THE PRE-SOCRATICS TO NIGERIAN TAPAS: THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP LESSON I LEARNED FROM MY CLASSICS DEGREE | IFEYINWA FREDERICK

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP



A fervent believer in the power of stories and human connection, *Ifeyinwa Frederick (Classics, 2011)* co-founded Chuku's—the world's first Nigerian tapas restaurant—to positively rewrite the narrative surrounding Nigerian culture in the UK and build a community centred around good food and good vibes.

Starting Chuku's without any hospitality experience, Frederick gained a reputation as an industry pioneer and has been featured in Forbes' list of 100 Female Founders in Europe. She was also the winner of the 2019 Young British Foodie Awards in the food sharing category.

Alongside running Chuku's, Frederick is also a critically acclaimed writer. Her debut play, *The Hoes*, was staged in London in 2018. Her latest play, *Sessions*, explored depression and therapy, and toured the UK in 2021. Having learnt from her own experiences of burnout, she is vocal about the importance of mental wellbeing for entrepreneurs and high-achievers.



October 2011: I sat in front of my computer, a blank Word document on the screen, wondering, where do I begin? I was attempting to tackle my first supervision essay. The topic was ancient philosophy, which would quickly become my favourite part of my degree, and the

essay had been set by the late Professor Burnyeat on the pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus. I had no pointers in which direction to take, and the reading list was so vast I knew I couldn't possibly read it all, and, anyway, how would I know which texts to read to find the answer? Why was I not having my hand held throughout the process? In that moment, I knew I was never going to survive the following three years. I didn't have a clue what I was doing.

June 2014: I was graduating Cambridge University with a 2:1, having received a first in my ancient philosophy module. I had more than survived. I'd thrived.

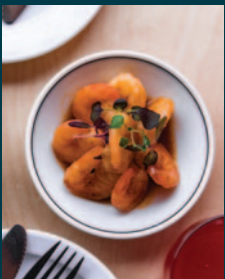
Since then—as is probably the case with many classicists—I've been quizzed on the purpose of my Classics degree, including what I thought studying Latin and Socrates was going to do for me in life. But my response is always the same: I opted to study Classics for the sheer fun of it. I loved the sneak peek I got at school, and if I was going to pay to go to university and spend three years of my life reading and writing essays it was going to be on something I enjoyed. And studying Classics has genuinely benefitted my personal development. For example, studying Stoic philosophy taught me a lot about managing my own emotions. It underpins a lot of modern-day therapy and the content you find in contemporary self-help books (see Ryan Holiday's growing popularity).

But perhaps, most helpfully, I left Cambridge and Robinson College having spent three years honing a critical life skill: how to begin when you don't know what you're doing. Even after three years of weekly essays, I never felt at ease starting one. The same "I don't know what to do" feeling would always accompany every essay question. But with each hand-in, I got better and better at working alongside that feeling and also figuring out what I needed to do to be able to get to a point where I could start to think about answering the question. I never

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FROM THE PRE-SOCRATICS TO NIGERIAN TAPAS

IFEYINWA FREDERICK



Photos by Naf Castanas
(@adashandaspash)

knew exactly how I was going to get to the end point, but I started to trust in my ability to be able to figure it out as I went along.

And that skill is what has propelled me in my career so far, navigating the last seven years as an accidental restaurateur and writer.

Alongside playwrighting and screenwriting, I am the co-founder of Chuku's: the world's first Nigerian tapas restaurant. My brother and I started the restaurant, and from the beginning we have been about more than just food. In everything we do, we seek to share and celebrate the best of Nigerian culture—from Nigerian music to Nigerian literature. We started as a pop-up in 2016 and off the back of our success we opened our first permanent site in 2020. We've been named one of the top 100 restaurants in London, and we've been featured in *Vogue*, *The Guardian*, and on the BBC. We've also worked with global brands such as Soho House, Gymshark, and Meta (formerly Facebook).

When my brother and I began this journey in 2016, we had no hospitality experience and no idea of how to establish a restaurant. We had no real idea even of how to run a pop-up, but I knew how to start: choose a name, advertise a pop-up, and figure out a menu. Which is what we did. And the rest I trusted we'd figure out along the way.

The Chuku's pop-up was born out of a frustration that there wasn't anywhere for my brother and I to enjoy Nigerian food near our family home, which is on the border of East London and Essex. Nor was there anywhere to eat Nigerian food where we socialised with friends. At the same time, we felt that London lacked warmth, and needed greater opportunity for human connection. I'd recently returned from living in the Caribbean and I missed the warmth of the community there. We wanted to create a place on a London high street that was loudly Nigerian, but was also a warm and welcoming spot that would bring people together.

Back in 2016, a brick-and-mortar restaurant for Chuku's was a dream, but after four years of refining the concept, building our brand community of chop-chat-chillers, and a painfully long site hunt, we opened our first permanent site in 2020 on Tottenham's High Road. As we had long

dreamed, we had Nigerian-inspired art on the walls, a mini-library of Nigerian authors on the shelves, and our speakers filled the restaurant with Nigerian beats from the 70s to today. Laughter and energetic conversation wafted through the restaurant, and the heart-warming exchanges between guests and our team were matched by the warmth of our dishes: from our smoky Jollof Quinoa (our spin on traditional jollof rice), to our Egusi Bowl (our now Instagram-famous dish and Time-Out recommended 'hype dish'), and of course, our Plantain Waffles, my favourite dessert on our menu.

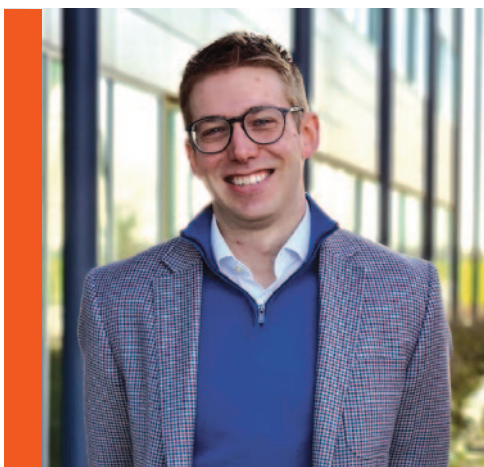
But just five weeks after our grand opening we were forced to close because of the pandemic. This had not been in the plan. But we pivoted. We focused on our core reason of being: celebrating Nigerian culture and bringing people together. And we hosted virtual supper clubs, Nollywood Netflix parties, and launched nationwide food delivery kits.

Now, I hope, lockdowns are behind us. This year has been our first year of uninterrupted service—two years later than planned. I'm proud to see that we are still open. It's been no small feat, but I also know it's not a state of affairs I can take for granted. I've got big dreams for Chuku's—from becoming a multiple-site restaurant brand to hosting an annual cultural festival—and, honestly, I have no idea how on earth we'll get there.

But I've come to understand that entrepreneurship is having a destination and then drawing the map and figuring out the route to get yourself there while you're already moving. You have to begin even when you only have the first few steps of the route mapped out. It's that same skill that was honed writing essays in my room at Robinson College.

And my first step right now is to focus on building the Chuku's team and getting the first restaurant full and bustling, back like it was when we first opened, so it can become the blueprint for each restaurant that is to follow. So maybe one day a student in Robinson College, as they fret over how to begin their next supervision essay, can "chop, chat, chill" as they feast on some Nigerian tapas.

Chuku's is located at 274 High Road, Tottenham, N15 4AJ. Book a table at www.chukuslondon.co.uk or follow the restaurant on social media @chukusldn. ■



→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FROM ROBINSON TO TACKLING TREATMENT RESISTANCE IN CANCER DR STEVE FULLER

Dr Steve Fuller (Natural Sciences - Chemistry, 2005) graduated from Cambridge in 2013, after completing an undergraduate degree and PhD in Chemistry. Dr Fuller is now CEO of Varsity Pharmaceuticals, a Cambridge-based start-up searching for new therapies for treatment-resistant cancer.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Back in 2013, after almost eight amazing years at Robinson, I was finishing off a PhD in atmospheric chemistry and starting to consider what to do next. Then at a scholar's dinner, I had the good fortune to be sat next to the guest speaker, James Harrison, who had recently founded his own company, Cycle Pharmaceuticals. After a brief chat over coffee, I joined James as the first employee of Cycle. Cycle develops and markets drug treatments for rare diseases, with a focus on providing the very best products and supportive care services for patient needs. From the modest beginnings of two ex-chemists working in the back of an estate agent's office, and with the support of Robinson as one of our key investors, Cycle is now a successful commercial pharmaceutical company, with over 70 employees based in the UK and the US.

Developing drugs for rare diseases was my primary focus with Cycle, but we also maintained our links to the chemistry department and Robinson, supporting leading research by Professor Melinda Duer. Professor Duer is focused on understanding the chemical mechanisms of resistance and spread in cancer, and identifying new pathways and drugs that might be used in cancer treatment. Building on our ongoing relationship with Robinson and Prof Duer, in 2020 (with Cycle now a fully-fledged commercial business) investment was secured to accelerate Cycle's growth and establish a new entity, Varsity Pharmaceuticals, as a purely cancer-focused sister company within the Cycle group.

Varsity aims to develop new treatments for types of cancers for which options are limited due to drug resistance and late diagnosis. We work with world-leading research institutions—including Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and the American-based Dana Faber Cancer Institute—to translate new discoveries from the bench-top to patients. We focus on developing drugs that can improve outcomes in first-line cancer therapy: the first treatment a patient receives following diagnosis, the outcome of which is a key determinant in survival.

Varsity's role is to support all aspects of preparing for a clinical study, from making the drug molecule and formulating it into tablets, to putting together a clinical protocol that will determine which patients will be enrolled and how they will be treated. We also meet regularly with regulators such as the FDA and MHRA to seek their guidance to ensure our studies will be approved.

While a typical day involves scouring research publications to plan our development strategies, we often have the privilege of meeting directly with leading cancer researchers and clinicians who make our work possible.

At the time of writing, for example, Varsity met with the pancreatic cancer clinical team at CRUK Cambridge Institute to start finalising the design of Varsity's first clinical study, due to start in 2023. This study is for a new drug developed at CRUK that alters how the immune system interacts with tumour cells and aims to make chemotherapy more effective. A key aspect of the study design is including tests that will allow us to identify patients most likely to respond to this treatment. If successful, this additional data will allow us to accelerate the development of this new therapy, and if our new treatment doesn't work it can be used to support the ongoing search for new drugs.

A day spent discussing cancer drug trials is not how I imagined my career when completing my PhD in atmospheric chemistry, but the relationships fostered both at Robinson and in the department of chemistry have allowed me to transfer my skills to this new and rewarding field. ■

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ADDING VALUE TO A START-UP

EMMA KENNY

“YOU DON’T NEED TO HAVE FOUNDED A BUSINESS YOURSELF OR BE A WEALTHY INVESTOR TO BE ABLE TO ADD VALUE TO A START-UP.”



In the current economy, it is vital that promising early-stage businesses get the support and investment they need to create jobs and to expand internationally. But it’s a common misconception that only people with experience in building and investing in other organisations are what a start-up needs. You don’t need to have founded a business yourself or be a wealthy investor to add value to a start-

up. In fact, some super-successful founders are so convinced that the way they built their business is the only way, that they can be dangerous as advisers. In this article, I’ll talk about what start-ups really need to thrive.

WHAT DO START-UPS NEED HELP WITH?

The answer to this always depends on the type of start-up and the type of founding team, but, in general, start-ups need advice and money to get off the ground—two things that many Robinson alumni are in a position to provide.

Founders are often young. They have an idea or an insight into a particular problem, and they have the technical knowledge to build a product that solves the problem, but often they lack the experience of actually managing the day-to-day aspects of a business. They might never have managed a team or recruited anyone. They might have no sales knowledge and limited experience of working for a large organisation, which makes selling their own product to a large organisation a difficulty. But if someone with years of experience in a relevant industry can make themselves available as a sounding board—to both challenge and support the team as they establish the business—it can make the difference between success and failure. For example, many founders underestimate how long it takes to close a sale with a big company, or are bemused when it turns out that the person they have been speaking to for months is not actually the person who makes the decision to buy. Someone with experience of corporate sales can make sure this is taken into account at the planning stage, and perhaps prevent the start-up from running out of cash: a reason why so many promising businesses fail.

Let’s take the example of a bio-tech or med-tech start-up, which usually faces years of clinical trials before turning over any profit. The support of someone who knows the ins and outs of the NHS, or who understands ‘big pharma’, or who has contacts in the US healthcare sector, can smooth the path and ensure that early strategic decisions make sense in terms of later being able to

profitably licence or sell the product on a global scale. And there are start-ups in almost every sector of the economy: from the creative arts to deep tech, from food and hospitality to software, and from med-tech to e-commerce. Almost all them can benefit from the involvement of people who know those industries inside out. Given the breadth and range of industry experience amongst Robinson alumni, there could be countless useful contacts who could be deployed in support of the next generation of early-stage businesses.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

So far, we’ve covered advice, but what about money? Once a start-up has started to get a little bit of traction—perhaps a prototype is ready for production, or the first version of the software is ready for a beta-test—the business will very likely look to raise some investment from business angels. At this stage (no real revenue yet), securing investment from Venture Capital firms is often a challenge, so angel investors are hugely important. So important, in fact, that the government provides tax breaks in the form of the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) and Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). This means that as an early-stage investor (providing you are a UK taxpayer) much less of your money is at risk if the company fails, and you pay no tax on the capital gain if it’s successful.

HOW DOES ANGEL INVESTING WORK?

Angel investing is not just for the super-rich: it’s for people with some business experience and a bit of spare cash. There are numerous angel groups across the UK that provide a forum for start-ups to pitch their businesses, Dragon’s Den style, to potential investors. And investors are under no obligation to invest. Being part of the group means you can just watch and learn, or take part in shared due diligence to decide whether you think a particular company is going to do well. Depending on the angel group, the amount an individual angel invests could be as low as £5k. £10-£20k would be very typical, although some wealthy angels might invest £100k upwards in a single business. But it’s risky, and as the advice always goes, never invest money you can’t afford to lose.

Becoming a business angel is a fantastic way to add value to a start-up. The cash is, of course, appreciated, but the advice that angels can provide is often even more valuable. It’s also a way to learn something new and to get a different perspective on UK plc. It is also entirely possible to be a passive angel investor, but for those who get closely involved with the companies they have invested in, it can be exciting and challenging — and sometimes even heart-breaking, but hardly ever dull. And there are the times it can be really, really profitable! ■

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

*Central Kyiv from my trip to Ukraine in September
Image: Tiara Ataii*



Tiara Ataii (Modern and Medieval Languages, 2016) has experience working in humanitarian response in 14 countries. She writes articles on the topic, which you can find on her website (www.tiarasaharataii.com).

My journey at Cambridge started in more chaotic circumstances than most. I had gained a place to read Music (2016) and intended to spend my gap year before Robinson as an accompanist at music schools across Europe. And I did—but I also ended up spending around eight hours a day volunteering as an interpreter for Afghans who had come to Europe in 2015 and 2016 to seek asylum, and who had ended up in the system's Kafkaesque legal maze. I would start my day as early as 6am to fill in forms, run to the local authorities in between music lessons, and end at 9pm, having accompanied asylum seekers who had interviews the next day to see a lawyer. Two weeks before I was meant to start lectures, I realised that maybe Music wasn't what I was going to dedicate my life to. I re-interviewed for Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. And on the first day of lectures, I heard I had been accepted for my new course.

I began using each holiday to continue volunteering to support asylum seekers through the asylum system, and I was appalled at the quantity and consistency of legal miscarriages. I had grown up with a British passport, and the privileges it provides—like freedom of movement—and I couldn't envisage a scenario in which those fleeing death and persecution could live under the constant threat of deportation.

So that Lent term, I founded SolidariTee. The idea was that I would sell shirts with art designed by refugees to Cambridge students, which would act as a conversation starter and a fundraiser for lawyers providing legal aid. In just a month I had sold 600 shirts, and I began to think that maybe the idea had relevance outside of Cambridge.

Fast-forward five and a half years: SolidariTee has trained up over 1,000 students in

refugee advocacy, we've run teams at 60 universities, and we've provided almost half a million pounds in grants to NGOs providing legal aid.

It's the awareness raising and advocacy training I'm by far proudest of. This isn't to say that the funds we've raised aren't crucial—a refugee who receives SolidariTee-funded legal aid in Greece has a 73% chance of asylum compared to the national average of just 30%. But what I've learned over the last five and a half years is that we're always fire-fighting in the face of increasingly hostile policy towards refugees, often in flagrant violation of international law. Pushbacks (when migrants are forced back over a border by state authorities, usually immediately after having crossed the same border) are now widespread at European borders. SolidariTee is our collective statement that, as the next generation, we reject the proposition that this is the will of Europeans: this is not in our name.

Social entrepreneurship is a key tool in the path of justice and dignity for all, but it needs to be paired with long-term advocacy. I have therefore started writing articles to bring attention to some of the grave injustices I have borne witness to. The two articles I'm most proud of are those which look at the legislative backdrop to migrants' rights, which are eroding the progress made in the twentieth century.

After graduating from Cambridge, I worked at the UN in humanitarian response, and am now managing the Ukraine response for War Child. I've come full circle, as I am now working with social entrepreneurs to create youth empowerment programmes in Ukraine, where I just returned from. Entrepreneurship can't exist without human rights advocacy, and citizens being able to meet their own basic needs—but when these preconditions are in place, it can be a fantastic antidote to decades of disempowerment and marginalisation. ■

→ FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

BUSINESSWOMEN IN 18TH-CENTURY LONDON

PROFESSOR AMY ERICKSON



Professor Amy Erickson is a Professor of Feminist History and she co-directs the programme on The Occupational Structure of England & Wales 1379-1911 at the Cambridge Group for the History of Population & Social Structure (www.campop.geog.cam.ac.uk).

As a historian investigating women's employment in the period 1500-1800, I originally looked at the records of the London guilds, known as Companies, thinking that I would just eliminate them as a useful source of information because it was widely assumed that women were only admitted to the Companies in the late twentieth century.

What I found instead was that young women were trained as apprentices and that 'mistresses', as well as 'masters' of the Companies, took on and trained apprentices of their own. Women constituted only a small proportion of each Company's membership, but that still amounted to many hundreds active in the business at any one time in the City.

The word 'entrepreneur' was first used in the eighteenth century to mean a person who undertook the risks of an enterprise; from the later nineteenth century, it meant someone in business on their own account, whether they employed others or not. The City of London until around 1800 required women, just like men, to hold guild membership and the 'Freedom of the City' in order to run a business. It was the only place in Britain which did so, and as a result, we know more about businesswomen in the City than anywhere else because the records survive.

In the 2019 outdoor exhibition *City Women in the Eighteenth Century* (now online at citywomen.hist.cam.ac.uk), I was able to showcase the little-known elite female entrepreneurs in the heart of the City of London, using their business cards (now in the

British Museum) to tell their stories. These included silversmiths, jewellers, printers, fan-makers, chandlers (candle merchants), a whalebone merchant, and a wide range of textile dealers and clothing manufacturers and retailers.

In a subsequent study of marriage patterns and business succession among these wealthy entrepreneurs, I found that young women trained in trade did not relinquish that business upon marriage. Women who had married also continued to trade as widows, sometimes in partnership with an adult son but sometimes entirely separately. 'Wealthy businesswomen, marriage and succession in eighteenth-century London' is forthcoming in the journal *Business History* and can be read at Taylor & Francis Online.

These entrepreneurs help me to understand employment more broadly because they took apprentices, employed journeywomen as well as journeymen, shopwomen, and subcontractors, and of course, they required domestic servants and wetnurses for their children.

I have now successfully secured a Collaborative Doctoral Award from the Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership which will fund a PhD student to undertake their own study of female entrepreneurs in eighteenth-century London, which might focus on a particular area or a particular sector, such as the printing trades, or metal work, or food and drink provision. ■

TWENTY YEARS ON: HUGH PATON'S LEGACY



Tom Bell-Richards



Harriett Edwards



Yutong Han



Charlotte Duckett

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hugh Paton – JP Morgan Bursaries. The fund was created in memory of Hugh Paton, the first Law Fellow of Robinson College, and an investment banker at JP Morgan at the time of his death. The Hugh Paton – JP Morgan Bursaries assist female undergraduates in their second year (in any subject other than Architecture, Medicine, or Veterinary Medicine), and are awarded on the bases of financial need and contribution to the life of the College, combined with serious attention to academic studies. In the following testimonials, Dr David Woodman, Senior Tutor, reflects on the longstanding importance of the Bursaries, and alumnus Thomas Bell-Richards (1980, Law) remembers Hugh Paton as a formidable, yet friendly, Director of Studies. And previous awardees of the Bursaries speak of the importance of receiving the fund, demonstrating how a donation of this kind plays a critical role in enabling our students to thrive, both academically and personally.

“Our two daughters and I were deeply touched by Hugh’s colleagues wanting to set up this ongoing way of helping women students do something they might not otherwise be able to do, and to keep Hugh’s name alive in this way. I have been very impressed by the academic and all-round achievements of the women scholars whose CVs I have read. I believe Hugh would be thrilled that so many promising scholars have been helped in his name.”

Julia Paton

“Over the years the ‘Hugh Paton - JP Morgan Bursaries’ have become a crucial part of the annual support that we can offer our students. They are awarded to women in the second year of their undergraduate studies, in other words at a crucial juncture in their studies and at a time when extra financial support enables them to concentrate wholly on their academic work and ambitions. The awards are each year made by the Warden, Senior Tutor and Financial Tutor based on financial hardship but also good academic progress and wider contribution to the life of the College. We are profoundly grateful to the Hugh Paton - JP Morgan bursaries, as we are to all of the support given by our alumni, for their significant support of our students. →

Without this kind of help, the College would not be able to fulfil its ambitions to provide an unparalleled and transformative educational experience for all of its members.”

Dr David Woodman, Fellow, Senior Tutor, Robinson College

“Many years have passed but I’m sure that Hugh Paton remains an unforgettable part of the Cambridge memories of the first intakes of Robinson law students. Those of us who started in 1980 were admitted by Dr Sharpe before Hugh Paton joined the college so he had a group of students he hadn’t chosen — how many of us wouldn’t have made it! Hugh was always friendly and affable, outside supervisions, but there was no mistaking the steely determination and focus that lay just below the surface.

I remember the slightly thrust-forward jaw when he was displeased or making a point strongly. Thankfully I don’t think it was ever directed at me! Supervisions with Hugh were highly intense. I don’t know how he racked up the tension to such a degree but I’m sure it was good for us as lawyers. I always made sure I was as well prepared as I could be!

I felt that, as Director of Studies, Hugh expected us to know what we needed to do and to get on with it. Before our first-year exams, I remember him saying with some humour, in his lightly Scottish accent, that my report from my Constitutional Law supervisor was “a bit of a stinker!” I knew I’d made a bad first impression and believed I’d caught up. Hugh trusted me in that and so the exam result proved. Like many Cambridge law academics, he was also a practising barrister and apart from bringing back some amusing stories from the courts he always maintained an intense real-world focus. Hugh left just before our final exams. I felt then as I do now that I was fortunate to have him as Director of Studies. It was a shock to learn of his tragic death. Much as I valued the privilege of reading Law at Cambridge, I never intended to become a barrister. A country solicitor was the plan but the plan changed while I was at Robinson and I became a rural Chartered Accountant. As I am today.”

Thomas Bell-Richards (Law, 1980)



Julia and Hugh Paton

“Being awarded this bursary has greatly helped me throughout my time at Robinson. The extra financial security has meant that I have not had to get a full-time job during each vacation, meaning I have had the time to keep going with my academic work as well as have a rest in between terms. Additionally, it has given me the freedom to pursue different musical outlets throughout term-time and vacations. This has not only been beneficial to me both in supporting my degree and mental health but also allowed me to give back to Robinson college by becoming an active member of the Robinson musical community, organising concerts and ensembles through the music society as well as taking part as a performer.”

Harriet Edwards (Music, 2019)

“As the awardee of the Hugh Paton – JP Morgan Bursary in three successive years, I’d like to extend my sincere gratitude to the family of Mr Paton, JP Morgan, and Robinson College. Your generosity and faith in me have lightened the financial burden for me as an international student, especially during the Covid pandemic, and enabled me to stay entirely focused on my studies. After graduating successfully in July this year, I am now continuing to pursue a doctoral degree in communications engineering in Germany, and I cannot be more grateful for their contribution to my future. This bursary funded more than just a part of my education; it also encourages my passion to give back to future generations.”

Yutong Han (Engineering, 2018)

“I am currently studying Natural Sciences at Robinson and received the Hugh Paton – JP Morgan Bursary in my second year. I used the bursary to fund accommodation and living costs whilst I completed a three-week work experience placement this summer at the History and Philosophy of Science Department’s Whipple Library in Cambridge. During the placement, I worked closely with the librarians at the Whipple Library, learning about library work, working with rare scientific books, writing blog posts, and helping at an interactive session with school children. This was a unique opportunity and is particularly useful as I am specialising in History and Philosophy of Science in my third year. I am very grateful to have received the bursary because it enabled me to have this great experience.”

Charlotte Duckett (Natural Sciences – Biological, 2020) ■



Professor David Yates in his office with Peter Hipkin, the 2022 Professor David Yates Master's Scholar

THE PROFESSOR DAVID YATES MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS

After twenty years as the Warden of Robinson College, Professor David Yates stepped down in 2021. The Professor David Yates Master's Scholarships were created to mark the end of two decades of his leadership, and to build a legacy that will help attract future graduate students to Robinson, continuing David's aim to make a Cambridge education accessible to all. Thanks to the donations of numerous alumni and other friends of the College throughout the appeal, including an immensely generous £100,000 in match funding donated by Sir David and Adrian Li (Law, 1992), we raised £300,000, exceeding our campaign goal. In 2022, the inaugural Professor David Yates Master's Scholarship was awarded to Peter Hipkin, an MPhil candidate in Early Modern History.

"I'm thrilled to be the first recipient of the Professor David Yates Master's Scholarships here at Robinson. During my undergraduate degree at Durham, I worked at my college bar while completing my degree to help fund the costs of studying. The Yates Scholarship will allow me to focus entirely on pursuing my research at Cambridge without the additional need to work part-time. This financial peace of mind will directly impact the quality of my research by enabling me to fully throw myself into my master's degree. This support is all the more important, and appreciated, given the deepening cost-of-living crisis we find ourselves in.

As part of my MPhil in Early Modern History, I am conducting a substantial piece of original research. By systematically studying the visual culture of late-seventeenth-century London, especially printed material such as graphic satires, I hope to shed new light on the popular political consciousness of non-elite groups, as well as how these groups were themselves represented in the visual and material culture of the period. I aim to research the political engagement and representation of poorer segments of society, non-white peoples, and women, groups that are not often incorporated into the political narratives of the period.

One of my aspirations is to build on this research by subsequently studying for a PhD in History, hopefully at Cambridge! Winning this scholarship against what I am sure was fierce competition has certainly inspired me with the confidence to apply for a PhD and ultimately to perhaps pursue a career in academia. Awards such as the David Yates Scholarship make academia both accessible and financially viable, and for that, I am immensely grateful."

**Peter Hipkin, MPhil candidate and 2022
Professor David Yates Master's Scholar**

"I am delighted to welcome the first recipient of the Professor David Yates Master's Scholarship to Robinson. My warmest congratulations go out to Peter on this award. He is a worthy, smart and resourceful young scholar, and I wish him all the very best of good fortune as he begins his MPhil in Early Modern History. It is gratifying to know that the College, with the generous support of our alumni and friends, has been able to put this Scholarship in place so quickly. It will fund graduate students over the coming years, helping to ensure that—regardless of background or means— aspiring students have the opportunity to reach their full potential here at Cambridge and beyond. Access to education is one of Robinson's core priorities, and I would like to thank those individuals who contributed to the Scholarships for helping us to continue to lead on this endeavour."

**Professor David Yates, Emeritus Fellow and former
Warden of Robinson College**

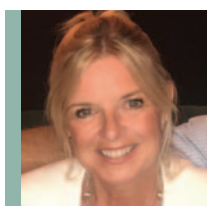
The creation of this Scholarship would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, our alumni, and the Robinson community, and we are so grateful that Robinson will continue to make much-needed funding available to those students who need it most, in the name of our second Warden. ■



BINSON GIVES

SUPPORTING BRILLIANT MINDS, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Cricket pitch, sponsored by Andrew Edgecliffe-Johnson (MML, 1990)
Entrance to M staircase, sponsored by Alastair McDonnell (Land Economy, 1996)
Robinson Bar, sponsored by Alex Lennon (Electrical and Information Sciences, 1993)



In May, Robinson hosted its first digital Giving Day. Binson Gives was a 36-hour extravaganza, giving alumni the chance to celebrate the people and places at Robinson most meaningful to them and to donate toward the Annual and Wellbeing Funds. For the Development team, Giving Day was spent discovering parts of the College that we had never even heard of, like the College Darkroom, or fabulous rooftop views. This was pretty amazing, given that our team has collectively spent over 55 years at Robinson! We also had huge fun posting sticky notes on people like Malcolm Trotter and Dr Martin Brett (tickled and bemused in turn) whom alumni wanted to remember as having made their time at Robinson so special.

BINSON GAVE: GIVING DAY 2022

CATHERINE BIGGS

This whole event was only made possible by the match-funding provided by a couple of very kind alumni, to whom we are extraordinarily grateful. Thanks to their generosity, and to that of all the donors, we were able to raise over £30,000 for our College and its students, with over 225 donations coming in over the 36 hours. And beyond its fundraising success, Binson Gives was invaluable for demonstrating the significance Robinson continues to hold for our alumni. The very first donation that came in was to claim the Law Library, a bit of the College that will of course mean a lot to past and current law students, and which other Robinsonians may have never stepped foot inside. The Robinson College Gardens were—not surprisingly—foremost in many memories, and it was lovely to hear how much they meant to alumni of all ages.

Social spaces like the Party Room and the bar were fondly remembered, as well as the latter's pool tables and long-gone jukeboxes, while other alumni wanted to claim the flat or set that had been their home while at Robinson. We did warn students

that alumni may be coming to claim their rooms during Giving Day, but we still had some puzzled faces from students opening their doors to see them covered in sticky notes! Rooms near the bar seemed particularly popular, and we (and our fabulous student helpers) certainly got our steps in visiting those rooms at the top of the towers.

Binson Gives was a hectic and hugely fun 36 hours, and it was really special for us to be able to share your memories. We're also very grateful for the messages of support that came in throughout the campaign. With the new Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare in place, the funds raised are already being put to good use.

Plans are now afoot for Binson Gives 2023: we hope those of you who weren't able to take part and stake your claim to Robinson last year will be able to join in the fun this time around. And if you participated last year, we hope you join us again to re-stake your claim or claim somewhere new! Perhaps there's even more of Robinson for us to discover. ■



PEGASUS SCHOLARS FLY

FOR A WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, ROBINSON COLLEGE HOSTED THE IN-PERSON PORTION OF THE INAUGURAL PEGASUS SCHOLARS BRIDGING PROGRAMME, OFFERING ELEVEN INCOMING FRESHERS AN INTRODUCTION TO ALL THINGS CAMBRIDGE



Pegasus Scholars learn academic strategy



Pegasus Scholars walk through Robinson campus

The Pegasus Scholars scheme, led by Elizabeth Rawlinson-Mills, is an integral part of the College's Widening Participation (WP) programme, which aims to ensure that the opportunity to study at Robinson is made as accessible as possible to students from the widest variety of backgrounds. It was planned on the premise that achieving a place at Cambridge is only the first stage in feeling prepared to participate fully in the life and opportunities that our wonderful University affords. As such, the Programme is an invaluable chance for the College to offer incoming Robinson students a chance to preview the College, and to prepare for life at the University, before they

officially begin. Weeks one and three of the programme took place online. With current Robinson students acting as mentors, the group had the chance to experience everything from supervisions, to formal halls, to punting. They started to get used to the everyday life of the College—meeting new people, navigating their way to different rooms for supervisions, seminars, and group activities, eating in the Garden Restaurant and grabbing a coffee in the Red Brick café. Each Scholar also undertook a challenging, personalised programme of subject enrichment, working closely with experts in their field to expand their understanding of the directions their subject might take them in future, and to hone their study skills.

At the end of the programme, the visiting students provided feedback about their experience, with almost all of the scholars saying they felt more confident about starting at Robinson in the autumn, in terms of both academics and the social aspects of College life. As one said, "The scholars very quickly overcame the awkwardness of meeting for the first time, got to know the city and other colleges together, and spent some quality time together. Most of all, I learned that there were other people like me going to the University from all different kinds of backgrounds. Everyone on the programme was so helpful, with clear instructions and support, lots of humour, and honesty about the challenges of Cambridge but encouragement to keep trying."

And it wasn't just the scholars who found the process rewarding—many of the student mentors commented on how inspiring and rewarding it was to have helped prepare the visiting scholars for the challenges that lay ahead. One mentor commented, "Looking back, I really wish I had had the opportunity to do something similar. This might have eased the considerable anxiety I felt for many of my first weeks at Cambridge."

It was wonderful to see the Pegasus Scholars again in October when they returned to the College to start their degrees. We are hugely grateful to the generosity of the Isaac Newton Trust, and to the Robinsonian donor who made this Programme possible. As one of the Scholars said, "I feel so proud and lucky to be in a College that is so supportive of students." The Pegasus Scholars Bridging Programme is a demonstration of Robinson's philosophy toward academic inclusivity and opportunity, and proof that these kinds of innovative programmes have tangible, and enduring, value. ■

NEWS: ALUMNI EVENTS

YORK ALUMNI GET TOGETHER, 7 MAY 2022



Photo credit: Nicky Forsdike

Robinson alumni gathered in local York restaurant The Chopping Block on 7 May, reminiscing about Cambridge and the College over a lunch of local Yorkshire produce. Organised by **Nicky Forsdike (Music, 1980)**, the afternoon was a great success, beginning with a wine tasting and ending with plans for future meetups of alumni living in the North. We look forward to sharing news of any upcoming events. ■

DONOR DAY, 25 JUNE 2022



Photo credit: Nic Marchant

Sir Richard Heaton welcomed donors and their guests to Robinson's third Donor Day on a sunny afternoon in June. Speaking in a pre-recorded address because of Covid-19, the Warden thanked all donors and supporters, both present and absent, for their continued commitment to the College. He spoke about Robinson's mission of academic, social, and organisational excellence, which is made possible thanks to donor-supported programmes like the 10-year Quantum Programme, the David Yates Masters Scholarships, and the Wellbeing and Welfare Programme. Of the latter, the Warden highlighted how, thanks to the generous support of the Wellbeing Campaign, the College was able to appoint a Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare and open the Wellbeing Centre in Thorneycreek Cottage. "Without your support," he said, "we would not be as successful, we could not be as ambitious, and it would be much harder to plan for a future with any degree of confidence."

After the Warden's address, guests enjoyed a drinks reception on the patio of the Crausaz Wordsworth Building, followed by a four-course lunch. After lunch, Dr Kevin Chalut, a Fellow of Robinson, gave a talk on using stem cells for tissue regeneration. There was also an art exhibition held in the College Chapel, showcasing Cambridge-based artists who made art around the River Cam. The day concluded with a much-enjoyed

afternoon tea. We are enormously grateful to our donors and their guests for coming to this very special event, and for their continued support of the College. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year. ■

REUNIONS AND THE ALUMNI FORUM, 26 MARCH AND 24 SEPTEMBER 2022



Photo credit: Nic Marchant

Alumni returned to Robinson for two reunions in 2022, with alumni from matriculation years 1986, 1996, and 2006 celebrating in March, and those of 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 in September. As always, it was a great pleasure to see everyone and to hear the Hall come alive with laughter and chatter as alumni swapped stories and shared memories of their time at Robinson. The March reunion also coincided with the annual Alumni Forum focusing on net zero, "1.5 to stay alive ... Is Net Zero possible?" A group of Robinson alumni working in the fields of sustainability processes and legislature, publishing, carbon offsetting, and sustainability customer support discussed the latest developments in their respective fields and their opinions on net zero. **Thea Sherer (Social and Political Sciences, 1998)**, acted as this year's Forum Chair and was joined by **Oliver Millican (Land Economy, 1999)**, **Alastair Marke (Sustainability Leadership, 2017)**, and **Elena Vydrine (Sustainability Leadership, 2016)**.

The reunion is always one of the highlights of the College calendar, and we are very excited to host two more in 2023, on 25 March and 23 September. The March reunion will be for alumni who matriculated in 1987, 1997, and 2007, and alumni of all other year groups; the September event will be for those who matriculated in 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012.

Mark your calendars! ■

THE CHANDRAKALA & MANSUKHLAL SHAH BUILDING OFFICIALLY OPENED ON 3 JULY 2022



Photo credit: Nic Marchant

The Chandrakala & Mansukhlal Shah Building, the new home for the Robinson College Archive, was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sunday, 3 July 2022. Hosted by the Warden, and attended by many of the donors who had contributed to the building, it was a very special occasion. In his welcome speech, the Warden thanked all donors for making it possible for Robinson to have this new purpose-built home for the College Archive, named after the parents of principal benefactors **Mr Hamel Shah (Economics, 1994)** and Ms Meredith DePaolo. Mr Shah spoke to the assembled group about the support he had received over the years from his parents, and the principles they had instilled in him that allowed him to succeed at Cambridge. The Warden expressed special thanks to Ross and Jane Reason, who initiated the building and kickstarted the fundraising campaign with a Leadership gift. In his speech at the building's ground-breaking ceremony, Mr Reason noted the value of archives, saying "they are essential in helping to preserve history and in helping scholars understand how and why decisions were taken by their predecessors. They should be at the core of all Colleges as places of learning and research."

Mr Kevin Parry OBE (Management Studies, 1980), who lent his name to the Archive's Reading Room, also spoke at the ceremony, highlighting how "Robinson's relative youth allows it to establish a complete archive from its foundation into the future. Having been present at the commencement of its operations, I was delighted to support the archive project." The day of celebrations finished with afternoon tea at the Crausaz Wordsworth Building. It was a very special day in the life of Robinson College and its community. ■

THE WARDEN'S LONDON RECEPTION AT THE BARBICAN CENTRE, 5 APRIL 2022



Robinson's Warden Sir Richard Heaton hosted a drinks reception for alumni, donors and Friends of Robinson College in April at London's Barbican Centre. With guests gathered on the Centre's rooftop terrace, the Warden shared news from Robinson and talked about plans for the College. The Warden is looking forward to hosting the next Annual Reception in July 2023, at 11 Cavendish Square in London, and having the opportunity to speak with and meet more alumni. ■

FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW RECRUITMENT EVENING, 10 OCTOBER 2022



Photo credit: RCFIS

On 10 October 2022, Robinson welcomed over 85 students from Robinson College and other Cambridge colleges to the annual Financial Services Recruitment Evening, organised by the Development Office and student-run Robinson College Finance and Investment Society (RCFIS).

Students enjoyed meeting Robinson alumni who shared their diverse experiences working in different financial services and gave tips on how to break into the industry. A highlight of the evening was the panel discussion chaired by **Charles Prideaux (English, 1985)** on the topic 'Opening the Market: Demystifying Careers in Finance'. President of RCFIS, Lucas Crossman, said: "We are extremely grateful to all our alumni guests for taking the time to attend our event. Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many emphasising how insightful speaking to our guests was. We would like to especially thank our panellists for helping us organise an excellent panel discussion: Charles Prideaux, **Nicole Holmes (Engineering, 2000)**, **Victor Li (Engineering, 2011)**, **Alexis Atteslis (Economics, 2004)**, and **Ian Oxley (Mathematics, 1993)**." ■

NEWS: ALUMNI



Professor Julie Whiter (née Yeoman) (Natural Sciences – Physical, 1980) has shared with us this update: “I have recently retired having spent the majority of my career at the University of Surrey. After six years as part of the early Robinson community, as an undergraduate then PhD student, I joined BP Research at Sunbury on Thames before returning to academia in August 1988, just one month after marrying Dr Jeff Whiter (Darwin, 1980) in Robinson Chapel.

As a materials engineer specialising in ceramics, I have worked on a wide variety of ceramic and ceramic matrix composite systems, always with an interest in the microstructural characterisation of materials before and after fracture as a result of exposure to demanding environments, such as those experienced in wear, thermal shock, joining and most recently ballistic and nuclear applications. In 2008, in recognition my contribution to ceramics, I was awarded the Veralum Medal and Prize from the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and in 2016 I delivered the 56th Melor Memorial Lecture. In 2021, AWE awarded me a William Penney Fellowship.

At Surrey, I had a number of leadership roles. When I retired, I was the Associate Dean, Research and Innovation, for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Previously, I had undertaken a two-year secondment as the first academic Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion having been Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Sciences and Director of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Centre for Doctoral Training in Micro- and NanoMaterials and Technologies. Other career highlights include being part of the EPSRC Strategic Advisory Network; the Advanced Materials Leadership Council, which ran from 2014-2016, to provide strategic advice to the Minister of State for Universities and Science; and the Strategic Facilities Advisory Board of the Henry Royce Institute, which is the result of a £235 million investment in materials research. I was also a member of the Council of the Institute of Materials and an editor of the Journal of Materials Science.

I will remain part of the Surrey community post-retirement as Professor Emerita.”

1984

Jennifer Burkinshaw (née Walsh) studied Classics, English and for a PGCE 1984 – 1988. She met her future husband, Richard—an engineer—in her first term at Robinson. They have two sons, who also studied at Cambridge! Each son and wife are about to have a son.

Following a long journey of learning the writing craft via an MA in Children’s Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University, Jennifer was mentored at the Golden Egg Academy. Now, at age 57, her debut novel, IGLOO, has been released with a small independent publisher. Set between the French Alps and Lancashire, it is a coming-of-age story about the need to be yourself when

parents and society can try to push you in different directions. It has some strong first reviews and is being enjoyed by readers of all ages.

1994

Professor Alexander Belton (Mathematics, 1994) moved to the University of Plymouth in September 2022 to become Head of the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics. This follows fifteen years with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Lancaster University, including the last five years as Head of Department.



2000

Lola Adesioye (SPS, 2000) was awarded a 2022-2023 National Arts Artistic Fellowship at the National Arts Club in New York City, as one of twelve recipients. The Artist Fellowship program continues the National Art Club’s 120-year history of supporting the arts by granting a select number of artists intending to further their careers in both visual and performing arts a year’s full membership of this historic club. Ms Adesioye, a social and political commentator, is now pursuing a career as a singer/songwriter under the name Lola Vista. “Being granted the Fellowship is a great honour,” she says. “Not only because the National Arts Club has such a significant history as a champion of the arts in New York, but also because it allows me to be around other gifted artists across different disciplines, all of whom are inspiring, interesting and who encourage me to grow in my creativity and artistic practice. I’m looking forward to making more great music and also incorporating other types of art forms into it as well.”



Photo credit:
Ms Dal Channa

2004

On Sunday 28 August, 2022, **Daljish (Dal) Channa (Modern and Medieval Languages, 2004)** married Mr. Aashish Gadhvi at Ramgharia Community Centre in London. Their reception dinner was held later the same day at The Willows in Essex. They were joined by Fellow Robinsonians **Rosie Duffell (Land Economy, 2005)** and **Katy Gregory-Smith (Social and Political Sciences, 2004)**, both bridesmaids, as well as **Amelia Hickling, née Beringer (Geography, 2004)**, **Sarah Carman (Natural Sciences, Biological, 2004)**, **Sarah Charles, née Smith, (Veterinary Medicine, 2004)** and **Romana Pugh, née Karim, (Philosophy, 2004)**.



Photo credit: Beth
Emmanuel

2014

Beth Emmanuel (Theology and Religious Studies, 2014) welcomed her second child in April, Naomi Oluwafunmilayo. The family is thankful for her safe arrival, and they are enjoying life as a family of four.

FELLOWS/SENIOR MEMBERS/BYE-FELLOWS



Professor German Berrios, Life Fellow, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry has been distinguished by The British Neuropsychiatry Association (BNPA) with its Lifetime Achievement Award. The following is an abbreviated version of Professor Berrios' written response to receiving the award: "When in the late 1970s we started the 'Neuro-Liaison' service at the recently founded Clinical school in Cambridge, our intention was simply to offer psychiatric support to

neurological and inner ear disease patients. To us, 'Neuropsychiatry' just meant the 'management of mental symptoms occurring in the context of neurological disease'. A research question was soon to follow: are these mental symptoms the same as those with the same name seen in psychiatric disease?

In the event, we collected a database of more than 5,000 neurological patients on a long standard computerized assessment. Based on these data, the Cambridge Group published on the Charles Bonnet syndrome, delusional parasitosis, pseudodementia, functional symptoms in neurological disease, pseudo-seizures, musical hallucinations, tinnitus, guilt, depersonalization, insight, the non-cognitive symptoms of dementia, the psychiatry of multiple sclerosis, TLE, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and Wilson's disease, etc. Nine specialized clinics were created for trainees wanting to specialize in Neuro-Liaison. In the fullness of time, the Royal College of Psychiatrists certified the Cambridge Neuropsychiatric Rotation as a training centre.

The neuropsychiatry of today is much broader and more complex than what we practiced in the 1970s. Hence, I fear I am getting this award under false pretences. Be that as it may, I humbly accept it on behalf of the more than seventy trainees, national and foreign, that went through the Cambridge programme, and contributed both with their research ideas and hard clinical work.

But most of all, I should like to accept this award on behalf of the thousands of patients who, in spite their suffering, provided us with precious information. Without this knowledge it would not have been possible for the Cambridge Neuropsychiatry Group to participate in the noble task of understanding and treating the mental symptoms that occur in the context of neurological disease."



On 26 April this year, The European Research Council awarded **Professor Anuj Dawar** a prestigious Advanced Grant for his research on developing mathematical proofs that certain complex problems cannot be solved through computation. Over the next five years this grant will help Professor Dawar and his research team to try to prove the impossible. "For me, a key driver is wanting to further our fundamental, conceptual understanding

of the nature of computation and what's possible – and what's impossible – within it," he says. Professor Dawar is Fellow and Deputy Warden of Robinson College, and Professor of Logic and Algorithms at the University of Cambridge.



An entry for **Professor Christopher Forbes Forsyth** was added to the Eminent Scholars Archive. Professor Forsyth, Fellow of Robinson College since 1983, was appointed the inaugural Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law in 2016. He is now the Emeritus Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law. In a series of three interviews conducted by the Cambridge Law Eminent Scholars Archive, Professor Forsyth talks at length on matters arising from the implementation of Roman-Dutch law to the political and legal problems of South Africa, and of the various roles he has played in local (Cambridgeshire) policing matters, Parliamentary Committees, and as a Recorder (part-time judge) on the South Eastern Circuit.



Following a competition, **Dr Elaine Freer**, a Fellow of Robinson College, was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be a non-judicial member of the Sentencing Council for England and Wales. The Council, which is chaired by Lord Justice Holroyd and is at arm's length from the government, promotes consistency and transparency in sentencing.



Professor Richard Needs, Fellow in Natural Sciences (Physical), Professor of Theoretical and Computational Physics, retired at the end of September 2021. Professor Needs, Robinson alumnus (Natural Sciences - Physics, 1980) devised computer models of materials at the quantum level and used them to predict their behaviour. He and his group developed the now widely used "CASINO" quantum Monte Carlo code.



Professor Rachel Oliver, Fellow and the Dean of Robinson College, has won the Academic category of the FDM everywoman in Technology Academic Award. Professor Oliver said of winning, "I'm delighted to receive this award because it honours both my technical achievements and my work on improving the inclusivity of the scientific ecosystem. Balancing these two facets of my career is an exciting challenge, and I'm proud that both aspects have been recognised in this way."



Senior Member **Professor Susan Sellers**, Professor of English Literature and Creative Writing at St Andrews University, published her new novel *Firebird: A Bloomsbury Love Story* earlier this year. Professor Sellers explained how inspirational women and feminism influenced her

writing: “It is a hundred years since Virginia Woolf published her radically experimental novel *Jacob’s Room* on her own hand-printing press, with a cover designed by her sister Vanessa Bell. When I was a student most of the texts on the syllabus were by male authors, and Virginia Woolf was a revelation. One of my current academic projects is overseeing a new edition of Virginia Woolf’s writing for Cambridge University Press, which draws together all the exciting feminist research of recent decades.

My new novel *Firebird: A Bloomsbury Love Story* tells the story of another pioneering woman artist: the Russian dancer Lydia Lopokova who came to Europe in 1910 with Sergei Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes, moved into Bloomsbury in 1922, and married the economist Maynard Keynes in 1925. I was intrigued by the controversy this marriage caused – Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf feared it would be the ruination of their friend Maynard Keynes. Fiction is the ideal medium for exploring controversy because it allows you to hypothesise and imagine in all those places where the historical record is blank.” ■



Using tiny temperature sensors, researchers in **Professor Gabriele Kaminski Schierle’s** research group are analysing the changes in temperatures within human cells, and investigating the possible link between temperature and the build-up of specific proteins that cause brain cells to die and to shrink. Inhibiting such temperature growth—and stopping cells to overheat and ‘fry like eggs’—may open new diagnostics for

Alzheimer’s, and may even create a therapeutic for this disease. Professor Kaminski Schierle is a Fellow of Robinson College in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology.

Dr Chris Warner, Fellow and Director of Studies in Mathematics celebrated 21 years at Robinson College on 1 May 2022. Dr Warner invited all the Mathematics College Members to his annual “Robinson College World Famous Mathematics Barbeque”, held in the College Hall. Alumni and current students in Mathematics were treated to good food, good music, and a lot of fun. ■



Dr David Woodman, Fellow, Senior Tutor and Director of Studies in History and Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, published a co-edited volume about eleventh- and twelfth-century historiography from Worcester entitled “Constructing History across the Norman Conquest: Worcester, c.10500-c.1150”, with Boydell & Brewer. Dr Woodman also agreed a book deal with Princeton University Press to write a biography of King Æthelstan, the grandson of Alfred

the Great, called *The First King of England*. The book will trace the course of the king’s life from a marginalised youth brought up away from the centre of political power in Wessex to his acceptance as the first king of England, examining a rich and varied body of primary sources which reveal a king who was uniquely ambitious in political terms. ■

NEWS: STAFF



Image credit: Spotyphoto

LONG SERVING STAFF RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS

In October, Robinson staff gathered in the Hall to celebrate the extraordinary commitment made by a significant number of staff. The Long Service Award was presented by the Warden, in recognition and appreciation of these staff members’ many dedicated years of service at Robinson College. All awardees have been with the College for over twenty years, some thirty, and—in two cases—an amazing forty years. All of us at the College value the hard work and contribution of these long-serving staff, and thank them immensely for their dedication over the decades. ■

WELCOME/FAREWELL

NEW MEMBERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Dr Rebecca Fell

is Robinson's new Fellow in Spanish, succeeding Dr Rhiannon McGlade. After an undergraduate degree and MPhil in Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge (Clare College; 1993-98), she pursued a career as a chartered accountant at Deloitte for 18 years, leaving as a Director in 2015 to return to Cambridge (Clare College) to pursue a PhD in Modern Spanish Literature.

Dr Iza Kavedžija

was elected to the Fellowship back in December 2021 but has been on research leave in Japan and thus unable to attend a formal admission until now. Her research explores the lived experience of ageing in urban Japan and how older people construct a meaningful and satisfying life through narrative activity and practices of care which pervade everyday sociality.

Dr Daniel Knorr

is Robinson's new Fellow in History. Dan completed his BA at Johns Hopkins University and his MA at the University of California, Irvine. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2020 and worked as a teaching Fellow there in Fall 2020 before coming to Cambridge as a temporary University Lecturer in January of this year. His expertise is in the early modern and modern history of China, but he also teaches the history of East Asia and world history more broadly.

Dr James Massey

is a Research Fellow in Engineering, undertaking research in hydrogen combustion for aero-engine and gas turbine applications at the Department of Engineering, and funded by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. His research interests include developing modelling frameworks for hydrogen combustion and understanding the challenges associated with using hydrogen as a fuel.

Dr Caterina Milo

is Robinson's new Fellow in Law. She earned her PhD in Law (Health law) in 2020 from Durham Law School. She also holds a MA in Bioethics and Medical Law (St Mary's University-Twickenham), a 5-year master degree in Law (University of Siena, Law School, Italy) and a Diploma in Legal Studies (University of Oxford, Faculty of Law). Before joining Robinson she was Lecturer at Exeter Law School in Medical Law, Tort and EU Law. She is Fellow of the Higher Education Academy UK and Research Scholar at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, Rome.

Dr Christopher de Saxe

joined Robinson as a Fellow in Engineering in March 2022. He explains his path to Cambridge and his research in the My Robinson section on page 6.

Dr Christopher Truscott

is both an alumnus of Robinson and the new Fellow in Chemistry. After an undergraduate degree in Chemistry, he pursued a PhD and post-doc in Professor Stuart Clarke's research group in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge. He is currently a technician in the X-ray Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry maintaining the Powder X-ray Diffraction facilities for the department.

Dr Adam Woodhouse

is Robinson's new Fellow in the History of Political Thought. He joins the College from the University of Chicago, where he was Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts and Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences. Adam holds a BA in Ancient and Modern History from Corpus Christi College, Oxford, an MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History from the University of London, and a PhD in History from the University of California, Los Angeles. Adam's research interests are in early modern European political thought, particularly its imperial aspects. ■



Image credit: Spotyphoto

MEETING THE NEW HEAD OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND WELFARE



In July, Robinson welcomed our first **Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare**, Karen Tate. Nick Lomax, the Bursars' Assistant, sat down with Karen just after her arrival to get to know her a little better and hear all about her new role at the College.

Nick: Karen, we're really happy to have you here at Robinson College as the new, and first, Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare. What is this role all about, and what are some of the areas that you are looking forward to getting started on?

Karen: My role is to strengthen and support the welfare and wellbeing of students here. In a new role, I aim to bring together, coordinate and enhance the valuable work of those currently contributing to the college's welfare response as part of a Wellbeing and Welfare team. This will enhance our ability to support students and address their health and wellbeing needs in a way that enables them to achieve their academic potential during their time here at Cambridge. Strategically, working with my colleagues in similar new wellbeing posts across the colleges will mean we can have a coordinated approach and benefit from each other's experience and learning. We know there are many things we can do better and more proactively, working together.

Nick: So where are you coming to Robinson College from, and what were you doing there?

Karen: For the last ten years or so, I have been a mentor working with students under the Disability Resource Centre's (DRC) Mentor Scheme for disabled students across different colleges and all levels of study. I have really enjoyed getting to know, work with, and support students. Before this, I worked in the NHS in Public Health and Health Education in Ealing, and Luton, promoting health and tackling health inequalities. Having previously travelled around the world, I also worked for Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in Namibia for three years for the Ministry of Health.

Nick: What small things can we all do from time to time to 'check in' and take some time for our wellbeing and mental health?

Karen: Checking in daily is important. For example, ask yourself: How am I feeling physically? How am I feeling mentally? Then you can reflect on what you might need to do to address that. I think there is often nothing better than getting outside in the fresh air and being amongst the natural environment to help re-calibrate and think clearly. I have done a lot of walking mentoring sessions with students over the years, which I sometimes combine with mindfulness and other techniques. These walks are something students tend to remember years after leaving Cambridge. ■



A tribute to **DR STEVE TRUDGILL** (1947 – 2022) FELLOW EMERITUS



Mary and Steve in the College Gardens

Dr Stephen ‘Steve’ Trudgill (1947 – 2022), Fellow Emeritus, was a much-loved member of the Robinson community. In the following tributes, Steve’s former colleagues, students, and friends share their memories of him as an academic, a conservationist, a keen gardener, and a kind, devoted neighbour and friend.

When Steve Trudgill came from Sheffield to take up a lectureship at Cambridge, he needed two things: a college and a home. How he chose both is revealing; after staying in various colleges he woke from an overnight stay at Robinson to look out over our beautiful, natural gardens with students happily walking on the grass, and he fell in love with the place and its people. His search for a home led him to Hinxton, and Chris Elliott tells the story of his choice there. Both stories reveal something essential about the man. Tim Burt explains his serious scientific credentials – as an expert on soils Steve was never afraid of numbers – but he was also both visually and emotionally motivated, and when he took on a role, he undertook it wholeheartedly. The following accounts make that clear in various ways, from Steve’s devotion to our glorious gardens to his equal devotion to his students, and to the welfare of his village community. I saw him in all his roles: we became friends through a mutual interest in European culture, and for several years I helped him interview potential students, observing his care and sensitive evaluation. In retirement we then shared an office, and occasional visits to art exhibitions when I could supply a bit more historical/cultural context and he opened my eyes to painterly qualities. He was the most generous of hosts in Hinxton, and during the Covid difficulties I came to look forward to afternoons sitting with other friends well-spaced in his wonderfully luxuriant garden, enjoying the kind of wide-ranging conversation Steve excelled at. His absence is already keenly felt by all whose lives he touched: he was a great friend, neighbour and above all teacher and encourager.

Dr Mary Stewart, Founding Fellow ■



Steve at a quiz night at the Hinxton Village Hall

Steve told close friends in Hinxton that his life in the village, where he lived for 25 years, kept him “grounded” and provided the perfect balance to his academic life in Cambridge. He had an unaffected enthusiasm for village activities, which he entered into with characteristic warmth and energy. He was always among the first to buy tickets for any event, contribute money for local good causes and offer raffle prizes from his larder. His homemade chutneys, jams and mint jellies found their way into most cupboards in the village.

He was also very sociable. He enjoyed the parties of friends and neighbours. Every year he would host a lunch party for his students and then take them off to the village fete, where he always entered the men’s flower arranging competition. His attitude reflected his love of, and belief in, community, an idea that permeated his life’s work. He listed his interests as caving, cycling, walking, painting, making up crosswords, gardens and nature. But of these, perhaps nature and painting were the two great passions of which the village was most aware.

His slightly stooped frame was a familiar sight as he walked the village footpaths for pleasure as much as for his duties on the parish council, which he served for 23 years. He represented the council on the village hall committee, looked after the allotments – the opportunity to chat with his neighbours was as important as nurturing his plot – and was a member of the Wellcome Trust Liaison Committee. He had always drawn and painted, encouraged by his father, a keen and exhibited amateur painter himself. Many of his paintings of village scenes such as the water mill are on the walls of his neighbours and were among his donations for raffles.

His relationship with the village was a coup de foudre. He told the Parish magazine two years before his death that when house-hunting in 1996 he had asked the vendor what it was like living in Hinxton: “Very friendly. We have each other’s keys and feed each other’s cats,” was the reply. “I’ll buy it,” I said. “But don’t you want to look round the house first?” “Yes,” I said, “but I’m still buying it.” I have never regretted that; Hinxton is such a friendly, supportive village.”

Chris Elliott, Senior Member, Robinson College ■

Steve's undergraduate and doctoral degrees were both obtained from the Geography Department at Bristol University. At the time, Bristol together with Cambridge was the pre-eminent geography department in the UK and Steve would have benefitted greatly from both the academic staff and his Fellow PhD students, a good number of eminent names within both groups, including of course Steve himself. As an undergraduate, Steve was pleased to be able to study Geology as well as Geography, but the timetable would not allow him to study Botany as well, so somewhat reluctantly he had to choose Sociology instead; much later, he noted that the insights gained on that course had proven invaluable as his interests widened beyond physical geography. His PhD fieldwork was spent on Aldabra, an atoll in the Indian Ocean, where he examined limestone weathering processes.

Steve's first academic position was at Strathclyde University before moving on to Sheffield. He was a prolific writer of books in these early days, starting with two books on soils published in 1976: *Soils in the British Isles* (with Len Curtis and Frank Courtney) and *The Soil: An Introduction to Soil Study In Britain* (with Frank Courtney). These were soon followed by *Weathering and Erosion* (1983) and *Limestone Geomorphology* (1985). By this time, Steve's interests were moving away from traditional geomorphology and more towards links between hydrological processes, soil leaching and transport of nutrients into rivers. We first worked together on nitrate leaching at a site east of Sheffield and this was soon followed by a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)-funded grant for research on nitrate pollution in the Slapton catchments in south Devon; Steve continued to visit Slapton regularly until COVID prevented travel. As well as many research articles, two edited books characterise this period in Steve's career: *Solute Processes* (1986) and *Nitrate: Processes, Patterns and Management* (1993, edited with Louise Heathwaite and myself).

At Cambridge, Steve's interests broadened, enabling him, as he wrote himself, 'to emerge as an environmental geographer – even some kind of human geographer'. It was such a shame that his last book, *Why Conserve Nature?* (2022), was published just a few weeks after he died. It will remain a fitting epitaph to a very productive



Steve at a field site near Worksop, early 1980s

Studies Council centres, whether the limestone country around Malham Tarn or to sample the streams and lake at Slapton. He was always great fun to be with, whether in the field or later on, in the pub!

Professor Tim Burt DSc FAGU FBSG, Emeritus Professor of Geography, Durham University, Honorary Fellow of Hatfield College, President, Field Studies Council

Tim Burt retired in 2017 after 21 years as Master of Hatfield College and Professor of Geography at Durham University. He remains Emeritus Professor and continues to look after weather and climate records from the Durham Observatory weather station despite now living in Devon - the wonders of automatic weather stations! Like Steve Trudgill, he took his PhD in the Geography Department at Bristol University, arriving just a couple of years after Steve had left; Steve's name was still mentioned frequently and with much admiration. Steve and Tim first met at the 50th-anniversary celebration of the Bristol Geography Department in 1975. ■

'Mavericks' and 'misfits' is how Dr Stephen Trudgill referred to his students. Reflecting on the unusual groups of people that Steve had the knack for convening, these words seem more profound now.

In my college interview with Steve, I'll never forget the incredible atmosphere he created. Sitting there, having been placed in the pool by the much more conservative St Catherine's, I recall being at ease and my mind opening up to many directions and possibilities. He asked me to look at an aerial photograph on the wall of his village, Hinxton and asked me what way north was. I remember delighting in pointing out the directions and length of the shadows, the evidence of asymmetric growth and decay in the vegetation and what season it might be, given the low, golden light. My mind was free — and I could then draw my conclusions. Steve sat there, not breaking eye contact — even for a moment. His double-jointed arms swayed awkwardly above his head. His hair was on-end, like the crest of a tropical bird. He was clearly deeply interested in me, my mind and what I thought. This was the essence of Steve at his best. A radical, empowering presence of curiosity, playfulness and inclusion. It was fertile soil for me — and so many others, too.

Steve approached his role as Director of Studies with an unusual zest and care. He relished in treating each student and situation as unique. He was fond of drawing comparisons with gardening, likening some students to prickly cacti that bloomed rarely but exquisitely —

others as delicate orchids requiring precisely balanced conditions to not wilt immediately and perish. I don't know what flower or plant he compared me to. But I know it was one that he strove to care for in exactly the way that I needed. It paid off. I received not only the benefits of a Cambridge University education but also an opportunity for greater discovery, bolder experimentation and deeper individuation than most other undergraduates. Steve made sure of it by letting us set our own criteria and boundaries and actively defended our right to do so.

I believe Steve's love of diversity and spirit of inclusion was born from understanding what it means to be misunderstood. He didn't fit any mould neatly, being both scientist and artist, academic and poet, Director of Studies and friend, part human and (we used to joke) part magical creature. He was a misfit and maverick himself. It seems fitting, then, that his gift to the world was more of the same. Each one of us, lovingly and carefully cultivated.

"They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it". William Penn, 1644 – 1718
Meditation on the death of a Friend.

Rest in Peace, dearest Steve.

Nikolai Koval (2003, *Geography*) ■



A half-dead, half-living oak in Andalucía, where Steve liked to paint. Steve appreciated this tree for its resemblance to his painting.

Not long after I, a recent graduate from Robinson College, met Steve, a recent retiree, he began to say that he wanted me to keep his books after his death. Back then Steve's passing was, like that of all of us lucky enough to be in good health, a horizon as certain as it was undatable. Neither of us could know when or how the time would come; but, of course, we hoped that years' worth of walks, correspondence and reading recommendations would pass before Steve's bequeathment wishes were anything more than an abstract offer.

Steve passed fast and unexpectedly – so much so that not even those close to him got to say goodbye. He missed the publication of his own book, on which he had been working for over a decade, by a handful of weeks. Much of Steve's world – his interests, his values, his experiences of the natural world – lies folded in the pages of the books he left behind, like a map. That life-map will unfold – slowly, at a pace measured in reading time – into the lives of those who, like me, now keep his books. As the map unfolds, our worlds will be coloured by common interests and experiences.

The back cover of Steve's book, entitled *Why Conserve Nature?* and published by CUP, features one of Steve's paintings: a half-dead, half-living tree. For years, Steve used to ask his students what they thought the artist meant to express, not revealing his identity until they had finished speaking. Was the tree dead or alive? Perhaps the most defining mark of those who are dead, yet remembered, is that it is possible to ask the same about them, without expecting any definitive answer.

Rogelio Luque-Lora (2012, Natural Sciences; PhD 2019-2022) ■

Dr Steve Trudgill, or 'Trudders', or 'Dr T', as we came to call him, was in many ways our first experience of what it meant to study at Cambridge. He had, after all, interviewed many of us, and seen something in us. We arrived at College fresh from being taught his work at A-Level and so were (rightly) in awe of this physical geographer who was also an internationally renowned scholar.

Little did we know it at the time, but we were also one of his first cohorts of students in his role as Director of Studies in Geography at Robinson College. On reflection, there was possibly some wariness - at least during our first terms of getting to know each other. But over time, as students what we came to appreciate about Dr T was his immense intellect, wisdom, wit, and kindness. He was generous and sociable, inviting us for dinner at his home, and hearing about our College lives over sherry or whiskey (and dry ginger) in his room before a formal hall. He could be cutting with his sense of humour, but that was always tempered with humility and — dare we say it — love.

As is a common refrain, one's experience of Cambridge is shaped directly by the College one attends. For us, our experience of Cambridge, and our growth as students and academics, was also directly shaped by Dr T. He was, and will remain, the overriding element of our time at Cambridge around which all other experiences circulated.

Contributors: Isla Forward, Andrew Tucker, Sarah Thomas (née Crack), Thomas Murray, Alexander Bristow, (all 1998, Geography) ■



Thomas Murray is back row left in the light blue shirt; Alexander Bristow is front row, far left in the suit with a purple shirt, Sarah Thomas (née Crack), Andrew Tucker and Isla Forward are next to one another on the front row. Sarah has the purple top, Andy the blue tie and Isla the blue dress.

Perhaps it's unsurprising that as a geographer, who also had a keen interest in the natural world and visual arts, Dr Steve Trudgill was passionate in his enthusiasm for Robinson's gardens. In practical terms, this translated to chairing the college's Gardens Committee for over 20 years until his untimely demise earlier this year. This period saw many significant changes involving the gardens, including the creation of the waterside terracing on the main lawn, which Steve helped to fund, the installation of the Maria Bjornson Theatre, and landscaping around the Crausaz Wordsworth Building.

There were also many, more modest though still important, projects such as the new heritage orchard at 2 Adams Road, introducing courtyard planters and the addition of thousands of spring bulbs to enhance the college environment. Always keen to hear the views of student members of the Gardens Committee, Steve was particularly delighted by the advent of the Robinson Gardening Society and the success of the resulting student garden. He was also committed to supporting biodiversity and sustainability in the gardens, trialling the introduction of wildflower areas in college many years before this became a widespread trend.

Truly devoted to the gardens, his vision and enthusiasm played an immeasurable role in the continued development of one of Robinson College's most important assets, which in accordance with the ethos of the college has always been accessible and enjoyable to all. Indeed, such was his commitment to ensuring that as many people as possible could benefit



Garden terracing



Spring bulbs

from the gardens, he expanded the college's participation in the NGS Open Gardens Scheme which raises money for several national charities, as well as instigating the popular annual Garden Tours led by our Head Gardener, Guy Fuller, as part of the annual Open Cambridge event.

Steve's contribution to Robinson's gardens has been immense and his wisdom and knowledge will be sorely missed.

Dr Christine Latham, Fellow in Veterinary Medicine, Robinson College,
Chair of the Robinson College Gardens Committee. ■



Christine's tribute to Steve perfectly captures his love of the Robinson Gardens, one of the areas of College life that Steve was most passionate about and one of the places around Robinson that we all associate with him. Many people who knew Steve expressed the wish to make a contribution in his memory, and enriching the spaces that Steve loved seems the most fitting tribute. Your support will help us to enhance the orchard at 2 Adams Road and provide additional planting and seating in Steve's name, so that everyone can rest and enjoy the Robinson Gardens.



If you would like to make a gift towards this project in Steve's memory, you can scan the QR code, which will take you to our online gift form. We have also included the gift form on the following page, if you would like to cut it out and mail it in. Please do also leave your message in tribute to Steve, which we will feature on our remembrance wall. If you require a paper donation form, please contact the Development Office at development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk.

Steve is greatly missed, but with your help, we will ensure his legacy and love for the Gardens is never forgotten. ■



ROBINSON COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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* Email newsletters and other news updates about the College may contain references to events, benefits and services, and fundraising opportunities.

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Keeping in touch

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Robinson College
Cambridge
CB3 9AN

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Dates for the diary

1 February 2023 –
Robinson Lecture and Scholars' Dinner

25 March 2023 –
March Reunion Dinner (Matriculation years 1987, 1997, and 2007, and open to all alumni)

25 March 2023 –
AGM of the Robinson College Alumni Association

25 March 2023 –
Alumni Forum (TBC)

28 March - 6 April 2023 –
Robinson College in Asia (Locations TBC)

April/May 2023 –
Crausaz Wordsworth Society Lunch

May 2023 –
London Drinks (Date TBC)

9-10 May 2023 –
Giving Day

24 June 2023 –
Donor Day

16 June 2023 –
May Ball (Provisional)

5 July 2023 –
Annual Reception in London

23 September 2023 –
Reunion Dinner (Matriculation years 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012)



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