

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



L E N T 2 0 1 3



In this issue

My Robinson, by Robert Webb.....	3
Monastery Residency in the Norwegian Fjords.....	4
The Lakeside Terrace Project.....	6
Accessing Robinson.....	8
Letter from America.....	9
Announcements	10

Bin Brook is edited by Dr Nicola Jones
Editorial Committee:
Dr Stephen Trudgill, Ms Helen Cornish, Dr Rosalind Love, Dr Judy Weiss and Mrs Helen Winter

If you would like to update your contact details with the Development Office, please contact us at development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

Front cover image:
Robinson tree in hoar frost, 2013, Nicola Jones

Forthcoming Events

February 28th	Law Dinner, hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills, open to all Robinson lawyers
March 23rd	Head of the River, Putney
March 23rd	Pegasus Society Inaugural Seminar (with Lord Lewis), AGM and Dinner
April 28th	MML Lunch, to mark the retirement of Mary Stewart and Robin Kirkpatrick, open to all MML alumni
June 15th	May Bumps, The Plough, Fen Ditton
July 3rd	Annual Reception, National Liberal Club, London

Events can be booked online - further details available on our web page: <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php>

My Robinson/Robert Webb

Robert Webb matriculated in 1992 and, as he'll tell you himself below, he studied English. Quite what he's been up to since his time at Robinson is anyone's guess...



"Just tell us what you've been up to in the last seventeen years: in about five hundred words if that's all right". Erm, right then; I'd better get on with it. Actually this request from *Bin Brook* immediately reminded me of a Mark Twain quotation which I first heard in a Robinson supervision: "Sorry this is such a long letter," he tells a friend, "I didn't have time to write a short one." I've just looked up the exact line and one source claims that this is a common misattribution: the quotation actually comes from Blaise Pascal. Well, I'm inclined to ignore this; partly out of loyalty (I was taught by Cambridge dons who are, as we all know, higher authorities than the internet) and partly because I've spent seventeen years saying it was Mark Twain and I'm damned if I'm going to change my story in the light of "new evidence". This last impulse may explain my unsuitability for a life in academe. Or perhaps not. Discuss.

So yes: concision. Let's not waste any more words. Concision concision concision. Well, I left Robinson in 1995 and worked as an usher in a theatre whilst putting on fringe shows with David Mitchell for a while (the beans-on-toast and cut-price lager years). We found an agent, started to earn a living as jobbing comedy writers, made four series of *That Mitchell and Webb Look* for BBC2 and eight series of *Peep Show* for Channel 4. And I did a dance in a leotard (this is what Robinson men are made of <http://tinyurl.com/clbp3k>). That brings us up to date where I have 126,00 more

followers on Twitter than Nick Clegg. Oh yes, and I fell in love, got married and became the father of two beautiful daughters, named Esme and Dory.

Finished! Oh all right then: a detail. I lived in room H1 in my first year if you're interested (presumably someone is organising the plaque? If Nick Clegg gets one and I don't, then I'm quitting show business). It's a mind-boggling thought that for such a young college, every room in Robinson has thousands of stories to tell: stories of epiphanies and awakenings - intellectual, spiritual and emotional - that occurred in each of its rooms. A college is an unforgettable place of youthful discovery, a fact that you only remember to discover when you've just turned forty. Thanks.

I wrote my first decent comedy sketches in H1. And that, just in time, brings me to my main topic...gratitude. Thank you Robinson for letting me study English when it must have been perfectly obvious I was obsessed with Footlights and was about to reward your trust with three years of disappointing essays and a 2:2. Thank you for giving me a second offer after I messed up my A-levels when my mother died. Thank you for opening the door to the rest of Cambridge, a place of infinite beauty and possibility, the stroke of luck I can't get over. Thank you.

And there we have it. The need for my full-length memoir just became even less urgent. But then, "I don't think anyone should write an autobiography until after he is dead," said Samuel Goldwyn.

Or was that Mark Twain?



(Ed. We would love to make this a regular feature...if you'd like to describe Your Robinson, do get in touch.)

Monastery Residency in the Norwegian Fjords



Caroline Brown matriculated in 1980 (Natural Sciences), took BA (1983), MA and PhD (1987) degrees, and is a Senior Member of Robinson College.

In June 2010, I was preparing to attend Les Rencontres D'Arles Photographie, when an invitation arrived from a museum offering photographic residencies at a monastery in Norway. Halsnøy Kloster is the site of an Augustinian monastery established in 1163, situated in a spectacular setting in the heart of the Norwegian fjords and mountains. As a landscape photographer, interested in the layering of history and culture, I was immediately hooked and expressed an interest in applying.

The museum curator asked for a project proposal and a portfolio of my recent photographic work. My portfolio was ready for Arles where the curator reviewed it, and included a series evoking sense of place in coastal Suffolk. That series looked into history, nature and dark secrets in the landscape and was the Major Project from my MA in Photographic

Studies at the University of Westminster. This seemed to seal my application and I was awarded the residency over mid-summer 2011. In retrospect, I was in the right place at the right time with the right preparation behind me.

Nine months elapsed between the award and the residency. I researched landscape art in Norway, networked with curators at the National Gallery in London and with Norwegian friends. I acquired maps, books and new photographic equipment and researched logistics and made travel plans. Bergman, Dahl, Eco, Munch, and Tolkein all started to become very familiar.

The Sunnhordland museum specialises in cultural history, it seeks to attract visitors to the museum properties throughout the region and to foster Halsnøy Kloster as a local centre for the arts. The residency invitation was to live and work as a professional artist at Halsnøy Kloster for three weeks over midsummer; to practice photography during the residency; and, to exhibit at the monastery gallery within six months. The commissioning aspect of the residency was very flexible. In the event, my carefully-laid logistical plans were totally disrupted by an unexpected 10,000 mile round trip to Los Angeles the week the residency started. Nevertheless, I was still able to be at Halsnøy for the majority of the residency period.

Living and sleeping in a setting inhabited for over 800



years is an immersive experience. The layering of history of church and state, ancient Norse myths, the practicalities of living in medieval and reformation times, were all evident in physical form. The residency produced a geographically focused project: a portrait of a medieval monastery. It's not practical for me to commit to travel to Norway during the Winter, which I would have to do to mount, frame and install a hung exhibition, so I decided to show the work as an Artist's book, itself a new departure for my practice.

Some ideas were carried over from previous work, including the magnetic power of huts and the concept of *Landschaft*: a collection of dwellings within an area of cultivated land that, in turn, is surrounded by an unknown – and unknowable – wilderness. The fleeting nature of Norwegian Summer, haunting medieval setting and the vast natural forces in the Norwegian landscape were new themes. Guides at the museum, local people, shopkeepers, and fishermen all contributed to sense of place. The use of digital equipment, and the ability to review and refine images on location, was invaluable for a residency in a remote location where return trips are impractical.

The process of review and evaluation of the images, the forming of the body of work and preparation for exhibiting the work are ongoing. New contacts were made: Japanese, Danish and Norwegian

photographers; museum curators in Norway and London; and local gallery owners and other Norwegian artists. In addition to the Artist's book to be exhibited at Halsnøy, the museum director is discussing a centenary exhibition of photography at Sord, in Oslo or in Arles in 2013.

For the past few years, I have used the rigour and defined timelines of photographic courses to develop my work. Attending photographic festivals and folio forums has also been part of this building-block process. Now, photographic residencies are the ideal way to progress my photographic practice and add a sense of adventure to my journey as an artist. This works for me given my desire to travel, landscape orientation and time constraints. By definition, residencies are well anchored in place and time and thereby help to defend my photographic practice from other pressures. They allow a focused body of personal work to be created in a highly time-efficient manner and to explore new worlds in visually spectacular settings. Residencies are flexible and unique individual experiences, inspiring new photographic ideas. Halsnøy proved to be all this and more.

Images from Halsnøy and several other photographic series, such as those shown below, will be exhibited at Robinson College as part of Cambridge Open Studios, 11.00-18.00 Sat/Sun 20/21 July, 2013. For further information about Open Studios, see the official website: <http://www.camopenstudios.co.uk/>



Dr Trudgill's Retirement Dinner

On Saturday 15th September, Dr Steve Trudgill marked his retirement from the Geography Department at a dinner in College. He remains as Geography DOS in College jointly with the new Geographer, Dr Kendra Strauss, until the current students have all graduated in the summer of 2015. Kendra will be looking after the new Geography intake from October 2013. A little over a hundred people attended the dinner, who knew Steve from all walks of life - colleagues from the Geography department, past and present students, local friends and family members, and, of course, a good contingent from College. Many attendees also made a contribution to the Lakeside Terrace project (right), and Steve is extremely grateful to all those who chose to mark his retirement in this way. He was also presented with a limited edition Geri Waddington engraving of the College, by his current students, who did an excellent job of summarizing the Dr T teaching experience!



Thanks to Jean Hannah, Steve's sister-in-law, for her photos of the dinner.

New Geography Fellow



Kendra Strauss is a feminist economic geographer with research interests in the areas of occupational welfare, labour markets, and changing articulations of risk and responsibility. Originally from Victoria B.C. on the West Coast of Canada, Kendra has a BA in Cultural Studies from McGill University and an MSc and DPhil from the University of Oxford. Prior to taking up her post as a University Lecturer in Geography and Fellow of Robinson, Kendra was a Research Associate in Urban Political Economy at the University of Glasgow. She moved from Glasgow to Cambridge in August 2012 with her partner James and sons Calan, 6, and Lucas, 4.

Jubilee Trees

Back in 1897, Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. To commemorate this landmark, the then residents of Thorneycreek House planted a walnut tree (below right in the centre of the picture during the hoar frost in January this year), next to Thorneycreek lawn.

When some diseased trees next to the Maria Björnson Outdoor Theatre, at 2 Adams Road were removed, the Gardens Committee decided to plant a new walnut tree, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, and a tulip tree, chosen for its beautiful flowers. On a chilly January morning, the Garden staff and Steve Trudgill (Chair of the Gardens Committee) set about planting them (below). We would like to thank the estate of Mrs Pike, a former resident of Thorneycreek, whose legacy has funded the trees.



The Lakeside Terrace Project

As a long-standing member and Chair of the Gardens Committee, when it came to deciding on his 'retirement gift', Steve Trudgill was clear about its purpose. Something for the Gardens...

His proposal had three origins. Firstly, in the early 1990's Steve met with Landscape Architect Bodfan Gruffydd. Bodfan lamented how some of the lakeside planting had all grown up, obscuring the intended view. The area he referred to included the growth of shrubs between the yew hedge and the lake margin on the north side of the lake (pictured below).

Secondly, horticulturally speaking these shrubs have been problematic in that the lower ones have suffered from flooding and some have died and been removed. Those on the upper side are growing towards the yew hedge, which is a keystone feature of the landscape architecture of the area. They not only visually impact on the yews, but also have to be cut back to prevent them impairing the growth of the yews.

Additionally, because of the nature of the growth, the shrubs are very difficult to maintain, prune and weed, the central area being quite inaccessible.

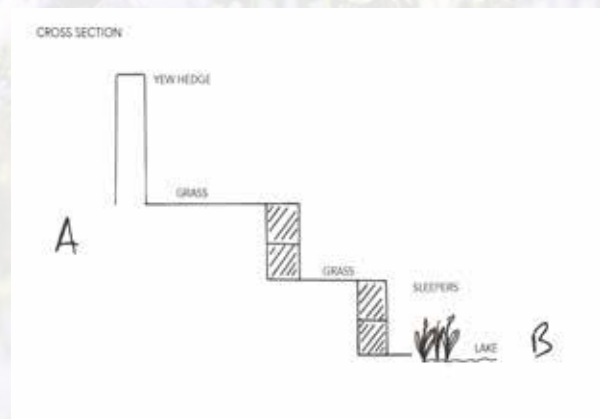
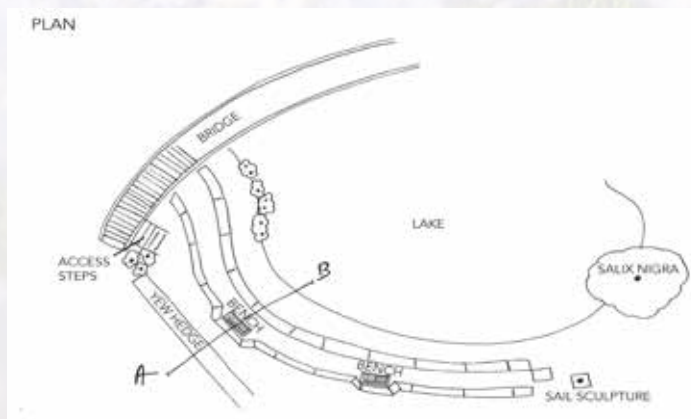
Thirdly, it seemed an attractive idea that we should be able to enjoy our lakeside rather more, indeed have a venue where we may sit by the lake and have a facility where people may not only enjoy the vantage point but also gather informally when events are occurring which involve the use of the garden during reunions, conferences and other occasions.

The Gardens Committee's decision was to remove the shrubs on visual, aesthetic and horticultural grounds and to build two terraces adjacent to the lake. Once the ground is cleared, it will be levelled into two terraces, in a form similar to that of the lawn at the Maria Björnson Outdoor Theatre. Rather than brick, as at the theatre, the terraces will be supported by wood to match the bridge. This will be in the form of oak sleepers on a foundation. The plan shape of the terraces involves two indentations for the placement of benches. The plan will be enhanced by steps down from the west end of the bridge.

At a meeting of the Governing Body, the idea was approved and now College is seeking £15,000 to put the idea into effect. The cost includes shrub removal, earth moving and the essential underpinning of the terraces with a firm structure to stabilise the slope, as well as the materials, steps and benches (diagrams below illustrate this). So far, we have raised just over £9,500.

Not only will this project enhance the overall aesthetics and enjoyment of the garden, we also hope that it will improve the ecology of the lake margin, helping the plants and wildlife to flourish.

If you would like to support this project, gifts may be made online at <http://forms.robinson.cam.ac.uk/donation.aspx>; or by using the form on the back of this edition.





Accessing Robinson

This academic year, Robinson is very excited to appoint our first Schools Liaison Officer (SLO), whom we share with Trinity Hall. Roisin Ellison joined us at the start of the Michaelmas term, and now she's found her feet, she'd like to demystify the unusual role of the SLO...

Fresh from completing my M.Ed in Politics, Development and Democratic Education at the Faculty of Education last summer, I returned to classroom teaching in September somewhat reluctantly. The masters had deepened my understanding of the effects of stagnant social mobility in England, particularly on issues such as access to tertiary education, and had sparked in me a desire to effect measurable change. With an ever-growing number of government education targets to pay attention to and feel constrained by, I found the school classroom an increasingly unsatisfying environment in which to do this. And so I found myself one evening casting an eye over the list of job vacancies published on the Cambridge Careers Service website and, behold, spotted an advertisement for a joint Schools' Liaison and Outreach Officer position at Robinson College and Trinity Hall.

Reading the job description, I discovered that this role would suit my interests perfectly. I would be working with schools to encourage applications to the University of Cambridge, or to Higher Education institutions in general, by raising the aspirations of those with no history of university application. This would not mean enabling such students to gain an unfair advantage over other applicants; instead, in being employed by an institution dedicated to attracting and obtaining the students with the best academic potential, my job would be to ensure that candidates with the potential to secure a place at Cambridge were actually making an application. And, further to this, I would be ensuring that such candidates were not put at a disadvantage due to a lack of accurate and up-to-date information about the admissions procedure.

Coming from a comprehensive school in East London myself, I felt particularly suited to this role, being able to vividly recall myself how daunting the application process at Cambridge seemed and how the myths and misinformation that surround the University helped feed into that. A common misconception I bought into, for example, was thinking that the majority of Cambridge undergraduates came from prestigious independent schools. Having now talked to various prospective state school applicants, I hear echoes of this worry when they express how they "shouldn't bother" to apply and that, even if they did secure a place, they would not "fit in". Again, the point

here is not that Cambridge should be positively discriminating towards state school applicants in order to correct this view; it is to highlight how important it is for Cambridge, and colleges like Robinson, to invest in resources that provide accurate information to target the misinformation that continues to surround the University. With this in mind, the SLO role would allow me to make a direct, if small, impact on issues I am deeply passionate about.

Luckily for me, I was offered the position for joint SLO at Robinson and Trinity Hall last October. This is a particularly exciting appointment for Robinson College as I am the College's first SLO. Prior to this, all work related to widening participation had been taken on by the Admissions Tutor at Robinson, Chris Warner, Fellow Admissions Advisors and the designated RCSA Access Officer. The Admissions Team at Robinson College has worked extremely hard to develop and maintain contacts with schools, particularly in Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire and the London Borough of Wandsworth, which are the College's link areas (as part of the University's UK-wide Link Area Scheme).

Whilst the team has already done a great deal, it's my job to continue this work, organising school visits, Open Days, residential courses, summer schools and any other initiatives that will improve participation across all socioeconomic groups at Robinson College, and the University as a whole. As my appointment coincided with the beginning of the 2013 admissions cycle, I was given the opportunity to observe the fascinating particulars of the cycle at Robinson College; from the selection process and interviews, to how decisions are made concerning offers and what happens at the Winter Pool. I have had the privilege to witness the incredible amount of time and thought poured into selecting the candidates considered most likely to flourish here, regardless of social and educational background, and the transparency and openness with which Fellows have eagerly discussed the process with me. With the admissions cycle winding down and with a thorough understanding of its intricacies gained, I now look forward to a full calendar of school visits and Open Days where I can pass on what I have learnt to others in the hope of encouraging many more of the brightest young people, irrespective of their background, to make an application.

Steve Gordon (2010) is a current Robinson undergraduate, studying Engineering. As part of his course he is undertaking a year-long exchange at MIT. While one of their students, Minna Song, is spending her year at Robinson, Steve is studying in Boston.

Since late August I have been calling a tree-lined, terraced street in Boston's Back Bay neighbourhood my home, and what a welcoming home it was. Being dropped off 'fresh' from roughly twelve hours of mostly airborne travel through Dublin, then North Carolina, and finally Boston's Logan Airport's arrivals terminal, I was greeted by the Fraternity President for the living group I'd be a part of, and his trusty second in command. They helped me with my bags to the 3rd floor (or more British-ly 2nd floor) room that I'd be sharing with the two other Cambridge engineers who had similarly made the bold decision to apply to undertake that most American of collegiate experiences – fraternal life. And that was it, I was here, I was ready; Boston, MIT, New England, America even, give me your best shot and let's see what you're like.

Well, it was pretty much all round amazing. The academic side of things was put on hold for the first week as an official orientation was undertaken, first introducing me to the MIT campus' younger, but still distinctly impressive, visual appearance, then the sheer breadth of foreign cultures slowly being simmered together in the late summer sunshine, and finally the range of opportunities presented to avail oneself of during the year I would have to enjoy here – from UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities in almost any imaginable engineering, science, or scholarly field) to free sailing lessons and equipment hire on the Charles River, to January and summer placement programmes around the world.

Simultaneously, the start of a new academic year meant that the fraternities were gearing up for their big recruitment push known as 'Rush week'. Imagine freshers' week, now imagine it done on a massive American, supersized budget, now imagine 33 simultaneous freshers' week programs each competing to outdo each other – now you're getting close to an idea of what Rush is like. Personally before Rush I'd never had lobster, jet skiing wasn't a pastime I could say I'd tried, I wasn't all that sold on steak, roof-top BBQs and free poker tournaments weren't a regular use of my evenings, go-karting was something that I partook of once or twice a year, I'd never been to a 24 hour arcade (with unlimited smart card credit to boot) and frat parties

were just something I'd experienced on the big or small screen. Now (and you may see where this is going) those situations have all been put right. Steak and lobster is the meal of kings, jet ski-ing is seriously scary, roof-top BBQs have a very flexible dress code, and we Europeans are apparently just naturally better at go karting than the Yanks.



And then classes started. But don't think this is where everything gets dull and boring. Not at all, with the breadth of courses to choose from, the engaging class leaders, and helpful teaching assistants, and the genuine interest (and even love) people here have for their subject areas it seems inevitable that even going to lectures, labs, and recitations (kind of like big supervisions) is a massively positive experience.

During the sixteen weeks I've so far 'used up', I have managed to attain PE class credit in foil fencing and archery (both of which I had never even dabbled in before), partake in homemade rocket launches with the rocket team, engage in competitive shooting against the Coast Guard as part of the Sport Pistol team, get on stage for some improvised comedy, gain Varsity debating experience at tournaments in Boston and further afield (having attended a grand total of one 'Union debate' during my previous years in Cambridge), represent the fraternity at flag football, and of course soccer, and even fit in a spot of Kendo when my schedule allowed.

Outside 'school life', I enjoyed a trip with Fraternity brothers to Fenway Park to see the local Red Sox versus the New York Yankees during my fifth week, along with an early December visit to TD Garden to watch the Boston Celtics defeat the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves. Thanksgiving presented perhaps the best opportunity for travel outside Boston, and duly I visited New York City for the first (but surely not last) time, accompanied by my room-sharing fellow exchange scheme participants, Mark and Charis.



Rest assured that I am absolutely loving my time in America, and I am so thankful I got the opportunity to come here, and just a little worried that all too soon it will be over...I guess what I want to close with is this piece of advice – If you get the chance, whether it be as a student or later in life, apply for an exchange scheme, you won't regret it for an instant.



Letter from America

Announcements



MML Lunch

To celebrate their retirements **Dr Mary Stewart and Professor Robin Kirkpatrick** are holding a luncheon on April 28th, kindly co-ordinated by Dr Liz Guild.

Although invitations have been sent to those who studied MML, it is possible that we do not hold contact details for some alumni. If you're reading this and feel you should have been invited, then please get in touch with the Development Office on development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk; or look at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php.

As well as celebrating their retirements, Robin and Mary hope that the event will raise money for MML student travel grants, particularly for Part 1A as University funding is no longer available for these. We will follow up the event with some pictures and an update on their fundraising in the Michaelmas issue.

Hong Kong 2013

The Warden, Mrs Yates and Development Director, Helen Cornish, visited Hong Kong at the start of January. A very successful dinner was held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club on 7th January, thanks to all who attended. Below, dinner hosts, Jeremy Godfrey and Julie McShane (both 1981) with the Development Director, the Warden and guests Margaret Ng (1983) and Sebastian Chan (1987).



Head of the River

Robinson Old Blades and their guests are invited to gather in the Wolsey Room at the Duke's Head in Putney to watch the Head of the River Race 2013 on 23 March. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The Robinson Men's 1st VIII will be competing and the afternoon will be a chance to enjoy the race from the comfort of the pub, whilst catching up on news and reminiscing about the good old days. To book, please use our website: <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php>

Births

(All photos are displayed below the announcement, unless specified otherwise.)

Imogen Brown (1987) and her husband, Richard Brown (Trinity Hall 1987), had a baby boy, Freddie, on 10th January 2013.



Born to **Carole Dobson** (née Johnson, 1994) and Dr Mike Dobson of Exeter University in July 2012, a son, Frederick William George, a little brother for Ginevra.



James Lingard (1998) and his wife Meghan are delighted to announce the birth of their son Tristan, who was born at home in Highbury, London on November 30th, 2012.



Sophie Mills (2000) and her husband Murray had their first child in January 2012. Archer Mirabelle Grant was born at the local cottage hospital near their home. Sophie writes: She's a true bush baby and has embraced all aspects of our life in the wilderness. I am running our eco lodge on our ranch in Kenya and love meeting guests from all around the world and sharing the amazing wildlife and habitat found here. If any ex-Robinsonians are interested in a Kenyan safari I would be delighted to welcome them.

Our website is: www.laikipiasafaris.com
email: elkaramalodge@gmail.com
Facebook: El Karama Eco Lodge.
Twitter: El Karama Eco Lodge
Trip Advisor: El Karama Eco Lodge.



Mohsin Majid (1995) and his wife had a baby boy in September. He is called Sami and joins his sister Zain, who is 3 years old now.



Mark Metzstein (1987) and his wife Gillian Stanfield wish to announce the birth of their son, Max Isi Metzstein, born August 19th, 2012. Max takes his middle name from Mark's father, Isi Metzstein, one of the architects of Robinson college, who passed away last year. The family lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they are both faculty in the Department of Human Genetics, University of Utah. Anyone coming through Utah is very welcome to come visit: it's an amazing place for a holiday.

Sam Sanders-Hewitt (1999) and his wife Fiona (Downing, 2000) are pleased to announce the arrival of Katherine Alice Evelyn on 21st September 2012, weighing 9lb 9oz. **Dyfrig Davies** (1999) is one of Katherine's godfathers. Big brother Henry is really enjoying the new addition to the family, and as you can see from the photo his cleft lip repair has been very successful.



Demosthenes Tambakis (1986) and his wife Daniela Passolt welcomed their son, Filippos Kimon, born in Cambridge on 3rd October, 2012. Demosthenes is Fellow in Economics and Finance and Director of Studies in Economics, and Daniela is Deputy Director of International Programmes at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Edward Peter Salvador was born on 26th December to Anna and **Richard Sargeant** (1999), and is a brother to Sophie.



Daniel Williams (2000) and his wife Steph are pleased to announce the Boxing Day arrival of Levi, a brother to Micah (two and a half), and another nephew to **Hannah Williams** (2011).



Andy Withers (1997) and his wife are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Daisy Isobel, on 3rd July, exactly two years after her brother, Max.



Keith Bailey (1997) married Sonja Grbavac at Salas 137 near to her home town of Novi Sad in Serbia on August 18th 2012. They were joined by a number of Robinson Alumni including **Phu To** (1997) as usher.



Laura Pope and Andrew Ewart (both 2002) were married on 14th September 2012 at St John the Baptist Church, Barnack, followed by a reception at Hambleton Hall in Rutland. A number of Robinson friends were in attendance.



David Hall (1999) married Judith Virjee on 22nd September 2012 at St Margaret's Church, Barming. Robinson Alumni **Martin and Annette Paton, and Dyfrig Davies**, (all 1999) joined us, with Martin acting as joint best man with Navid Childs (Churchill, 1999) and Dyfrig as an usher.



Marriages

Rutie Ballestas (1986, née Stranack) married Alfredo Ballestas on 22nd November 2012 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

David Charles Stuart Gates (2000) married Laura Elizabeth Boyd at Holy Trinity Haddenham on 9th June 2012.

Vicky Howard (1995) married Martin Ford in Derby on 12th May 2012, followed by a reception at Shottle Hall. The day was attended by several college friends and fortunately the weather was good, despite a very wet spring. The honeymoon involved a four week trekking holiday to Nepal and Tibet.



Tim Hughes (1997) married Sarah Whitworth (Christ's, 1999) on 25th June 2012 at South Farm in Cambridgeshire. It was a wonderful sunny day enjoyed by a large group of family and friends, including many Robinson and Christ's alumni.



Karl Jackson (1995) and Sarah Mitchell (Homerton) married in the College Chapel on the 21st July 2012, followed by a reception in the Hall and gardens. A beautiful sunny day (after weeks of rain) was enjoyed by family and friends, including several Robinson alumni.



Chris Morton (2000) was married on 4th August 2012 to Isobel Mary Mackintosh in Richmond, in the midst of the Olympic weekend!



Peter Thompson (1980) married Dr Elisabeth van Ooijen in Bristol on June 9th, and he was elected as a director of the Bristol Energy Cooperative (bristolenergy.coop) in October.



Edward Ungar (MML, 1995) married Rachel Ingram at the New London Synagogue on Sunday 11th March 2012. The Robinson contingent included **Steven Sieff, Stephanie Cohen, Ellie Topham, Nick Grant, James Holloway and Adam Silverstein** (all 1995). Fortunately for all guests, there was no reprise of any college dance routines.



More News

In the next issue, **Rutie Ballestas** (1986) will be writing about her new venture - here's a quick preview! "When Robinson gave me a grant towards Spanish lessons, little did I imagine this would lead to ethical fruit company, Fruto del Espíritu. Our Lulo fruit comes from Colombia's coffee region and reduces small-scale farmers' dependence on volatile coffee prices. Our Mora (red Andean Blackberry) and Maracuyá (passionfruit) come from a conflict region. The Maracuyá farmers were finalists in Emprender Paz, Colombia's Enterprise for Peace competition. Superfruit Uchuva features in a 5-a-day dried fruit snack arriving in March. Our purées make great punches and cocktails for barbecues, parties, balls and weddings - and alcohol-free reception drinks for business functions. See www.fruto.co.uk. Right now the Colombian Government and FARC are holding talks, aiming to end the 48-year conflict. The agrarian issue tops the agenda. What better time to drink to peace?" If you'd like to get in touch with Rutie, her email is info@fruto.co.uk. The Lulo fruit is pictured below.



Katie Barnes (1988) has left her job as a Strategist in the Financial Services sector and is currently working part-time on a research programme at UCL. Liveable Cities (www.liveablecities.org.uk) is concerned with the design and engineering of low carbon, resource-secure UK cities, in which wellbeing is a key consideration. Katie would be very interested to hear from others who may be working on related issues, particularly in the areas of policy and governance. Please contact her via the Development Office.

K K Chan (1986) established his own company, Nature Elements Capital, in Beijing 3 years ago. It is a private equity firm investing in renewable energy and clean technology in Asia. Currently KK is managing 2 funds with domestic and international investors.

Edmund Connolly (1997, Music, Organ Scholar), gained his MMus degree in vocal performance from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2003, and was appointed a Music Studies Professor at the School in 2004, a position which he held until 2011. Meanwhile, Edmund has pursued an active and successful career as an opera and concert singer in the UK and Europe, performing major operatic roles and working with companies including Glyndebourne Festival Opera and English Touring Opera. In February 2012, Edmund moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to take up the post of Assistant Organist-Choir Director at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, where he has recently helped to establish two new choirs - a Cherub choir for children aged 3-7 and a Cathedral Chorale - both of which he directs. Edmund and his wife, Maxine Thévenot, were married in March 2012 at the Cathedral, and live in Albuquerque with their two cats, Nadia and Hildegard.

Colin Crump (Fellow) was appointed a University Lecturer in the Department of Pathology, Cambridge, on 1st October 2012.

Dan Jones (1990), and his company, civic Architects, designers of the new Community Eco Hub in Gamlingay, have won the Environmental Excellence Award at the Architect of the Year 2012 Awards. We hope to include a longer piece about this project in the next issue.



Above, taken in Nov 2012: L-R. **Karen Murphy, Lisa Bailey, Karen Hunter, Karen Postlewaite, Sarah Davies and Beth Harding**, all 1989, with all their children, on their annual Robinson get-together.

After being a lecturer at Cardiff University for some years **Dan King** (1997) and his family are moving to rural Tanzania to work in language development and medicine respectively.

From **John Fearn** (1995): Other 'Binsonites might (or might not!) find it interesting that the company I founded after leaving Robinson (Symplectic Ltd) was majority acquired by Macmillan (the publishers) last year, and that our software (Symplectic Elements) is now the market-leading UK university research information management system, and is used every day by academics and research admins at Cambridge University. **Andrew Cockbill** (1996) is also at the company. In fact there is something of a concentration of Robinson graduates at Macmillan. There are at least 4 in the building!

Peter Hutchinson (Fellow) has been made a Vice-President of the European Association of Neurological Surgeons

Phil Lowe (1981) has published a novel 'Dying to Be Famous' last autumn and it is available in Kindle, paperback and epub formats at most online stores. Readers can search online or follow the link on his website www.phil-low.com.

Peter Kornicki (Deputy Warden) writes: In 2012 I was elected to the professorship of Japanese and the price for that was having to become Head of the Department of East Asian Studies from 1 October. This has meant taking on exciting tasks such as completing a risk assessment form for a sandwich lunch and devising an alcohol strategy - I misunderstood the purpose of this at first! I was also elected a member of the Academia Europea, a Europe-wide academy for the arts and sciences, and gave a lecture at Oberlin College in Ohio in September: I brought home an unwanted souvenir in the form of a foot infection kindly bestowed on my foot by a local spider. On a more positive note, I was in Lisbon in July accompanying my wife at a conference and idly dropped into an old library where I had the good luck to find a unique and fascinating 18th-century manuscript on Vietnam that had been miscatalogued for 200 years. I also published an article on printing in eighth-century Japan and another on the book culture of the Tanguts, a nation that used to live in the far west of China and began using movable-type printing in the eleventh century, about four hundred years before good old Gutenberg got his act together in Mainz!

Edward Parrott (2002) is now a Research Assistant Professor in the department of Electronic Engineering at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Wayne Raskind (1981) has moved from Arizona State University to Wayne State University in Detroit to become Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Debbie Simpson (1988) is now living in Melbourne, Australia and completing a residency in Veterinary Dermatology. There is a Cambridge Society in Melbourne and she recently attended the Annual Dinner at the Melbourne Club, which was a great night.

Sam Sloman (2010), Nick Codrington (Christ's) and Laurence Gribble (Trinity) just won the Beijing University Foreign Students Film Competition for High-Level Students. They produced a 5-minute film which could be translated as "When In Rome...". They beat about 10 other teams made up of nationalities from all over the globe. The link is here and you can add subtitles by clicking on captions below:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrxOgkTKMBY&feature=g-hist

Andrew Somerville (1981) writes: After two years back in corporate life, I realised I had had more than enough and have started a new company, Kazalia, specialising in cloud-based solutions for Wi-Fi and CCTV. My main focus in Kazalia's brief life so far has been the contrasting sectors of theme parks and care homes for the elderly.

Isobel Thompson (née Phoenix (1983) studied Classics. She has lost her address book, and would be very pleased to hear from Robinson friends: isobel.thompson1@ntlworld.com

Marc Weissgerber (MBA, 1999) was appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Veolia Water Germany, part of Veolia group, which is the largest environmental group in the world with more than 300,000 employees.

David Woodman (Fellow) has published his first book, *Charters of Northern Houses* (Oxford, 2012), the 16th volume in the British Academy series, 'Anglo-Saxon Charters'.

If you have news for the next edition of Bin Brook, please contact us at: development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk by August 15th 2013.

Alexandra Hoschke (née Hurrell, 1985) writes, 'At Robinson I had a lot of fun rowing in the ladies first eight. I hadn't rowed since College, until I found out that there is an annual "Swan Blues Cup" on the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia (where I now live), organised by the Cambridge Society. Oxford and Cambridge alumni host two eights (made up of 6 men and 2 ladies each) which compete against each other in the Swan Blues Cup and Swan Goldie / Isis challenge. I rowed in the Blues Cup race this year on the 18th November and we beat Oxford! The team is shown above. I'd be interested to hear what any of my old friends are up to - my email is alex.hoschke@gmail.com



Obituaries

Dr Paul Austin (Fellow)

The Warden, Fellows, Senior Members and staff were saddened by the death of their friend and colleague **Dr Paul Austin**, on 13 October 2012. A fuller obituary will follow in the next edition of Bin Brook, but his frank and engaging conversation and energetic presence is much missed in College.

Olivia Toubkin (2000) 1981-2012

The Warden, Fellows and Senior Members were very sorry to hear of **Olivia Toubkin's** (2000) sudden death in November 2012. Many of Olivia's Robinson friends formed a choir to sing at her funeral under the leadership of **Huw Jones** (2000) and the Reverend Hugh Shilson-Thomas represented the College formally. Her parents wrote afterwards that the music was truly uplifting and that whilst at Robinson, Olivia had relished the opportunity of pursuing her love of English Literature and of singing in the Chapel Choir, among whom she made many friends. She is greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Wicce St Clair-Gray (1988)

(née Karen Hawkins)
1969-2011

By **Helen Bygrave**, **Kirsty Keown** (née Larnach) and **Angela Wilson** (all 1988).

The memory of meeting Wicce for the first time during matriculation at Robinson College remains strong. People could frequently hear her before seeing her, with her Gothic clothing rustling and jangling down walkways. The look was completed by her naturally bright red hair, crimped and backcombed.

She arrived at college with a crisp Surrey accent, the ex head girl of Lady Eleanor Holles School. At Cambridge she studied History, with a strong interest in the Middle Ages. This interest continued with holiday destinations more often revolving around the battlefield than the beach. Fleece and Lycra replaced lace and pvc when she rowed for the Ladies 1st VIII, being a member of the first Robinson boat to reach the First Division. Her friends remember her easy eloquence, energy and warmth. She was generous with her time and support for a wide range of friends from both Robinson and other colleges. She was a member of the Girl Fridays social club, which suited her lively and friendly personality.

This caring nature led her to follow her mother into a career in nursing, qualifying from University College London and the Middlesex Hospitals in 1994. There she became one of the youngest ward sisters in its history and an active member of the RCN.



Through this she met her beloved husband, Dave Gray. Furthering her medical career Wicce studied at Guys and St. Thomas' Hospital to qualify as a doctor in 2002. With her formidable energy she managed to nurture her two sons throughout the studying and demanding hours of working as a junior doctor. She went on to work in hospice care until diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, only 9 months after the birth of her 3rd child.

Despite coping with her illness and the side effects of treatment, Wicce's determination and charisma never ebbed. She was an active member of her local community in Croydon and successfully set up two businesses supplying housekeeping services and online bakeware sales. She was ever grateful for the education and experiences she gained at Robinson College and was an active member of the alumni association. Throughout this time her children remained her greatest passion.

Some of us were privileged to visit her during her final illness and she continued to be more interested in our lives than her own condition. Her untimely death brought together many friends from all parts of her life for her memorial service on Oct 17th 2012. There was much grief but also smiles as people remembered her personality and spirit. Music from the band The Mission played and evoked memories of Wicce's famous snake dance in the Robinson party room. She leaves behind her husband, sons Ben, Ted and Byron and a much-loved extended family.

Patrick Alasdair Fionn (Paf) Turner (1988)

1969-2011

By **Chris Nuttall** and **Tim Wright** (both 1988).

Paf came up in '88 as a NatSci interested in science and its social aspects. His focus on HPS gave him the best of C.P. Snow's two cultures and he developed an aptitude for debate, either in his Herschel Court flat, the most wired for sound of any college accommodation, or in the Robinson bar over table footy or pool. His friends were always greeted by his smile and his ability to make your own situation seem better than you thought! Following an MSc in Artificial Intelligence at Edinburgh, Paf's academic career at UCL combined urban architecture with computing, developing dynamic models of people movement and social interaction, spatial analysis, generative design and neural network models. His unique cross-disciplinary approach led to ground-breaking research and teaching, honoured by UCL creating a fund in his name. While at UCL, Paf met and married Ozlem and together they have a lovely daughter Zara, born in 2007. Even through the treatment for his stomach cancer, Paf maintained his sense of humour, speculating whether he, the Euro or the coalition would last longest.



Name and Address

ROBINSON GIFT FORM

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER
1137494**Gift Aid Declaration - Making the most of your gift**

Robinson College may reclaim basic rate tax on gifts, if you have paid an amount of UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax we reclaim. This means every £10 donated is worth £12.50 to Robinson. If you pay tax at a higher rate, you may claim further tax relief on your self-assessment tax return.

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

I wish Robinson College to treat this donation and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Regular gift

I would like to make a regular gift to Robinson College of
£_____ per _____ (month, quarter, year)
starting on _____ / _____ / _____ (date) for
year(s)
Or, until further notice (please tick right) _____

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit (Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen).

To: The Manager - _____ Bank \ Building
Society
Bank Address:

Bank Postcode:

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society: please pay Robinson College Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Robinson College and if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holders): _____

Branch Sort Code: ____/____/____

Bank/Building Society Account No:

Date:

Signature(s):

Originator's Identification Number 41234 4

Originator's Reference Number:

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

Single Gift

I would like to make a single gift to Robinson College of £ _____

by enclosed cheque, payable to Robinson College ____
or, I enclose a Charities Aid Foundation voucher ____
(please tick as appropriate)

or, by Credit/Debit card (please delete as appropriate):
Mastercard/Visa/Switch

Credit/Debit Card No.: _____

Start Date: ____/____/____ Expiry Date: ____/____/____ Switch Issue No: ____/____

Security Code: _____ (Last 3 digits on signature strip)

I would like information about leaving a legacy: Y / N

I would like my gift to remain anonymous: Y / N

If you also wish to make a gift to the University, please tick here _____ and we will pass your name to the Cambridge University Development Office.

I would like my donation to be used for (please circle appropriate choice):**At the discretion of College****For the Lewis Scholarship****For student support****For College Teaching****Other:**

Please Return to:
Robinson College,
Development Office,
Grange Road,
Cambridge, CB3 9AN, UK