

BIN BROOK

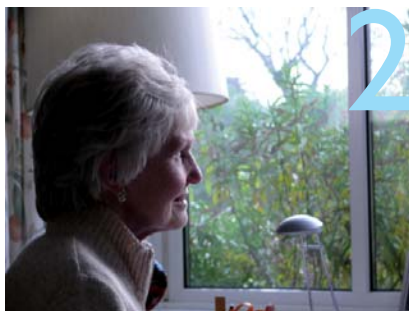
The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



LOOKING FORWARD

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY





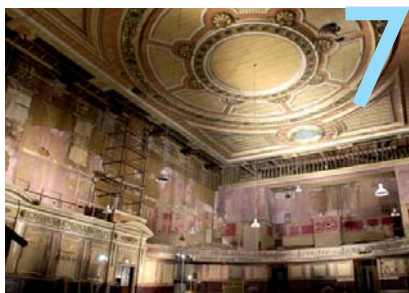
Looking forward to the 30th anniversary

Dr Mary Stewart reminisces about the beginnings of Robinson and 30 years at the College



Change and continuity in the garden

Guy Fuller tells us about his new position as Head Gardener



Something new from something old

Rebecca Kane tells us about her career and her plans for the rejuvenation of Alexandra Palace



A window into space

We take a look at Graham Johnson's work and his love of space



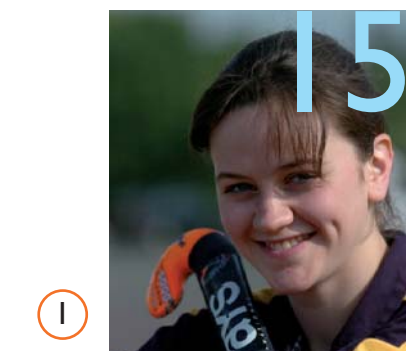
Accessing the future

Dr Chris Warner tells us about new initiatives for admissions to Robinson College



Alumni and staff Announcements

Having a look at what you are doing



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Welcome to

BIN BROOK

Lent 09

Robinson College Reunion Weekend

26th September 2009

At this year's reunion dinner, Robinson will be celebrating 30 years since it became an undergraduate college. The dinner will be open to those who matriculated in 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 1999. There will be a wine tasting and the usual Pegasus brunch to which all Pegasus Society members will be invited (regardless of matriculation year). The weekend also coincides with the 800th anniversary weekend of the University, which will incorporate events all around the city.



Robinson listed as 5th in the top 50 most inspiring buildings in Britain

"From St Pancras to Stonehenge, Lloyd's of London to Hadrian's Wall, Telegraph architecture critic Ellis Woodman picks the structures that define the nation.

Colleges tend to adhere to one of two types - the classic quad or the campus of freestanding buildings - but Robinson is neither. A single brick building, it has a castle-like presence in its suburban setting. The skill with which the architects have imposed a sense of hierarchy on an extraordinary variety of spaces lies at the root of its success." - The Daily Telegraph, 19 Nov, 2008


Editor: Mr Gregoire Hodder

Committee: Dr Stephen Trudgill, Dr Ros Love, Dr Judy Weiss, Ms Helen Cornish, Mrs Helen Winter and Mr Gregoire Hodder

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Looking forward to the *30th* anniversary



Dr Mary Stewart is one of the founding fellows of Robinson College and has recently retired as a senior lecturer in German at the University of Cambridge. She has taught in the universities of both Munich and London (KCL) as well as Cambridge. Her principal research interests are twofold: German Naturalism, with regard to both drama and narrative writing, and post-1945 narrative writing, particularly modern Swiss authors and Uwe Johnson.

Sitting in my study in No 5 Adams Road, with the sun streaming in from a frosty garden beyond the bay window, it is easy to feel nostalgic in a general way about the early days of Robinson, for this room then formed the main part of our joint Common Room.



The first undergraduates, the Warden and Fellows of Robinson College 1979, in what is now Mary's office. Picture taken by Edward Leigh

What is much harder is to situate memories more precisely, for 30 years is a long time and many images of people and events that lurk in my mind could just as easily belong to the period 1977-79, when our first graduate students joined us. However, here are a few rather random jottings triggered by arriving at the start of 2009, with to me quite amazing speed, given how new and tentative our venture once seemed.

The dominating memory is actually that of our shared space. There was something rather wonderful about functioning together as a unified community, undergraduates, graduates and Fellows alike: we all used this room, and shared a dining room too in the really quite spacious 'Portakabin' which was attached to the back of the building. That, as well as our brand-new presence as a 'proper' college on the Cambridge scene, generated both a kind of historical consciousness and a freshness of attitude.

On the one hand we were rather like those small communities of scholars with whom the University itself long ago began, and on the other we were bringing something new and exciting to the established scene: a sense that we wanted in some way to be, could be, a

“Robinson remains a friendly environment, relatively free of the ‘that’s how we’ve always done it’ attitude”

different kind of institution, a more cohesive and united group of people working together for the common good. Certainly we spent a great deal of time discussing in various groups how the College might one day look and function! Some of our hopes have been

fulfilled, I think: Robinson remains a friendly environment, relatively free of the ‘that’s how we’ve always done it’ attitude; on the other hand our growth to a size beyond what was initially envisaged, and financial and other pressures, have inevitably meant a loss of some of that early cohesiveness – though it is wonderful to see how many staff have remained with us over the years, through all the changes.

Eating together as a community was always a pleasure, not least because of the infinitely varied and resourceful meals created in a very limited kitchen by Jean Fordham, who sadly died some years ago, and her assistant Doreen Fordham (no relation) who then stayed with us until her retirement and became one of the best creators of tempting desserts any of us has ever encountered! Meals were always noisy and lively; our first intake of undergraduates proved to be every bit as energetic and enterprising as we had hoped, and constantly

challenged us with new ideas and suggestions. Despite the fact none of them had actually applied for Robinson and were picked from the Pool by Dr Alan Sharpe, the Senior Tutor, they threw themselves imaginatively into their unexpected roles as founding members. The group was still small enough for all of us to engage in debate and exchange, and to celebrate events jointly – I particularly remember an outbreak of jollity caused by Dr Trevor Page (as he then was) donating champagne for all to mark the birth of his longed-for second child. Equally, nobody could escape hearing at least some of the gory details of her research that parasitologist Dr Jean Martin (now Bilbrough) loved to regale us with.

If the early students were a lively bunch of characters, then so were the Fellows without a doubt! Alan Sharpe's satirical wit often had us laughing helplessly, though he had a brief humour-failure when I and his assistant, Vivien Naylor, who was occasionally the victim of his pranks, once played a trick on him. He of course was interviewing everyone for the next round of admissions, and found one candidate very difficult; Vivien and I then planted a fake copy of a letter

of acceptance to this candidate amongst his papers, and he very nearly had a heart attack before our scarcely stifled laughter let the cat out of the bag. There was a lot of laughter about in those early days: the seemingly unflappable George Coupe (then Warden's Assistant) always generated good humour, not least in suggesting that his lovely border collie Penny represented the simplest form of admissions test. Anyone she growled at was out! And our first Chaplain David Stacey could always be relied upon for a good tale as well as a sharp insight; and when he left to head a Theological College in Bristol he was followed by John Grice, who together with his wife Ann radiated enthusiasm and positive energy. That accorded well with the feeling of all the Foundation Fellows, I think, that what we were doing was important and worthwhile, and of course we all had enormous confidence in our Warden, then 'merely' Professor Jack Lewis. He engaged us all in decisions about the College growing visibly in front of us (and we cheerfully clambered around the building site at regular intervals, clad in hard hats and oversized wellies from the contractors, and learned more than we ever wished

to know about doorhandles and sanitary fittings....). One of the best and most enduring things that Professor Lewis established was fellowship in the deepest sense of the word, an equality between young and old, men and women, academics and administrators (like Basil Shone, who with his wickedly observant asides, love of sport and profound empathy with the young was anything but a dull bureaucrat): all were made to feel at ease with the whole, with the result that, for instance, our gender balance still remains pretty healthy. I hope very much that our early students recall feeling truly part of our joint venture, despite their inevitable occasional run-ins with the Bursar, Henry Woolston, caused by over-zealous partying (plus ça change...). Thirty years on the College 'family' has widened immeasurably, but we retain our same shared symbols like the College scarf, based on one of several patterns which long ago I amateurishly painted for display and selection in the Common Room where I now sit. All of us surely hope that the unity of values and goals that they represented 30 years ago will last and thrive for many decades to come.

Memories Please!

The next edition of Bin Brook will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the College and so we would like to collect memories or images that have particular significance to YOU! Please send your memories, whether of the last 30 or 3 years of college life, to Gregoire Hodder at gah35@cam.ac.uk at the Development Office.

IN MEMORY OF PETER BAKER-SMITH

1943 - 2008

Peter Baker-Smith died in the Michaelmas term after a brief illness, having worked in the College kitchens from 1980 to 2008. He was a well-known and popular figure amongst the staff and some of his colleagues remember him here:

wanted to know anything in the news, he was your man. Any breaking news story or event, he would keep you updated."

"He had an array of impressions which would have the Catering staff roaring with laughter, in particular Tommy Cooper and Clint Eastwood, and even his old boss, Bob Wicket, was in Peter's repertoire."

"One of Peter's gifts was that if you

We will all miss him.



Change and continuity in the



Guy Fuller recently became the Head Gardener of Robinson College after working here for almost 30 years. We talk to him and find out about the history and future of the gardens.

So you are the Head Gardener now!

I never expected to be in this position. I was quite happy being deputy head, but I'm enjoying it. I applied to work here when my apprenticeship finished at one of the other colleges; I didn't get the job, but was invited back later. They had kept my name on file and I had an interview in the Fitzwilliam Museum, of all places, because I was working at Pembroke and the new Head Gardener designate, Desmond O'Grady, was at the Botanics, so it was a middle place to meet. Des started in October '82 and I came at the end of the

month. The college looked very, very different. It was a big shock actually, coming from one of the older colleges, where obviously all the plants and everything are set up, to this place where there was hardly anything. To be truthful, it was a bit bleak because at the time it was so new.

So there wasn't much of a garden there?

Not as such: the initial layout was there, some of the borders were there and there were some plantings, but up until then a lot of the work had been getting areas cleared and sorted, like the big lawns, under Des's predecessor, David Brown, the first Head Gardener. Des had to take it on from there. I worked for a number of people over the years and he is the most knowledgeable gardener I have ever worked for. Everything was done by hand, in the early '80s, we didn't have a tractor and trailer like now, the most we had was a hand driven rotovator on wheels. We marked all the borders out, lifted all the grass by hand and all

the borders were single dug with farmyard manure in each trench.

Builders are notorious for burying all their rubbish and when we did the big sloping border by the dining hall, we actually uncovered two of the rails which the main crane for the building had run on. Des had been here while the college was being constructed, so when I said "We found a rail in the border" he calmly commented "ahh, that will be the crane rail probably that used to run on the inside of the College".

I have noticed that the Garden has a nice balance of the wilderness and the ordered.

That is the 'Dutch Ecosystem', on which this garden was originally modeled: neat and tidy near the College and, as you go further out, having wilder areas. I like wild areas as long as they are a maintained wild area, if that makes sense? We have just planted 6,000 bulbs outside the front of the College, along all the lawn edges there. That will give it a slightly more wild effect. We are

doing it partly because we took 12 trees out and we felt we needed to create interest. Some of the trees were only planted to make the front look nice for when the Queen came to open the College, and were supposed to have been removed some time afterwards, and 25 years down the line they were choking out the other trees, and the light levels within the College offices were very poor.

Have you any major plans for your time as Head Gardener?

There are lots of ideas. I am working for the moment on an idea for the lake bank. It is very, very overgrown, and the shrubs are very old so it would be nice to take all that out and go back to one of the original ideas of having a grassy bank down to the lake, making it more of a sitting area. It would allow people to sit there and we could have a memorial bench looking out over the lake. It is not going to be an easy job as the access is so difficult, and you

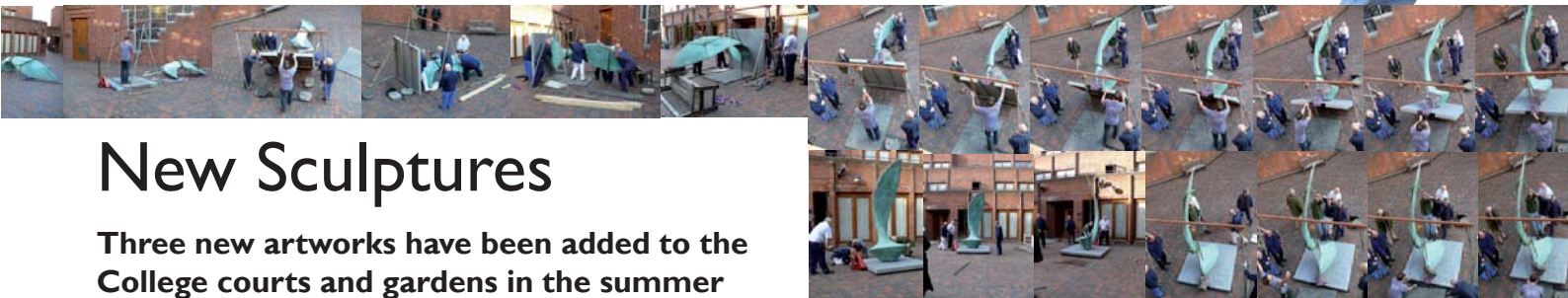
“because we are just outside of Cambridge, so to speak, it is very peaceful, and there is so much wildlife in the garden,”

would have to bring in quite a lot of soil to build it up.

What would you say you enjoy most about these Gardens?

Personally, I think it is their peacefulness: it is hard work, but because we are just outside of Cambridge, so to speak, it is very peaceful, and there is so much wildlife in the garden, the birds, the water life. I have seen kingfishers, water voles, and fresh water-mussels in the lake and stream, as well as deer, grass snakes, and pheasants around the lawns and shrubs. I would also say the people

I work with as well. Paul, Ginny and I have worked together since 1990; they definitely help to make the gardens a nice place. There is a lot of me in this garden. As I said when I first got here there was nothing and now it's a mature garden, with its plants, its borders, and I hope to add to that. Whether I will improve it or not, I am not sure, but there will be changes because all gardens keep evolving. Some of the plantings now are very old, 25 to 30 years old, and reaching the end of their life. They will need taking out and replanting, which will be my ideas, with those of the team and Garden Committee and I am sure when I have gone another Head Gardener will come in and say “Good grief, why did he plant that, what was he thinking of?!”



New Sculptures

Three new artworks have been added to the College courts and gardens in the summer and autumn of 2008.

Sailing into the future (opposite)

"Sailing into the future" by Philip de Konig stands alongside the lake on the edge of Thorneycreek lawn.

Conversing figures (opposite)

Across the Bin Brook, "Conversing Figures" by Christophe Gordon-Brown nestles in the centre of the gardens, so tantalising glimpses of the two marble figures appear and disappear along different vistas as one strolls across Bin Brook bridge and around the gardens.

Finback (opposite and above)

The most recent addition, the bronze patina sculpture, "Finback" by Ben Barrell, has been installed in Front Court and is a stunning focal point for visitors arriving in College.





Something new from something *old*

Rebbecca Kane graduated from Robinson College in 1997 with a BA in history and the practical experience of running the College's May Ball.

I was the May Ball committee's secretary and the Vice President in the following year. I took the little knowledge I had built up of managing budgets and dealing with people and built a career out of it. Now, aged 33, I am the managing director of Alexandra Palace (photo of the theatre above) with a remit to restore one of London's most

iconic venues to its former glory.

I will always be grateful for the start that Robinson gave me. My first job after graduating was with English Heritage. In my two and half years there we re-opened Down House - the home of Charles Darwin - and re-launched Eltham Palace.

We also forged ahead with a new

business venture for English Heritage that caused a bit of controversy at the time. At Chiswick House we launched a hospitality service where people could eat and drink in a room full of priceless artefacts. The curators took some persuading, but we got there in the end. I'm proud that the business, launched in 1998, now has a turnover of £1m a year.

“My dream is to re-open the 2,000-seater Victorian theatre with a programme of live music, comedy, plays and perhaps even cinema.”

I took a bit of time out to live abroad before returning to English Heritage in 2003 as the director for the London properties. I was in charge of looking after nine properties including Wellington Arch, Kenwood House, Apsley House and the Cenotaph. I had five years in charge of a team who transformed how we look after these well-loved landmarks. We also won £8m in Lottery funding for Chiswick House and Grounds. We refurbished Down House for Darwin's bicentenary celebrations in 2009 and we won the right to stage summer concerts at Kenwood once again.

By 2008 I was hungry for a new start and in December I took charge of Alexandra Palace, aka “Ally Pally”. It is some challenge. You may know it for music gigs or the recent PDC World Darts Championship which was staged there. Yes, I even got to meet Phil “The Power” Taylor. But I believe Ally Pally has so much more potential.

Ally Pally has suffered two fires, the first just 16 days after opening in 1873. It has also suffered huge financial losses and has rarely been profitable in its 136 year history. It is my job to change that. The heyday for the Palace was during the First World War when film-shows in the theatre and roller skating brought in the crowds. In the 1930s a wing was leased to the BBC and the studios from which the first public television service was transmitted still exist.

Now, with over 40 per cent of the building derelict, it still hosts large-scale exhibitions, conferences, banquets and live music. We have an international-sized ice rink, the Phoenix pub and 196 acres of parkland which include a boating lake and sports facilities.

But change and investment are necessary to make turn Alexandra Palace into a 21st century venue. JB Priestley once called it “The Monster of Muswell Hill” and he wasn't joking. Not only do my team need to restore it, but we need to make it sustainable. I'm confident that with the right management team and support from the trustees and Haringey council we can effect huge change.

After two months, I've been impressed by the commitment and passion of the team here, overwhelmed by the scale of the task ahead and bowled over by the place itself. It has so much potential. First up, I have to ensure the company is fit for purpose and we can navigate the economic

challenges of 2009. Then we need to kickstart the fundraising strategy and get more of Ally Pally up and running.

My dream is to re-open the 2,000-seater Victorian theatre with a programme of live music, comedy, plays and perhaps even cinema. The stage is awe-inspiring. It rivals that of the Drury Lane theatre with so many of the original fittings as well. In fact, so little has changed that on my first day no-one could find the light switch for the theatre. Bringing Ally Pally out of the darkness is going to be fun and, I believe, very rewarding.



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A WINDOW INTO SPACE



Since leaving College in 2006, having studied Engineering, Graham Johnson has joined a company called Astrium which is a major contractor in the space industry. Astrium is the largest space company in Europe and the third largest in the world, employing some 11,000 people in four countries. Their customers include the European Space Agency, telecommunications providers, the UK MOD and occasionally NASA or other national space agencies.

Graham writes: A lot of our work centers around the development of satellites and interplanetary probes. From telecommunication satellites which broadcast Sky TV, to observation satellites which monitor the Earth for weather

forecasting and climate change, to navigation systems like Galileo (a European version of GPS) and to scientific probes sent to explore asteroids, comets, other planets, or even the Sun, the company is capable of taking on almost any

mission.

But Astrium is also a major stakeholder in Arianespace – the company which produces the Ariane 5 launcher – and we recently developed the Automated Transfer



Artist's view of ExoMars descent module. The ExoMars lander will deliver the rover to a specific location using an inflatable braking device or parachute system.

Vehicle which was used last year to ferry cargo up to the International Space Station. Astrium was also the prime contractor for developing the manned Columbus module which is the European contribution to the International Space Station, and we have recently begun to look at developing a sub-orbital space plane which will be designed to offer 'space tourists' a



chance to travel briefly into space, similar to what Virgin Galactic are planning. Astrium is almost unique in the way that its activities span the whole range of the space industry.

Astrium employs a wide range of engineers and scientists. The space industry, like no other that I have ever worked in, attracts people who have a real passion for what they are doing and consequently

“The work is varied and always challenging – spacecraft have to survive an immensely powerful launch and then operate in a harsh environment”

the atmosphere at work is always really positive. Walking past cleanrooms and half-assembled satellites on the way to my desk, or seeing a solar array deployment test and knowing that these things will one day be circling the planet at over 20,000km/h, is something I find genuinely inspiring. I think


that having that passion and inspiration for what you do in life is really important.

The work is varied and always challenging – spacecraft have to survive an immensely powerful launch and then operate in a harsh environment where, amongst other things, the temperature swings from +150° to -150° and there's no chance for maintenance.

Astrium recruits around 30-40 graduates every year, and is continuing to do so this year in spite of the financial crisis which fortunately doesn't seem to have much of an effect on the space industry. As a graduate you can choose to either enter a department directly or go on a rotational scheme where you move department every 6 months for the first two years. Because Astrium is European company it's relatively easy to spend time abroad if you want – I'm currently spending 6 months in Toulouse which has been a great experience, and my previous work has involved several trips to Paris and Munich.

If you'd like to know anything more about the company, or in particular the employment opportunities, feel free to contact me at graham.johnson@astrium.eads.net or grahamjohnson@cantab.net.

Accessing the Future

A large group of people, including students and adults, are walking along a wide brick path that leads towards a large, multi-story brick building. The path is lined with greenery and small trees on the left. The building has a prominent wooden door and several windows. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting an outdoor event like an Open Day.

“We welcome about one thousand five hundred visitors to Admissions events in Robinson each year.”

Dr Chris Warner originally joined the College in 2001 as **Director of Studies** in **Mathematics** and quickly came to appreciate the care and dedication that goes into the admissions process. When the opportunity to become **Admissions Tutor** came up it seemed the perfect role for him.

Chris writes: I enjoy working with my colleagues to select those of our applicants who we believe show the greatest academic potential and commitment to their studies and who will add intellectually and socially to the Robinson community. I also enjoy the many opportunities to interact with potential applicants, their parents and their teachers.

We welcome about one thousand five hundred visitors to Admissions events in Robinson each year. The most high profile of the College-based events are the Open Days in July when the whole College works hard to welcome prospective applicants and their parents and teachers. Directors of Studies run subject-related information sessions, I run a parents' question and answer session and our students show the visitors around the College and its gardens.

All our visitors get a chance to enjoy a College lunch in the Hall.

The Admissions team also works to raise awareness in schools of the special qualities that make Robinson the extraordinary Cambridge College that it is. Each year I go out to visit schools, meet pupils, their parents, and teachers and to contribute to school-based Higher Education and Oxbridge events. Pupils, parents and teachers really appreciate the opportunity to ask a “real” admissions tutor questions about Cambridge (and Oxford) and are always keen to find out exactly what we look for in a Personal Statement and a School reference. There are still many myths around about Cambridge interviews and school visits are an opportunity to refute the most preposterous – no, we will not throw a rugby ball at you to see if you can catch it – and to describe how to prepare for a Cambridge interview.

This year the programme of raising awareness in schools has been stepped up by the forming of a team of six Admissions Advisers. Admissions Advisers are experienced members or Fellows of the College with knowledge of College admissions.

Together we have a pool of expert subject knowledge of many Cambridge University courses. The Advisers have already visited a range of schools from inner city comprehensives to sixth form colleges to grammars to independents. As more and more schools have become Specialist schools, the subject-specific knowledge that the Advisers bring has been particularly well received.

Cambridge University as a whole works hard to promote Access to Higher Education via the Local Area Link initiative. Robinson College’s contribution has been with the Wandsworth Local Area for a number of years and from this year we will also be linked with Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire. Student members of the Robinson College Students Association arranged a College visit from Wandsworth schools last spring. We funded a coach to bring a group of high performing pupils to Robinson. Our visitors were most impressed and after admissions talks, a college tour and lunch, a number of them commented that they would consider applying to Cambridge.

We are always happy to welcome prospective students and their

families to Robinson. If you would like to visit, please contact Amy Webber on apply@robinson.cam.ac.uk.



Dr Chris Warner is the Admissions Tutor at Robinson and a College Teaching Officer in Mathematics.

Robinson May Ball 2009



Robinson May Ball Committee 2009 are proud to present this year's May Ball theme as 'Phantasmagoria; Reflections On Reality'. We would also like to draw your attention to the unique publicity opportunity sponsoring the May Ball could offer your firm. Our publicity reaches over ten thousand Cambridge undergraduates, graduates and fellows and so working with us could really help increase the visibility of your firm amongst the student body. The Ball could not go ahead without the generosity of our sponsors, so if you are willing to support us, we would be delighted to invite you to attend the Ball as guests of the Committee. Please email Hannah Rignell at sales2009@robinsonmayball.co.uk for tickets and further information about sponsorship opportunities. We hope to see you at the Ball!



Victoria Jenkins (2004) and Russ Tannahill (2005) would like to announce the birth of Isabella Grace Tannahill, who was born on Friday 18th July 2008 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.



Kenneth Thomson (1994) and Narelle Pascoe were married on 20th September 2008. Many ex-Binsonites attended including Nik Holgate who was an usher, Isabel Garrood (née Stow), Anna Jones (née Parker), Catherine Sherry (née Shields), Juliette Nebel (née Coffey), Paul Kent, Steve Carroll, Ian Western, Tim Sandford, Chris Fryer, Zena Palgrave, Ed Collinge (all 1994), Lucy Noel, Ellie Topham, Vicky Howard (all 1995), and Dan Bromilow (1992). Ken and Narelle now live in Caterham, Surrey.



Alexander Corbishley (2002) and his wife Ailsa are happy to announce the birth of Harriet Elena Corbishley on 7th November 2008.

ALUMNI FELLOWS AND STAFF

Revd Dr Philip Plyming (1992) writes: After some protracted admin, I have now been awarded my PhD from Edinburgh. Title: Transforming News: A Theological and Critical Analysis of Contemporary News Handling in the Light of the Apostle Paul's Corinthian Hardship Narratives. Relief all round, and very thankful for my time at Robinson in 2006 when a large chunk of the writing up was done.

Rachael Minton (1999) married James Gooding on 26 July 2008 at Blythburgh Church, Suffolk, with a reception at nearby St Peter's Hall. Her bridesmaids were all ex-Robinson - Jacqui Ward, Olivia Thornton and Madelaine Savage; Katriona Gaskill, (all 1999) gave a reading. Other Robinson alumni attended the wedding.



Gregoire Hodder, an alumnus of Homerton, recently joined the Development Office as Alumni Relations and Telephone Campaign Co-ordinator after working with Rux Burton Associates.

Daniel Porter has recently joined the IT department as Helpdesk Technician; he's here to handle enquiries, help staff and students with their PC problems, and pass jobs on to the right member of the team. He's a great football buff- his degree is actually in English and Sports Science.



Mark Pritchard (2001) married Suzanne Jones in Birmingham, their home city, on Saturday 4th October 2008. Matthias Ammon, Jill Drury, Matthew Ironside, Jonathan Stokes, David Szwerc, Phillip Tipton and Gem Wheeler (all 2001) were in attendance, along with many other friends from the happy couple's time at Cambridge.



Catherine Leather (1999) and Mark Lowrie (Clare, 1998) were married on 23rd August 2008 in Louth, Lincolnshire. The day was celebrated in a marquee back at the family home with several Robinsonians including Lisa Colbear (née Marley, 1999) who was bridesmaid, many fellow vets and their dogs!



Ian McBride (1992) married Silvia Slotova in Fricovce, Slovakia on 7th June 2008. Also in attendance were Ian O'Connor (1992) and Stewart MacNeill (1992). Ian and Silvia now live in Streatham, London.



Michael (1991) and Nadia Fleischer had a boy on July 16 2008 in Los Angeles, CA. Harrison Shay and his big brother Benson are both in the picture above.



Alastair Ingall and Alexandra Green (both 1997) were married at St John The Evangelist's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield on 16 August 2008. Many Robinson friends joined the celebrations: Fiona Pickford, Anne Carnall, Clare Sharpen, Chris Baker, Andy Kidd, David Sheen, James Knight, Stuart Macdonald (all 1997), Laura Bagley (1995), Catherine Baker, Rob Baxter, Camilla Kidd, Rob Lancaster, Dave Mortimer (all 1998), Richard (1996) and Charlie Vosser (1997).



Dr Markus Gehring (Fellow 2005) and Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger are honoured to announce the happy arrival, at 2am on Friday September 19 2008 in Ottawa, Canada, of their second little son, Jean-Nicolas Roman Alexander.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



David Yirrell, Porter, has been a blood donor for the last 34 years and on Tuesday 25th November 2008 gave his 75th donation of blood, achieving the Emerald Award and lapel badge.



Dr Anuj Dawar (Fellow 1999) and Elizabeth Klaar are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Tarika, born on Tuesday, 20th January at 18.06 GMT, weighing 3.12 kg (6lb 14ozs).



Robinson was excited to have Robert Webb (1992) return to College as part of the filming that he was doing with Wall to Wall Television, with which he is currently producing a landmark new series on poetry for BBC2.

Oliver Irons and Sarah Stocks (both 1998) were married on 27 September 2008 at All Saints Church in Barwick-in-Elmet, Yorkshire. They were joined by many Robinson alumni including best man Tom Saffell, ushers Dave Mortimer and Will James, and bridesmaids Sarah Crack and Rhian Deakin (all 1998).

Andy Tucker (1998), now working in the Cambridge Geography Department, presented a paper on "Conceptualising the ideological power and ideological difficulties that emerge through political links between race and sexuality" at the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers in London in August 2008. Andy's book "Queer Visibilities: Space, Identity and Interaction in Cape Town", published through the Royal Geographical Society's series at Wiley-Blackwell was on display at the conference. At the same conference, Jacob Levy (2003), now a Cambridge Geography postgraduate presented a paper on "White gay identity and the legacy of apartheid in Cape Town: race and the politics of disunity in post-apartheid SA"

Following 8 years as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Trevor Page has taken early retirement from the Cookson Group Chair of Materials Engineering at Newcastle University. He is maintaining some of his research and continues to be a Director of both the Centre for process Innovation (CPI) and Newcastle University's 'Ideas' Bank' (NUIB) in Singapore. He was one of Robinson's founding Fellows before taking up his chair in Newcastle.

Events

March

**3rd - Law Dinner -
Norton Rose**

**5th - Champagne
Concert**

21st - Pegasus Dinner

**26th - Cambridge
Society Lunch in
Sydney, Australia
with David Yates**

May

16th - MA Lunch

June

12th - May Ball

**20th - Steinway
Concert**

**26th - Graduation
Dinner**

July

**1st - Annual
Reception**

September

**26th - Wine Tasting
Reunion Tea
Reunion Dinner - for
matric. years 1979, 1984,
1989, 1994, 1999**

**27th - Pegasus
Brunch**

**27th - Hong Kong
Gala Concert and
Dinner**

ROBINSON WOMEN FC UNDEFEATED

It has been an exciting term for us as we have managed to win all of our games and secure a place in the Cuppers semi finals. Our team is made up of both enthusiastic and talented players, who play every match with spirit and this has been reflected in our results. We are also proud to have several Blues players in the team, including the captain. Hopefully, we will be able to continue this impressive form next term in both the league and Cuppers competition.

Results:

Date	Opposition	Score	Competition
18 Oct	Christ's 2	Win 3-0	League
25 Oct	Corpus Christi	Win 17-1	Cuppers
1 Nov	Fitzwilliam 2	Win 2-0(forfeit)	League
8 Nov	Girton	Win 12-0	Cuppers
15 Nov	Peterhouse	Win 9-0	League
29 Nov	Jesus 2	Win 14-0	Cuppers



MEN'S FOOTBALL HAS A SOLID START

The league began promisingly as we beat Downing II 3-2 at home in a scrappy, hard-fought game. We followed this with a convincing 4-1 victory after conceding early on away to Emmanuel II. The following week was the first round of Cuppers, and we were drawn away to John's, near the top of the 1st division, three leagues above us. Unfortunately we made an early exit from the cup in a game which was a lot closer than the rather unflattering 3-0 score line would tell. Back to the league, we faced Trinity II away on a difficult pitch, which saw us concede in the dying seconds to lose 2-1. Our next game against Long Road II was played with a squad weakened by injuries. We started well and took the lead, but ended up losing 4-2 despite looking the better team for much of the second half. This leaves us in 5th spot of the 4th division at the Christmas break, with two wins and two losses. Having played most of our tougher competition, and with a game in hand over most of the other teams, hopes of promotion are still high as we look towards the second half of the season.

BLUES VICTORY FOR ROBINSON TENNIS

The defending Cuppers champions were beaten in the first round of the 2008 competition; losing to Trinity 5:4 in a very tight match. This was a good performance considering the team was without number one player, Ben Cole, due to injury. In terms of individual achievements, Ben Cole represented the University at the Varsity match with Cambridge comfortably defeating Oxford. With 3 players in the University second team squad and one in the Blues squad, the first team has a great opportunity to progress far in Cuppers and potentially emulate the successes of the 2007 team.

ROBINSON RUNNING RIOT

The Robinson team showed their increased strength in comparison to previous years with the men's team finishing top of Division II, fifth overall, and the women's team managing ninth, despite not having a full team. On top of this were impressive first appearances from Lowri Richards, who won the women's Fresher category, and Will Mackay who finished second out of the Fresher men.

The strong performance by the men's team continued throughout the season with consistently good performances from Will Mackay, Aidan Brown, Jim Arnold and Henry Carruthers. November's Varsity matches saw Aidan Brown produce another solid run for the Illrds, while Jim Arnold and Phil Kynaston helped the Cambridge IVths to victory over Oxford. Most notable however, was Will Mackay's well deserved blue for his valiant performance in the Varsity match proper at Wimbledon Common, which completed his impressive debut season.

