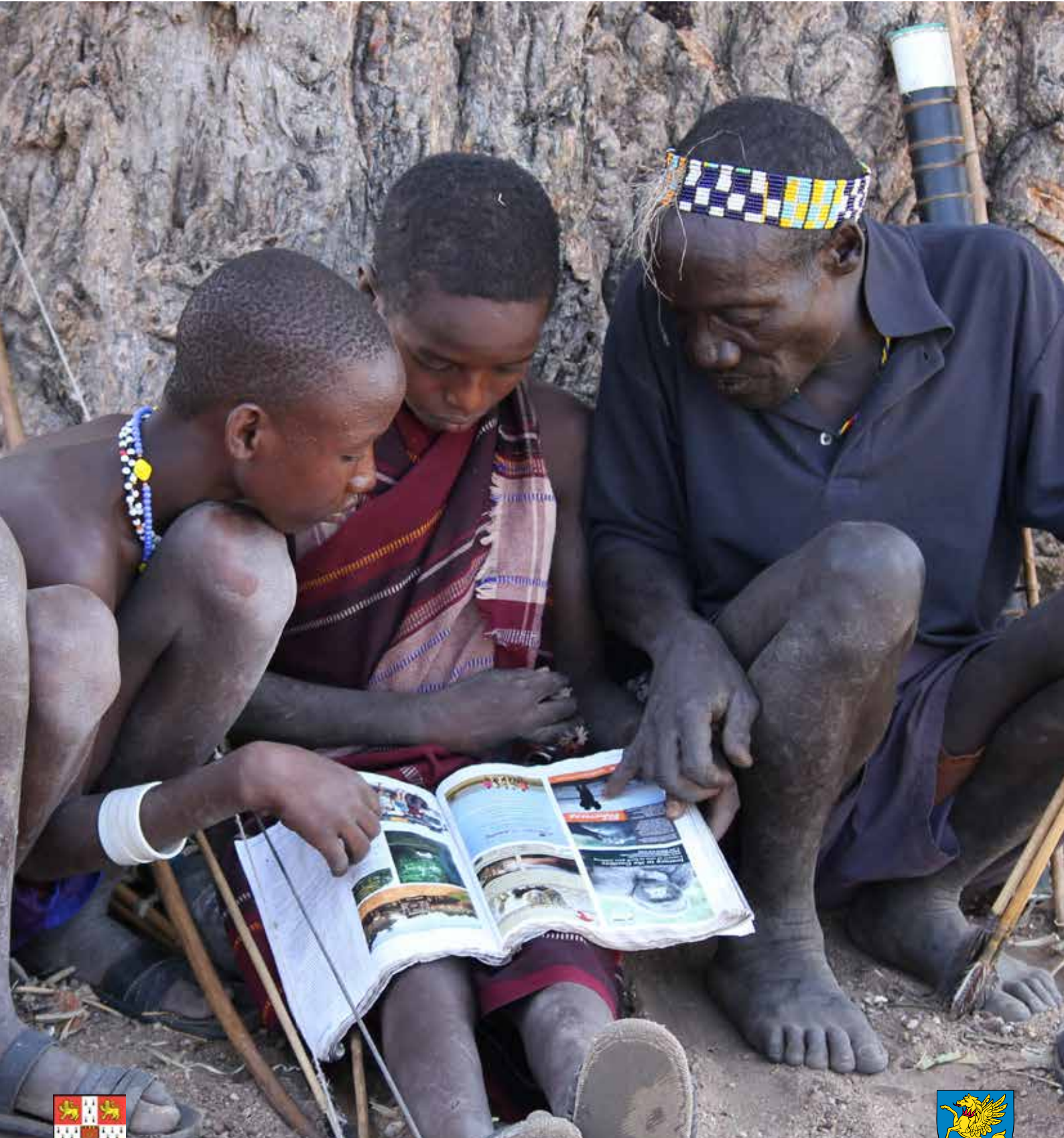


# BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



L E N T 2 0 1 4





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| 12-14 June   | May Bumps  |
| 9 July       | Annual Reception in London   |
| 27 September | Alumni Reunion Weekend<br>(1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004)         |

*Bin Brook* is edited by Dr Nicola Jones

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Dr Judy Weiss and Mrs Helen Winter

Front cover image entitled 'Isaiah reads a tourist brochure with two young Datoga pastoralists', by Duncan Stibbard Hawkes.  
See article, page 7.

If you would like to update your contact details with the  
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# My Robinson / Dr Brian Sloan

Brian arrived at Robinson as an undergraduate in 2003 to study Law. Now that he's Robinson's Director of Studies in the same subject, we asked him to reflect on his time at the College.

## **Why did you choose to come to Robinson?**

To be honest, disabled access and proximity to the Law Faculty were probably at the forefront of my mind when I was an undergraduate applicant. I was justifiably optimistic on that score, but I also found an enormously friendly, supportive, progressive and open academic institution.

## **What has changed during your time here?**

Well, of course, I effectively went away (to Caius for my PhD and then to King's as a Fellow) and came back again. I think one of the most obvious and positive developments since I came up is the Red Brick Café. Looking back, it's hard to believe that the bar area was once so under-used. One of the pleasant aspects of coming back to Robinson, however, was finding that things haven't changed all that much.

## **What are your best memories as a student?**

Most of them involve the friends for life I made here, and some of them are unpublishable! But my memories are largely extremely happy ones, and I like to think I achieved a reasonable balance between work and socialising. I genuinely feel privileged to have been a Robinson undergraduate.

## **What inspired you to study Law?**

I was fascinated by questions of justice, and by the strong link between Law and History, Politics and Philosophy, in which I was also interested. I think I was also swayed by Law's vocational element, though since I'm still in academia it's fair to say that I haven't taken full advantage of that aspect.

## **What advice would you give to students wanting to study Law?**

They should pursue their intellectual (rather than necessarily vocational) interest in Law in a manner that best suits them. People often populate their personal statements with a standard list of books, but I'd much rather they talked about something relevant that genuinely inspired them. The other important thing to bear in mind is that applicants can learn a lot about whether Law interests them for free in libraries and by sitting in on court proceedings.

## **What are you currently working on? Why?**

I'm working on a fairly obscure aspect of succession law called a mutual will, and its potential impact on carers. The



immediate reason is that I agreed to co-present a conference paper on the topic and I'm particular about meeting deadlines (which is bad news for the students from whom I expect the same)! The broader reason is that I wasn't able to say all I wanted about care in the monograph that I published last year, so my current work builds on it.

## **Do you feel there are advantages, as a Fellow, to have once been a junior member in the College?**

There was an immediate sense of being at home when I came back as a Fellow. Beyond that, I hope that I can empathise particularly easily with the students because I was once almost literally in their shoes. There are also some distinctive aspects of life as a lawyer here, such as our annual revision week, that might have been harder to grasp as an outsider. There may be some slight disadvantages to once having been a student at Robinson and now being a Fellow. It can feel a little odd, for example, to find myself sitting next to my former personal tutor at lunch in the SCR; to make admissions decisions with one of the people responsible for admitting me to the College; and to think that Glenys' overriding impression of me may have been formed during birthday Formal Halls...

## **What changes would you like to see in the next 15 years in College?**

It might seem conservative, but many of my hopes for the College's next 15 years involve things staying more or less as they are, despite challenging circumstances. I hope that the College continues to flourish as a vibrant academic community, both within the next 15 years and for generations to come; that the supervision system will survive the pressures of research culture on the one hand and student consumerism on the other; and that we can admit the best applicants regardless of their background. That said, I would like the College to be able to offer more graduate studentships in the future, particularly for lawyers.

(Ed.'s note: See page 8 for good news on this front.)



# MISSISSIPPI MILLION

Former Cambridge Blue Rower, Olympic Medallist, Chairman of Right To Play UK and Chairman of the Hawks' Club, John Pritchard (1983, Law), is undertaking a formidable challenge: to raise \$1 million for Right To Play, by rowing the entire length of the Mississippi, from its source to its mouth, 2320 Miles, through 10 US States. Here his team tells us all about the plans.



Right To Play is a global organisation that uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity. It was founded in 2000 by Johann Olav Koss, a four-time Olympic gold medalist and social entrepreneur. Through sports and games, the charity helps children build essential life skills and better futures, thus driving social change in their communities with lasting impact. The charity improves academic performance by using games as a tool for education, fostering physical, cognitive and social development.

The summer of 2014 will see John row the entire length of the mighty Mississippi in a Victorian skiff to raise \$1M for Right To Play. The Mississippi Million Challenge will mean rowing up to 30 miles a day for almost 90 days. John is currently recruiting 'Challenge

Crew' to join him in this once in a lifetime experience. Registration is now open for anyone that would like to row a two-day stage of the Challenge between 2 August 2014 and 25 October 2014. No prior rowing experience is necessary although Challenge Crew must train to complete up to 30 miles, so that they can row at a comfortable pace with John in his skiff in the USA.

## Why is John doing this?

Because of a young boy named Richmond. John met Richmond, (pictured above and below), on a trip to Ghana with Right To Play. Richmond was engaged in a Right To Play programme at the Three Kings School. The little boy had an immediate impact on John. "Richmond has Down's syndrome and he was too small to play with the big kids, but he was clearly something of a character. He was bouncing around like a little jumping bean."

## Snap Happy

When John arrived at the school, Richmond came over to say hello. John took a photo of Richmond on his digital camera. "I showed him the photo and well, he'd never seen anything like this," says John. "So he went off and took photos of all the other kids and the teachers to great hilarity. Most of the photos had his thumb over the lens, and I thought, well, that might be the end of the camera. But it was lovely to watch.

Ten minutes later Richmond returned and he gave me the camera back intact, which was a surprise! Then he climbed on my lap and he put his arms around my neck and he held me for about 20 minutes without moving. That sense of need and warmth was incredible. I was







about as diametrically different from this little kid as you can imagine, but he felt sufficiently needy, yet safe, to come to me, it was very touching.

I was struck by this, understandably. I talked to the teachers later in the day and they said there are just not enough teachers to give the kids what they really need."

### Three Kings School

Richmond's school is located in Battor, Ghana. Children with learning disabilities and physical disabilities walk six or seven miles to get to the Three Kings School (pictured right) each day. It is one of many schools running Right To Play programmes in 20 countries around the world.



Images clockwise from bottom left: Richmond and his friend playing the drum; John and Richmond; John with the official flag; Above: The Three Kings School. Below: John in a skiff.

### Right To Play

Right To Play promotes health by encouraging physical fitness, mobilizing communities around national health issues, and educating them about disease prevention priorities, including HIV and AIDS, malaria and immunisation. The charity builds peace by teaching conflict resolution and peace-building skills, while helping to heal children and communities affected by war. It develops communities by engaging local staff and volunteers and partnering with local organisations to build infrastructure.

Right To Play is empowering and educating tomorrow's leaders and the programs produce positive results. There is proof of improved academic performance, increased participation and attendance in schools, reduction in violence, and increased awareness and steps taken to prevent disease. By working with children and their communities, Right To Play is contributing to sustainable change.

### From Small Beginnings to a Magnificent Challenge

John has named his skiff 'The Richmond' because "if I wasn't going to tell Richmond's story then who would? I'm going to tell people that there is one small beaming boy in the middle of Africa

who has caused this extraordinary undertaking to happen. And that as a result of his warmth and personality, an awful lot of children are going to benefit."

The money raised through The Mississippi Million Challenge will go a long way to changing the lives of children engaged in Right To Play programmes on a global scale.

For more information about The Mississippi Million Challenge please visit [www.MississippiMillion.com](http://www.MississippiMillion.com).

Online registration to sign up for the Challenge is currently open. Supporters who would rather avoid the 'on-water' Challenge may donate online through the website or by contacting [donna@mississippimillion.com](mailto:donna@mississippimillion.com).







# Working at the Victoria and Albert Museum

Alicia Robinson (1981, History of Art) talks about her experience working at the V&A and the challenges of balancing work with family.

It was not a very auspicious start. The staff gate was closed for refurbishment and “why would you want to work here?” was the greeting I was given from an unusually disgruntled colleague as I stood trying to work out how to get into the V&A on Day 1. The general reaction these days is “You are so lucky to work there”. In the intervening years, I have seen the V&A from many angles in an unusual career path. It continues to excite me and give a spring to my step as I rush around between home with husband and two children and my desk and, on a good day, the seven (or is it now eight?) miles of galleries of the museum outside my office.

The V&A's Assistant Curator Development Programme is the usual route to working in the Museum these days and it attracts numerous applicants, many with more than one degree and all with relevant experience, paid or unpaid. My appointment in 1985 was thanks to an advertisement in the Guardian. I had worked in the (now closed) Heralds' Museum at the Tower of London, principally in its shop, but downplayed the endless sales to hordes of schoolchildren at my interview in favour of some insight I had gained into loans and displays.

I started in the Picture Library (now V&A Images). I moved on to becoming, over the years, Assistant Curator; Assistant to the Director of the V&A; Head of Special Events (developing the V&A as a venue for entertaining); Director of Apsley House (the magnificent Wellington collection at Hyde Park Corner, then run by the V&A); and Head of Grants in Development. Within a Museum there are so many roles and I decided early on to give different jobs a go if that meant moving up the ladder a bit, and to try to make the most of the less glamorous aspects of museum work. Since 2006, I have been a Senior Curator in Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics & Glass. History of Art at Robinson still comes into its own from time to time.

'My' areas are French Sculpture (1600-1914), which includes the gift by Rodin of 18 sculptures at the outbreak of World War I, and Ironwork. I was invited to a party with my family in Cambridge shortly after being asked to take over Ironwork and took them, distinctly bleary-eyed the next morning, to see some great early 18th-century examples in Cambridge, from spectacular wrought iron gates at the back of Clare College to the imposing early cast iron railings outside the Senate House. In the next few years we plan to make more of the V&A's ironwork galleries. The highlight will stay where it is: the massive 8-ton screen from Hereford Cathedral – Gothic Revival at its most fabulous – very colourful, gilded, set with hardstones and glittering mosaics, and featuring the latest reproduction technique at the time (1862), electroformed copper, to create look-alike Gothic sculpture.

In the last couple of years I have been working on new galleries about Europe 1600-1800, which will open in December 2014. Major projects like this are highly collaborative, with experience and expertise from across the Museum being brought together. The galleries have been totally emptied and old false walls and ceilings removed. Discussions started with what we meant by 'Europe' and then covered what objects we actually had and whether they fitted with the themes which we ideally wanted to cover within a broad chronology. External advisers have been invited in from time to time, and detailed work with designers, contractors and conservators is now well under way to turn ideas into reality. This has covered object selection and grouping, how objects should be displayed, what we might say about them individually and/or collectively, and by what means.

Technology is moving on apace and digital visitor experience is a relatively new area. Displays should not be too dense or sparse. Wall panels are read by fewer visitors than in the past and apps and digital labels are amongst new areas considered. For each project we have target audiences in mind, and consider how different visitors are likely to approach each gallery, both physically and intellectually. What and how might they want to learn? How should we best ensure they are also simply inspired by the exhibits? In my mind sometimes are my mother, aged 83 and in a wheelchair, and my own children.

In 2013 I became slightly obsessed with Catherine the Great. I was asked to write an article about her as a collector. I also worked on a very short film, one of a few to provide architectural context outside the galleries; in this case the style of Neoclassicism. I favoured St Petersburg as a more unusual location, spurred on by people saying it would just all be too complicated. I gained significant experience in international negotiations, particularly on our last day when the completion of the restoration of interiors of part of Catherine's magnificent palace and estate, Tsarskoye Selo, had gone a little over schedule. We jostled with numerous workmen, handlers carrying sculptures and furniture back to their final positions, the National Russian TV channel crew, a Chinese TV crew, and the regular appearance of the Director who was anxiously awaiting the arrival of a Government Minister.

I have hugely enjoyed getting to know colleagues with extensive expertise in scholarship but also conservation, education, fundraising, retail and communications. The so-called life/work balance has been challenging. My official part-time hours are always exceeded, but I benefit from some flexibility. Cobbled-together childcare has worked pretty well over the years. At one stage it all seemed to be particularly complicated and I said to the girls I was not sure things could carry on as they were, but they said in unison "you can't give up the V&A!"

I much appreciate the support of my husband (ex-Caius, a Consultant with the NHS) and girls, as well as the camaraderie and humour of colleagues. Apart from the obvious mobile phone, tools for survival in my case include a scooter, a bulging filofax, millionaire shortbread, endless scribbled reminder notes, and the times when I catch up with other mothers to compare notes about the exhausting but ultimately rewarding juggling with which we are all involved.

Images: left, front view of the V&A; right, top and bottom: Alicia in St Petersburg and at Tsarskoye Selo with the film crew. Middle: rendering of V&A Europe galleries 1600-1800, copyright ZMMA.





# Living with the Hadza

**Duncan Stibbard Hawkes came to Robinson as an undergraduate in 2008 (Archaeology & Anthropology) and is now studying for a PhD in Biological Anthropology, funded by the Lord Lewis Scholarship in the Humanities. His work focuses on the benefits of hunting. Hunting is surprisingly inefficient and hunters can go for months with little or no success. What's more, meat is often shared so generously that the hunter gets no more of his quarry than anyone else. This is a surprising to economists, who expect 'rationality' and biological anthropologists, who expect 'selfishness'. With luck, Duncan's research will shed some light on the benefits of hunting - are better hunters and their families healthier and more well-fed or is hunting, as some have suggested, simply a means of showing off one's skills and abilities?**

Until about 12,000 years ago, the majority of people on the planet lived and subsisted by hunting and gathering their own food. The warm climates of our current Interglacial precipitated an age of agriculture which, for the last twelve millennia, has spread and intensified at a breakneck pace. Today, the number of societies who live wholly by foraging has dwindled to only a handful. Thanks to Robinson's Lord Lewis Scholarship, I have had the opportunity to conduct my PhD research with one of the last of these groups, the Hadza.

The Hadza are an ethno-linguistic group of about 1000, who live in the hills and plains surrounding Lake Eyasi in the North of Tanzania, a few hours drive west of Kilimanjaro. They speak a click language, unrelated to any other, and have occupied the area for as long as there are any written records. Probably much longer. About 400 Hadza still subsist by hunting and gathering their own foods in the surrounding bush. Due to the habitat destruction brought

about by the expansion of the neighbouring pastoralist groups and the combined ills of cash, tourism and alcohol, the number of full-time hunter-gatherers is plummeting.

It takes two days of driving to get from the airport to the heart Hadzaland. The drive takes you through hilly plains dotted with Masai fortifications and around the outskirts of Lake Manyara National Park, where giraffes nonchalantly hold up the traffic. On the approach to Lake Eyasi the road tapers off and you find yourself driving through dense thorns and beneath squat baobab trees. Driving is treacherous during the muddy wet season and, without a clear path, you have to rely on the surrounding hills to navigate.

After a good number of wrong turns and a few stops to push the car out of the mud, our first port of call is usually a hilly area called Sengeli. Sengeli, though relatively easy to reach, is one of the more beautiful and untouched parts of Hadzaland. There is an abundance of berry bushes and baobab trees that, during certain times of year, provide the Hadza with the majority of their food. The Hadza can hear the sound of the car from about a mile away and your arrival is heralded by a swarm of smiling children, followed by a curious but more composed group of men carrying bows on their shoulders.

On my first trip a few days in the field were somewhat terrifying. A year of sitting in stuffy libraries and reading articles thick with theoretical wrangling does little to prepare one for the rigors of fieldwork - the dust, the heat and the beating sun. Struggling to put up my tent under the somewhat scornful gaze of ten or so Hadza onlookers did nothing to soothe my jangled nerves. My first week was made easier by Isaiah, an elderly and thoroughly eccentric man who took me under his wing. On my







first morning he took me out on a foray to find honey and showed me two of the berries that were then in season, known in the Hadza language as 'embilipi' and 'congolobe'. Hadza are often quite accomplished singers and Isaiah started rhythmically chanting the names of the fruit ('embilipi-eh-eh, congolobe-eh-eh') while dancing and slowly spinning in circles. He grabbed my reluctant arm and we danced across the Savannah, singing as we went. When we stopped to pick up firewood he pointed to a plane flying high overhead. Despite the awkward fact that the Swahili word for bird is the same as the word for plane, he explained to me that he longed to travel in a plane and fly like a bird. He asked me what it was like. I told him it was bloody awful.



Images: top-bottom, from l-r: Geselea takes a turn trying to balance baobab pods on his head; A Hadza child playing with a skipping rope made of old cloth; Duncan, Polangu and an unfortunate antelope; A gourd of honey and a sling filled with tubers; and below, Isaiah napping under a baobab tree.

Food acquisition is a very important part of life for the Hadza and they are somewhat flattered that we researchers take an interest. Hadza foods, though often an effort to eat, are quite toothsome. 'Ekwa', ubiquitous tuberous vine roots that act as a staple in times of need, taste something like green beans when raw and a little like potato when cooked. The two aforementioned

berries, embilipi and congolobe, are sweet but very fibrous, requiring you to chew and spit out the dry pith. Baobab fruit - also sold in Holland and Barrett - is powdery, bone dry and sour enough to make you wince. The Hadza grind up baobab and add water and honey to make a delicious juice that they are occasionally willing to share. Honey is one of the most prized items in the Hadza diet. By whistling a particular haunting blues-like melody, the Hadza summon honeyguide birds who lead them to the nearby hives. The Hadza use woodsmoke to daze the bees and the honeyguide eats them. If you can force yourself to ignore the dead bee larvae and sticky bee fragments, fresh honeycomb is quite divine.

I have never tried any bushmeat, which is generally too precious to share with anyone who doesn't need it. I have, however, had ample exposure to dead exotic animals. One morning, towards the beginning of my trip, I was awoken at seven by a group of excited young men shaking my tent. I emerged bleary-eyed into the sunlight. Mboke, a twenty-five-year old with the physique of a god, a face that could strike terror into the heart and the friendliness and enthusiasm of a puppy, triumphantly thrust the decapitated head of a porcupine into my face. It dripped a little. I smiled weakly and retreated into my tent. At another camp, my supervisor left me to guard the car and returned an hour later covered in blood with the haunch of a Kudu over his shoulder. The whole Kudu was deposited, inclusive of head, heart and offal, in a heap not too far from my tent. We set about weighing it. I tactfully volunteered to do the note-taking.

My contemporaries in hunter-gatherer studies are often accused of trying to create a false sense of antiquity, trying to fabricate a continuity with the remote past that does not exist. There are lucid arguments on both sides of this debate. The Hadza themselves are somewhat scornful of the neighbouring agro-pastoralists and the notion that foraging has been around longer than farming or herding brings them great pride. However, the Hadza certainly aren't isolated and Isaiah, who owns a wind-up radio, told us about the Egyptian coup d'état before the BBC could. Certain experiences - the song of the honeyguide, the flickering fires under the baobab trees, the excitement and celebration when someone brings in a large animal - are the same now as they were millennia ago. I would like to sincerely thank Robinson College and the benefactors of the Lord Lewis Scholarship for giving me the opportunity to share them.

**We are thrilled to announce that due to a generous benefaction, we have now completed the endowment of the Lord Lewis Scholarship and will also, from Michaelmas, be able to offer a further graduate scholarship, named in honour of Judy and Nigel Weiss. We look forward to sharing news of the first Judy and Nigel Weiss Scholar in due course.**





# Redeveloping the Imperial War Museum for 2014



**Dr Deborah Thom is a Fellow and Director of Studies for the faculties of History and Politics, Psychology and Sociology (previously SPS) at Robinson College. She also lectures in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.**

I was delighted to join the academic advisory committee for the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth in London which started meeting in spring 2012 and has gone on meeting roughly every three months since then. We are there to comment on what is produced, to reflect on the latest historiography and to act, in a limited way, as checkers. It has been a fascinating process and gets even more so as we begin to see the exhibits take shape, in Norman Foster's total redesign of the whole museum.

I have learned all sorts of things about how history is displayed in a modern museum. Designers play a larger part than before, but a small team of museum staff produced the redesign and the new displays follow certain very specific briefs. The average reading age the captions use started as the average British 12-year old, but has now gone up to 14. There is a youth group who look at the captions and the displays and give their feedback too. Each museum visitor spends an average of two minutes reading a long display and about 30 seconds in front of each exhibit, whether that is a tank, a poster or a stuffed boar's head nicknamed Tirpitz, which was in the last display and will be in this one. A caption has to tell a complex story very simply, and has to be around 70 words. Most people surveyed knew about four facts about the First World War. Some knew none – or knew only what they saw on *Downton Abbey*.

Some of the old displays have survived the museum curators' discussions and our criticisms. We were not always in agreement ourselves. One thing that was quite controversial was the question of whether to keep the imitation trench, which some people may remember from the old displays. Some found it unappealing, sentimental and anachronistic now that so many can visit the actual trenches lovingly preserved or recreated on the Western front. Others, and this included me, believed that for some the sense of the physical experience of walking along a trench, its width and height and the sound of gunfire, the smell of mud and feeling of confinement, damp and cold was sentimental. However it also made sense of trench warfare to people who had no knowledge of it, nor any chance of travelling to France or Belgium, so it should stay. We have left out the dioramas from the 1920s, but there are still aeroplanes, a balloon basket, a couple of guns and a tank all in the display. The Museum has always had many objects, as it started collecting them in 1917 when the national war museum was first established. People have gone on adding them ever since and some objects are coming in to this day, as the commemoration begins to gather strength.

Some new elements of history are appearing too. The Museum started collecting oral testimonies very early on, wanting to gather impressions and recollections from all sorts of participants while they still lived and still remembered. These are being used at several spaces to make the general, important point that reactions to the war varied at the time and ever since. But they also make the point that the war is dramatic and significant to all its participants. Kipling suggested as one of the slogans on war graves, 'Lest we forget', and we gain enormously from hearing different point of view. The Museum also sent out photographers, both to the Western Front and around Britain itself. Fewer photos were taken at the time on other Fronts and most of the official war artists were based in France. But the new displays make much more use of film. Modern technology means that interactive displays are dotted around to give people a chance to follow up their own interests. There is a greater emphasis than in the past on wartime in general, rather than combat itself.

There are more examples from the Empire. The museum became Imperial because people from the Empire asked to be included and it has always been recognised that the war brought people from all over the British Empire into Europe, so their contribution was recorded too. Newsreel cameras were particularly interested in the photogenic people who could be used to demonstrate the range of support for the war. Of course a lot of this evidence is a kind of propaganda and tends to emphasise the success stories and innovation, not the problems of history. There are virtually no images of conscientious objectors or of mutineers, though there are some traces of them, and the new display will record their existence and the development of new pacifist or anti-war organisations, which were also one of the innovations of this war. We have tried to show damage and pain as well as victory.

Although large numbers come to all five branches of the IWM from abroad, especially to air displays at Duxford, visitors to Lambeth, the old original war museum since the collection settled there in the old Bethlem hospital in 1936, are mostly British. The question over whose war is remembered and what part other Europeans play, whether enemy or ally, has been interestingly handled. The most controversial areas of the museum will probably be the question of Ireland where the participation of Irish citizens – all part of the same state at the time – is embedded in myths on both sides. We have tried always to show the range of viewpoints, not conclude the debates. The displays include a variety of viewpoints so that, for example, a child's eye view is allowed for throughout. It does not simply celebrate, condemn or commemorate and it will not please those who want any of these in isolation, but it does record and tells a complex story very well.

© Imperial War Museum





# Births

All pictures are below their announcement.



**Adam Babiker** (1999) and his wife Eleanor are pleased to announce the birth of Rory Arthur Michael Babiker on 1 October 2013. Marla is delighted with her new baby brother!



**Linda Ball** (1992) and family are delighted to announce the latest addition to the family, Jonathan Carl Gabriel, born 20 December 2013. He now joins his two sisters, Gemma Lianah (born May 2008) and Sophia Luisa (born March 2010).



**Olivia Thornton** and **Mike Brett** (both 1999) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Luca Alexander, on 1 December 2013. He already has a healthy disregard for such conventions as the division between 'night' and 'day', and shares his father's fondness for slap-up feeds in front of the football.



**Debbie Lee Chan** (1989) and her husband Mike would like to announce the birth of their son Gabriel Finn Ka-Bao Meehan on 15 December 2013 at UCLH in London. Five-year-old Olivia is overjoyed to be a big sister at last. Mum is now on maternity leave from her post of Research Director at Ipsos MORI.



**Lisa Colbear** (née **Marley**, 1999) and her husband David are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Georgina Heather, on 20 November 2013.



**Zoë Gray** (1997) and her husband Bob Geldermans are pleased to announce the birth of Isaac Geldermans-Gray on 3 December 2013 in Brussels, where they live. 2014 will be a busy year for Zoë, as in addition to bringing up baby, she will be curating the Rennes Biennale of Contemporary Art in Brittany, France.





**Dan Hassett** (1998) and his wife Corissa would like to announce the birth of their son, Ephraim Daniel Hassett, on 11 September 2013, weighing 7lbs 15oz. They live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where Dan recently became a citizen.



**Sarah Irons** (née **Stocks**) and Oliver Irons (both 1998) welcomed their second daughter, Phoebe Mary Alice, on 16 September 2013.



**Dr Lauren Jackson** (2004) and Daniel Jackson (Downing, 2004) welcomed their first baby, Joseph Jackson, into the world just in time for Christmas.



**Rebecca Quayle** (1998) and her husband Steven would like to announce the birth of their baby boy, Lucas, in September 2013.

**Dean Lin** (1999) and **Jill Lin** (née **Kitchen**, 1999) happily announce the birth of their second child, a daughter. Elizabeth Joy Lin was born on 19 September 2013, 8lbs, 20 3/4 inches long. Joshua is enjoying being an older brother and Elizabeth is growing into a sweet and happy baby girl.



**Anand Ram** (1990) and his wife Dora welcomed Mia to the world on 31 August and "the gentleman's family is now complete."



Emily Catherine was born to **Mark Sydenham** (2000) and his wife Liz on 25 May 2013. She is a younger sister for Edward David, born 15 October 2010. Mark manages QinetiQ's Aerial Target Services business which provides high performance UAVs for air defence missile training. They live in Malvern, Worcestershire.



In April, **Andrea Veney** (née **Pasquill**, 1998) and her husband Dom welcomed their first child, Arthur Earle Veney. *Picture in the next column.*



**Catherine Whalley** (1994) and husband Robert Bentall (King's, 1991) were joined by Rebecca Ruth Bentall on 19 November 2013.



## Marriages & Engagements

**Rebecca Smith** (2002) and Vikas Bhalla enjoyed the best day of their lives on 31 August 2013: they were married on a sunny day at Hengrave Hall, close to their home in Suffolk. The wonderful ceremony and terrific celebrations were attended by family and friends, including a number of Robinson and Cambridge alumni.





**Carl Bideau** (1982) married Debbie Lamley on Herm island on 10 August last year and after a short honeymoon in Stockholm, they moved to Guernsey, where they have been living for nearly 5 months. Debbie is now head of music at the local grammar school. They met through dancing - a hobby that they plan to continue on the island.



**Richard Evans** (1998) married Dr Josie O'Heney (who studied Medicine at Imperial) on 30 August 2013, in West Sussex.

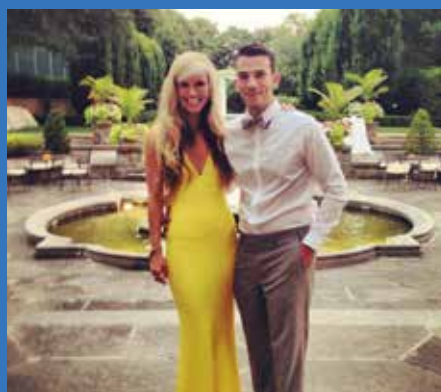
**Rebecca Kane** (1997) is engaged to Sagi Burton and looking forward to celebrating their marriage at Eltham Palace later this year.



After a 15-year career with Procter & Gamble, **Percy Kirkman** (1994) married Anna Morby and ran away to the Swiss mountains. He is now based in the La Tzoumaz ski resort near Verbier, running the local Interhome chalet rentals office, and creating a mountain holiday company called [www.4vallees4saisons.com](http://www.4vallees4saisons.com)



**Hannah Penn** (2006) and **Simon Leaf** (2004) are pleased to announce their engagement. They met in Hannah's first week at Robinson and have been together ever since.



**Beckie Mills** (1999) married Adam Seddon (St John's, 1999) on 25 May, 2013 in Wimbledon. The Robinson 1999 contingent attending included **Karen Tilley (née Wagner)**, **Jacqui Ward**, **Holden Frith**, **Jenny Plant (née Barker)**, **Jon Plant**, and their son Barney – who was instrumental in them winning the quiz in impressive style.



**Dominika Sobolova** (2004) married Martin Broz at the end of August 2013. Several Robinson alumni travelled to Prague for a beautiful ceremony, **Vicki Coleman** (2004) was maid of honour.



# Updates

**Timea Araouzos** (1989) writes: **Demetris** (1985) and I met at Robinson and had a long-distance relationship while he started work at Cacoyiannis Law Firm and I was still at College. We conceived our daughter Denise in 1991, I completed my Bachelor degree with baby in tow, moved to Cyprus in August 1993, we got married in December 1994, and had our son Konstantinos in 1996. I worked mainly as a homemaker, but accepted freelance translations and imported Hungarian Herend porcelain, before taking on a part-time job at Early Learning Centre, until the birth of our son, Loukas, in January 1999. Thereafter I started studying and teaching women and children the Holy Scriptures, something I have continued to do. Demetris' first employer merged with Chrysses Demetriades & Co LLC and he has been a partner there since 1999. He specializes in corporate law and works mainly in commercial litigation. Our daughter is in her third year at Glasgow University, reading History of Art and expecting to graduate with a Master's degree in the Summer of 2015. She is planning thereafter to specialize in curating performing arts. Konstantinos is sitting his A-Levels in Maths, Economics and History this Summer and is planning to embark on both law and maritime studies after his 2-year military service. Loukas is turning 15 and that's all he can deal with at present, as many of you parents will know. He is, however, choosing his IGCSE subjects and is heading towards a career in civil engineering. If I may, I'd like to say 'Thank you for your prayers' to Jeremy Baker and Sam Millar, both lawyers and matriculants of 1989.

**Lisa Bailey** (1989) & family are currently living in sunny Sydney due to a two year work posting for Nigel, her husband.





**Mike Bearpark** (1989) has been very active in the music world and was featured in a national music magazine 'Prog' this year. We plan to include a full article on his work in a future edition of *Bin Brook*.

**Dr Alastair Beresford** (1996 and Fellow) has been awarded the Pilkington prize for teaching excellence. The prizes are awarded annually to academic staff, with candidates nominated by Schools within the University of Cambridge.

**Edmund Connolly** (1997) is enjoying his first year as Upper School Chorus Director at Albuquerque Academy, a nationally-esteemed, co-educational, independent school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is in addition to his work at the Cathedral of St. John, where he continues as Assistant Organist-Choir Director, and his work as a freelance singer, singing teacher and accompanist.

Last November, **Ray Egerton** (Bye-Fellow) was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada for his contributions to electron microscopy.

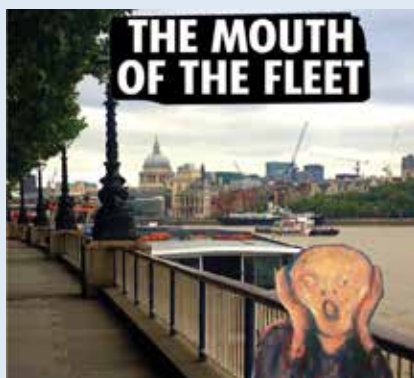
From **Vreneli Farber** (Bye-Fellow, 1989): "My husband Paul Farber and I have been retired from Oregon State University since June 2008. Our son, Dr Benjamin Farber, and his wife Lydia Wong have a 6-year-old daughter, Sophia, and 2-year-old son, Edward. Our daughter, Channah Norman, Atty, and her husband Russell Norman, Atty, are expecting a baby in May of this year. In other news, I have continued to be active in theatre, both performing (in English and in Russian) and directing. In 2013 I directed Ken Ludwig's *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (which my assistant director translated into Russian) and performed the small role of Louella Parsons in that play. I also performed, in English, the small role of Anfisa in The Oregon State University Theater production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. In 2014 I performed in Russian a major role, Gavrilova, in Sergei Belov's *Lucky Number*, staged at Oregon State University together with another one-act play by Belov (*Woman of My Dreams*), both of which I directed. Finally, also at OSU, in December, 2013 and January, 2014, I performed the role of Mrs Marks in Teresa Deevy's one-act *The King of Spain's Daughter*. This latter play was a performance that included "shadow" performance by sign language interpreters."

**Marion Guiral de Trenquallye** (2001) has just taken up the position of Head of Admissions at HEC Paris.

**Namsoon Kang** (Bye-Fellow, 2001) has just published a book, *Cosmopolitan Theology*.

**Tom Karsten** (1988) writes that he and his family are happy to host in Washington DC, should anyone be passing through. He can be reached at tomkarsten@yahoo.com and mobile +1.571.405.0963

**Phil Lowe** (1981) has published a new novel called *The Mouth of the Fleet*. It is available at the Amazon Kindle Store.



**Professor Tim Luckhurst** (1980) contributed a chapter, 'Online and on Death Row - Historicizing Newspapers in Crisis,' to the forthcoming Routledge *Companion to British Media History*. His essay, 'King and County: The Kent Messenger and the Abdication of Edward VIII' was published in *What Do We Mean By Local? The Rise, Fall - and Possible Rise Again - of Local Journalism*, Abrams academic publishing. A version appeared in *British Journalism Review* under the title 'Serving King and County'.

**Dr Joyce Lee Malcolm** (Bye-Fellow, 1989) writes: "Last year I was named Patrick Henry Professor of Constitutional Law and the Second Amendment at George Mason University School of Law in Virginia. I enjoy teaching at the law school, a rare opportunity for an historian, presenting courses in common law, constitutional law, war and law, and comparative constitutional law. My work was cited by the US Supreme Court in the landmark case of *District of Columbia v. Heller* in which the US Supreme Court affirmed an individual right to keep and bear arms. The subject keeps me busy with presentations and radio and television interviews. Other less happy news: my husband, Dr. Neil Malcolm, passed away this past June after a struggle with cancer. My family and work have been a blessing."

**Xenios Papademetris** (1991) has spent all of the almost 20 years since leaving Robinson at Yale University, beginning as a post-graduate student and currently as a tenured associate professor in diagnostic radiology and biomedical engineering. His research focuses on medical image analysis and image-guided interventions. He, his wife Susan (married 15 years ago) and their two children Maria (12) and Alex (7) live in New Haven, CT.



**Rosanna Raimato** (1989) writes: "Since marrying my husband Simon in 2008, there was a return to Cambridge and familiar surroundings for a few years as he was Commanding Officer of a Royal Engineers regiment. Our son, Luca, was born at the Rosie Maternity Wing at Addenbrookes, whose connection with Robinson's founder was a nice rounding of the circle! Since then we have returned to the South-West, where I have continued to be a state-school Deputy Headteacher (and very passionate teacher of modern languages) after a period working in school improvement for a national educational trust. This year will bring new challenges, as we will be moving to Naples, Italy, for three years this autumn for Simon to take up a role at NATO and for me to finally get to work on my Doctorate in Education as a full-time student again!"



**George Rhee** (1979) published a book on astronomy last August, entitled *Cosmic Dawn: The Search for the First Stars of Galaxies*.



An update from **Sylvia Sage** (née **Beck**, 1985) MBA, MASC (CBT), husband Tristan (an Oxford graduate), and their children Jamie (aged 12) and Emily (aged 10), and four lovely hens: "We have recently moved to Moreton, Dorset, following our return to the UK three years ago after 20+ years in Austria. I wear a number of professional hats – local and international corporate training, coaching, translations, and lecturing and tutoring at college and university. This summer, I gained my first qualification in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, and I am pursuing further qualifications in life coaching and personal performance coaching, with a view to becoming an independent coach – and, once I have completed further qualifications, specialising in helping young people. We are planning to remain in Dorset, and hope to be able to welcome our friends to our new home, if anyone is (or planning to be) in the area: Daisy Cottage, The Avenue, Moreton, Dorset, DT2 8RB Mobile: 07834520729 (poor signal, email better). Email: [sylvia.sage@mindandmore.at](mailto:sylvia.sage@mindandmore.at)"

From **Professor Elliot Schwartz** (Bye-Fellow): "A compact disc of my music, entitled "Tapestry," was issued on the Metier label. It includes my String Quartet No.2 (played by the Kreutzer Quartet), a violin-piano duo, and "Water Music" for string orchestra and recorded sounds. The featured performer is violinist Peter Sheppard Skaerved, who has appeared in concert at Robinson on a number of occasions. This fall I was featured guest composer at the University of Maryland, USA, and discovered that the sound engineer for one of my pieces was a postgraduate student named Geoff Scheil, who had formerly worked with Jeremy Thurlow at Robinson. This coming spring I will be the BMI Visiting Composer at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, USA), holding workshops and seminars for composition students and hearing a performance of my violin concerto."

From **Brian Skeet** (1985): "Terry Cummings and I have just celebrated our sixth year anniversary, and I have had an incredibly successful trip to Cannes, where I launched my film company ([www.joanproductions.com](http://www.joanproductions.com)). After acting and directing I moved on to a very successful career at the BBC where I worked with (amongst others) John Malkovich, Miranda Richardson, Les Dawson, Jane Horrocks and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Seven years ago I was diagnosed with HIV, but I am living proof that it is not a death knell. My current films range from

"The Life And Death Of Martin Lazlo", which I wrote when I was eighteen about abortion and mortality, "Second Sight" a drama about a woman whose daughter becomes her son and two films that will be shot this year: "Disorientated" - a gay film noir set in Rome and "White Lillies" an age-crossed romantic comedy set in Castel Fusano. I will be working with Shani Wallis, Katy Manning, Karl Moffat and Anne Nolan from the Nolan sisters. Last year was amazing and this year will be even better!

**Aron Solomons** (2009) and **Zyad Wright** (2010) have developed their own tutoring company. They write: "Tutor Tap is an innovative, educational start-up looking to disrupt the private tuition sector. We encourage peer-to-peer learning, as well as aiming to make the industry as a whole more transparent. We are looking to hear from any Robinson alumni interested in the education space, as well as any current students looking to tutor. Check out our website at [www.tutortap.co.uk](http://www.tutortap.co.uk), or you can email us at [aron@tutortap.co.uk](mailto:aron@tutortap.co.uk)."

**Dr Rosamund Thomas** (Bye-Fellow, 1982) has recently accepted the The Gourlay Visiting Professorship of Ethics in Business for 2014-5 at Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, Australia for one month in September 2014 and again for one month in 2015.

**Dr Mary Wild** (1982) has published her second book, *Themes & Debates in Early Childhood*, which came out in 2013. She became Head of the School of Education at Oxford Brookes University in September 2013.

**Dr David Woodman** (Fellow) has been made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

## Obituaries

The Warden, Fellows, Staff and Students were saddened by the deaths of Roger Bailey (Senior Member) and Ravi Ramrattan (2003). Full obituaries will appear in this year's *Robinson Record*.

**Andrew Ware** (1990), picture below, writes: It is with much sadness that I have to announce the death of my wife Jane Ware (née Coleman) aged only 43. Jane was not at Robinson, but many people will know her because she sang in the Chapel Choir with me while I was there. We also played together in many of the Music Society concerts. Jane studied music at the Royal Academy in London before moving to Anglia Polytechnic University from 1989-1991. She graduated with the first 1st-Class honours degree the music department at APU ever awarded. She went on to work for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, becoming their Braille music trainer and publishing an authoritative Braille music manual. I met Jane in 1990 in the Cambridge University Music Society orchestra, where we both played viola. We were married in 1994, living first in Cambridge and since then in St Neots, Cambridgeshire. We continued to play in lots of orchestras together. Our first child, Katie, was born in 2003, and Thomas in 2006. Jane was a loving and devoted full-time mother. In recent years she volunteered at both of their schools, reading and teaching cookery with their classes. After less time playing viola when the children were born, she had just started playing regularly again with Sinfonia of Cambridge and the Huntingdonshire Philharmonic. Jane died of Sepsis on 28 October 2013, in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, after a sudden and unexpected illness.





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