

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge

Memories from *30 years* of Undergraduates



M I C H A E L M A S 2 0 0 9

Message from the Warden

Professor David Yates welcomes the 30th anniversary of undergraduates at Robinson.

The Mighty Binson

Kate Siddiqui looks over the history of rowing at Robinson

Memories

Robinsonians' memories run riot.

Founding Robinson College : some personal reminiscences

Emeritus Professor Trevor Page takes a look at the origins of the College

Survivors' Poetry

A look at Simon Jenner's work and the inspiration for Survivors' Poetry.

More Memories

Robinsonians' memories run riot.

Alumni and staff Announcements

Events

Welcome to

BIN BROOK

Michaelmas 09

Message

It is thirty years since Robinson admitted its first undergraduate students. Much has happened in those first thirty years to build the thriving community that is Robinson College today. All of us owe an enormous debt to the founding Fellows, the students in the early years of the College and, of course, my tireless and visionary predecessor, Lord Lewis of Newnham, whose enthusiasm and guiding spirit laid the foundations – academic, social and spiritual – for our College.

How fortunate we are to belong to the newest college in Cambridge, not the newest in terms of our Charter, of course – both Homerton and Hughes Hall have received Royal Charters after Robinson – but these later charters have been awarded to existing, older foundations, whereas Robinson started with a totally clean sheet. That good fortune meant that a college could be fashioned for modern times, admitting from its foundation both men and women, undergraduate and graduate, into a community that kept what was best of the Cambridge tradition, but which was able to jettison that which had served its time in another age. Now that we have moved into the next millennium, the success of the pioneering vision is there for

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“ Robinson started with a totally clean sheet. That good fortune meant that a college could be fashioned for modern times. ”

from the Warden



Early Picture of David Robinson

all to see. There is talk, from time to time, of yet another college being founded in Cambridge at some point in the future. Whether there will ever be enough money for such a venture, or whether another benefactor will ever come along with the generosity of spirit of our founding benefactor, Sir David Robinson, remains to be seen but should such a circumstance eventually transpire, Cambridge will have a fine model before it of how, in the shape of Robinson, it should be done.

Having said that, the challenges we now face are as great as they have ever been at any stage in our history. We have to face up to threats to our independence, to our supervision provision and to our ability to continue to ensure, through our bursary schemes and our transparent and open, yet rigorous, access procedures, that we are the institution of choice for bright students whatever their background or financial circumstances. Only those who have been (and, of course, always remain) members of Robinson will know the benefit they have received from the College. Our Development Office is always available by post, telephone or email, to explain to you our current critical needs and how you might give something back to Robinson.

The financial security of the older colleges in Cambridge is based on the large endowments they have built up over the centuries. Robinson has no such established financial resource, though careful management of our annual income and expenditure, and responsible investment of our limited capital resources, has enabled us to grow our endowment somewhat. To maintain our College as our alumni knew it when they were students we need more resources – resources which, without the help of friends and alumni, we will not have.

I hope that those of our alumni who are not supporting the College will find an opportunity in the coming months to consider giving us something, however modest, to help ensure the Robinson experience for future generations of students. Whether you are in a position to support us or not at the moment (and I realise that some of you may not be) I trust all of you will join with me in thanking our founders for what we are today and expressing the hope that the next thirty years will be as exciting and successful as the last.

David Yates



A History of Robinson College Boat Club 1981 - 2009

Kate Siddiqui (History, 2005)

It is likely that every Robinsonian encountered rowing whilst at College, whether it was watching the May Bumps in those blissful days after the end of exams, or cramming into a London pub with a glass of Pimms to watch The Boat Race. For others it was more than this. I stepped into a rowing boat in my first term at Robinson and, seemingly, never got out! In this issue of Bin Brook that celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of Robinson College, I look at the history of Robinson College Boat Club. So if you have ever wondered why “boaties” get up so early, read on...

Robinson crews rowed in the May Bumps for the first time in 1981. Members such as Dickie Bannenberg (1980) worked hard to build an infrastructure of crews, equipment and coaches for the new club. RCBC did well, from what little they had, and through the 1980s the Men's First VIII steadily rose through the divisions in the May Bumps. The First Women's Boat, rowing in IVs, were a little more unsure of themselves, precariously moving up and down Division 2 in the May Bumps throughout the 1980s.

In 1988 Captain Paddy Gordon (1985) introduced a new feature to the club. He set up Robinson Head, a timed race held in Lent term, to generate revenue. The race also gave our name to an established part of the University rowing calendar. Another important addition came in 1997-1998 when the Old Blades Society was founded. Its aims were to facilitate a network between past and present rowers, and to fundraise to ensure the financial security of RCBC. Robinson Head and Old Blades still exist, and form

a significant part of the life of the club. The RCBC network boasts some impressive rowers, for instance Jo Hammond (1998), the most successful Robinson novice to date. As I write, Jo's most recent accomplishment is silver at the Lucerne Rowing World Cup Finals in the Belgian Lightweight Women's Double Skull.

The Women's May Bumps underwent a fundamental change in 1990; from then on women raced in Vllls. This was in the midst of a successful patch for RCBC's First Women. This success waned in the mid-1990s, until 1996–2002 when they sustained a place in Division 1. The First Men achieved Division 1 in 1996, and this achievement culminated in an impressive 4th on the river in 2003. Subsequently the men have struggled to remain high in Division 1. They now sit at the top of Division 2, no doubt hoping to solidify a position in Division 1 next Mays. Following a weak period in the mid 2000s, the First Women have started to rise again, gaining 6 places during Mays 2006 and 2007, and managing to retain their position mid-way in Division 2 this year.

So why is it that not every crew triumphs? It is difficult to answer this question, as there are so many factors involved. One of these factors is continuity. Some rowers are willing to train from Michaelmas to Easter and for their whole student career. Many of the 2003 Men's crew, Robinson's most successful to date, arrived as novices and made First Boat in 2003. The sense of achievement from reaching the top, not to mention their years of experience, made them



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hungry for success. Robinson crews lack continuity in coaching. Captains are greatly assisted by ad hoc coaching from Old Blades, current members of the club and external contacts, but most crews do not have a regular coach on the bank to oversee a term's progress.

Other reasons for a club's success are a bit harder to define. The presence of a strong supportive community through the Old Blades and the endorsement of resident members of the College is integral to high morale, and the provision of coaching and funds. Two figures who exemplify what RCBC seeks in its supporters are John Pritchard (1983) and Dr Bill Nolan. John is undoubtedly the "giant" of Robinson rowing, in terms of the longevity and extent of his commitment to the club, and his considerable achievements in the sport at an international level. Dr Bill Nolan joined the Fellowship in 1996, and has been vital to the club ever since. His willingness to "coach any crew that asks" is illustrative of his unwavering commitment to RCBC and egalitarian approach to coaching. So why do some rowers and coaches show such dedication, and why do boaties get up so early?

Rowing at Robinson provides the "universal education" that Cambridge is so proud to offer. I found it the perfect complement to my academic studies, balancing the physical with the sedentary, and the social with the solitary. Joining RCBC is a chance to become immersed in a community, an identity and established social scene. Many ex-rowers remember the intensity of their experience at RCBC, and miss the feeling of collective ambition and companionship that it offered. Some people take away "transferable

skills" into the world of work. Many take confidence and self-esteem, and the ability to face a challenge. The memories of socialising, bops, cocktail parties, and the infamous Boat Club Dinners, are familiar to all at whatever level they engaged with the club.

However, the mornings were cold and early, it was physically painful (blistered hands!), and it was constantly mentally challenging to learn technique. But the taste of success! I remember one Mays Saturday in 2007, following those five still, quiet seconds poised for action at the start, my First Women's crew bumped outside the Plough pub in Fen Ditton. Spectators cheered and applauded, and handed us willow branches to signify the bump. We rowed back to the boathouse proud, to sparkling wine in plastic cups, crew photos and jubilation, the dunking of the cox, and a night of celebrating together. Experiences like that made it all worthwhile.

For information on the Old Blades Society please contact Helen Cornish on hec39@cam.ac.uk. Kate Siddiqui can be contacted on katesiddiqui@gmail.com.



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As I transferred from Natural Sciences to Philosophy at the end of my first year, Myles Burnyeat was one of the significant Robinsonians in my time at the College. He was very patient with my efforts to begin to think and write philosophically and enormously flexible. During my second year I was part of the team on "The Heckler", a student newspaper. Once a month at 'paste up' time, we would spend 24 hours putting the paper together. As there was little technology this involved lots of glue, Letraset and time.

Another very brief moment in my Robinson years occurred when sharing a set at the top of O staircase with Carline Landers (née Groves). One sunny afternoon we put the speakers of her stereo out on the balcony, turned them up full and played Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyrie" to the whole college. The curve of the building helped the acoustics beautifully! Lorna Fenech (née Barker) (1980)

My stand-out memory after my first year of Robinson life has to come from Choir - but not from the more formal or official services and concerts, but from carol singing at Christmas formal on the last Friday of Michaelmas term. When we reached "5 gold rings" in the 12 Days of Christmas, the first person to jump to his feet to join in was... the Warden. It was then that I knew I'd made the right choice in coming to Robinson - I think it says a great deal about the culture and atmosphere of College. Giles Fleming (2008)

Waking up one misty morning and looking out onto the gardens to see one of the chefs feeding the ducks bread from a silver platter. Rob Price (1992)

Robinson College had an essential influence on my academic career. Also on my life. Not only because of the inspiring individuals that I had the privilege to meet and to share time with, but also the constant intellectual stimulation I had there and the exceptional living conditions that I was provided with during my stay at Robinson. Study, research, exploration, teaching, talks of many topics and affairs, fun dinners and long conversations in the SCR, concerts and lectures, all together made my year at Robinson unforgettable. I specially remember Professor Needham whom I used to visit once a week - usually Friday afternoon - at his home behind the College. I used to have tea with him while we talked about Chinese literature. Many years after, I continue to be deeply grateful for his insights on a personal and professional level. I feel proud of have been part of Robinson College and I thank all the Robinson Fellows and colleagues for their kindness at that time and their intellectual generosity that made me feel at home in Cambridge. Elena Foster (Former Bye Fellow - 1993)

1979 was my first year at Cambridge following an eventful three-year period as a lecturer at Sussex University. Robinson College was new, sparkling and exciting. It was a modern College surrounded by very much more traditional Colleges and at that time Robinson attracted young, non-traditional academics and students with, by Cambridge standards, a significant female population. As a non-Cambridge graduate, I initially had no College affiliation; however, mainly through the kindness of Mick Brown, Chris Hughes and Lord Lewis, I was welcomed into College life as a supervisor in Physics. Happy days, hard-working days and, above all, exciting days as the College tentatively felt its way into a Cambridge college culture of doing things in a somewhat different way to the then entrenched doctrine of other colleges. Malcolm Mackley (Fellow - 1986)

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Robinson prided itself on being at one with the NUS in arranging a demonstration against the imposition of loans rather than grants in our first term of 1988. Some of us thought that we were the radical edge of the collegiate system, being a new college that encouraged students from state schools, for heaven's sake. It was of course, laughably self-conscious and comfortable. We started our demonstration with cake and drinks outside the chapel whilst one of the college bands played. Then armed with placards and masses of bonhomie we strode into town to join up with similar rabbles from other colleges.

We chanted and sang - rather well-modulated 'Grants Not Loans!' and 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie - out, out, out!' It was important that one had one's brand new college scarf on to ensure that on the battlefield, one could be identified with the Robinson masses. The Socialist Worker Party we weren't. All the students came together on Parker's Piece, and I am sure that there were some earnest speakers, encouraging us to rebel further against the plans for tertiary education. But alas, our rebellion faltered and rapidly fell away at 1400 when core elements realized that the rugby was about to start. Cue, stampede back to the television room at Robinson to catch the rugby. (How quaint, one telly to share amongst the undergraduates!!). The Peasants' Revolt we weren't, but I still have the scarf. Wicce St Clair-Gray (1988)

As with many Robinsonians, the first person I met in College was Head Porter, Fred Boyne. My family and I (including two very tired young children) arrived from Canada on a wet and gloomy early January day in 1981 to take up residence as a Bye Fellow in Flat 6. Fred brightened the day immediately, first by conjuring up a bottle of milk from somewhere so that we could have some tea, and then by pointing me in the direction of the nearest pub (the College bar not being open). That was the beginning of a long and happy relationship, both with the College and with Fred. Professor L.W. Conolly, Senior Member and Former Bye Fellow and Visiting Fellow (1981)

During my 3 years, I joined the Hockey team in the third division and we were promoted to 2nd, then 1st divisions. The 1985 team was undefeated and had some great personalities in it – John Bills was captain, David Pease-Watkins the star forward, and Simon Chamberlain kept the defence solid, and had the hardest shot I've ever seen despite his prosthetic foot. Ben Habib played too, and later became a Blues boxer by starving himself into the right weight.

I visited the college in 1995 with my new Australian wife. I was wearing an akubra hat, raybans, had a great tan, a slight Aussie/ West Coast twang, and thought I would drop into the Porters Lodge to reintroduce myself. Without a moment's hesitation, Head Porter Fred Boyne said "Mr Clarke, how are you?" and proceeded to ask me how all my old friends were, some of whom I scarcely remembered. Amazing when you consider all the students who have passed through the portcullis over the years.

Wondering who the smartest person in college was. Couldn't decide between Alice Ackerill or Naguib Kheraj. Camped out in the library for 15 hours a day cramming for exams. Everyone has a favourite seat. One of the girls (Charlotte?) brings a collection of bears to keep her company. One of the boys (Phil?) makes a bear-sized noose and hangs one from the lights. 70% of students think its funny, 30% think Phil (?) is an idiot and 70% of us are idiots too. Ian Clarke (1983)

When I ask myself where was my most beautiful place of residence, the answer is Robinson College. Xie Yongsong (1990)



My wife and I spent a sabbatical year (1988-9) in Cambridge in order to work on books we were writing. Mikulas Teich warned us that Cambridge University could be a pretty "cold" place for outsiders, and he thought that Bye-Fellowships for the two of us would make our stay more comfortable and pleasant. We readily agreed, but it wasn't until we were in Cambridge for a few months that we realized how very wise his suggestion was and how much we appreciated his assistance in arranging the Bye-Fellowships.

It has been twenty years since that sabbatical, but I still remember the many lunches and High Table dinners, and the rooms I had. But, mostly, I remember the Fellows with whom we spent time. Lunches were stimulating intellectual activities, and Robinson really functioned as a "home" for us. The year was productive, but it wouldn't have been as pleasant or memorable had we not had Bye-Fellowships. I realize Bye-Fellows play a relatively small role in the overall functioning of the College, but for those of us who have been so privileged, it has meant a lot. Paul Lawrence Farber (Former Bye Fellow - 1988)

John Condry et al singing "Hotel Malcolm Trotter" "accompanied" by his guitar, and the rest of the bar not really to the tune of Hotel California.

A bunch of us removing the entire contents of John "beefy" Bevan's (1987) M staircase room and reinstating all in the same order on the balcony outside while he was out on a date.

Coming back late and drunk from Oxford one night and unable to wake the porters, deciding it was easier to get into College by climbing the trellis at the front of the college than simply walking round into Adams Road and in through the gardens. Tim Wright (1988)

On a fateful January afternoon two of our good friends Jo and Clare (Jo Kingston and Clare Mawdsley both 2001) went out to Sainsbury's to get their weekly shopping. However, once they were there it started to snow. It was snowing so hard that they decided to wait for it to stop. An hour passed and they decided it would be a good idea to get some provisions - luckily they were still at Sainsbury's - so they purchased some beverages to keep their spirits high. By closing time they were still waiting and they had managed to amass a vast amount of shopping (2 rucksacks, 3 carrier bags and a trolley's worth). A kind shop attendant took pity on them and told them that as the conditions were so bad they could use the trolley to take their goods back to Robinson. The trolley started out as a blessing, but soon turned out to be a curse in disguise as they wandered down Trinity Lane and came to Garrett Hostel Lane bridge. The snow was very thick by now and try as they might they could not persuade the trolley to go over the bridge. After much effort and once they were both thoroughly covered in snow, they decided to make a phone call. Within minutes Owen, Rich and Sam were there (Owen Smith, Rich Bradley, Sam Davies all 2001) and chivalrously took over. They removed the bags from the trolley and carried them over the bridge before pushing back the empty trolley. After taking the shopping up to the girls' rooms - seven and a half hours after the start of the incident - they all went to the bar for a well earned pint. Tom Page (2001)

I have an enjoyable memory of planning a celebration of our grant of Coat-of-Arms (Pegasus) by the Royal College of Heralds with Helena Shire. She encouraged me to prepare my daughter's large pony for the event. It would be paraded in Hall. I had started on the wings and my daughters were training the beast to loud noises but we found the slippery tiles to be an insuperable problem. John Sergeant (Fellow - 1982)



It was, I think, the first day of full term and the new building had just been opened. As Director of Studies, I was going to meet my new students in one of the supervision rooms over the library. It was raining cats and dogs. Much to my surprise, the paved court was full of puddles, puddles deep enough to make me wish I hadn't put sandals on! I remarked to George Coupe, whom I met on the way: 'This makes me feel that I'm a member of a hardy island race!' Does anyone know why a nominally flat, elegant, paved court can produce such dreadful puddles? Mick Brown (Emeritus Fellow - 1977)

My time at Robinson was sadly overshadowed by ill health, but I will never forget the amazingly warm, supportive and caring environment that is Robinson College, which enabled me to continue with my studies and gain both a good degree and a brighter future. The unique physical layout of the college precipitates a close sense of community which permeates at all levels, from which all benefit. Emma-Kate Angell (1991)

I have very good memories of my years at Bin Brook. I particularly liked the fact we did not have a High Table and discussions between Fellows and undergraduates could take place with such ease. I have very good memories of supervisions with Alan Sharpe and Mick Brown and being inspired by the talents of my friend Leigh Baxandall. I don't think I have drunk as much sherry before or since, which may or may not be a good thing. George Rhee (1979)

One week I spent a part of each evening in Bin Brook itself - much to Sketchley's delight. Simon Bourge (1980)

I would like to know how or why the bar briefly adopted Robbie Williams' Angels as a closing-time anthem. Who was responsible? Steven Sieff (1995)

I remember returning to College at about 11 pm on a snowy night, to find a snowball fight going on in the garden. Whoever wandered past joined in for a bit, threw a few snowballs, then carried on their way. Muted voices, ice on Bin Brook. Magical. Stuart Leask (1982)

I was playing frisbee on the college lawn with a group of friends. A gust of wind grabbed our frisbee and deposited it at the top of the tallest tree in the gardens. No amount of shaking the tree would dislodge it. Eventually we got it down, with the aid of a porter, a stepladder and a ten-foot pole. Sam Stokes (2002)

Those early years seemed to be about accommodating modernity and history - making and shaping the College's history - the first May Ball or the first (and last) visit by Maggie Thatcher. But also the pleasure of all that history in town - lectures in the Senate Rooms and the Squire Law Library - and then returning to limitless hot water and one's own bathroom - real luxury back then! Anonymous

I remember not only overground, but underground too, for in the Robinson Basement, I hosted 'Tallulah' events for three years - a festival of words, jazz, and cocktails, beneath the bricks. The pond, the bridge, the gardens first seduced me and remained a sanctuary throughout. I remember the wisteria-clad windows of Adams Road, where we learnt of literature with Judy Weiss and Simon Jarvis. One particularly memorable supervision was on, yes, nostalgia, in DH Lawrence's poem, "Piano". To paraphrase, these memories are "taking me back down the vista of years. . . The glamour / of [university] days is upon me." Anita Sethi (1999)

FOUNDING

SOME PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

Emeritus Professor TREVOR PAGE
[Foundation Fellow, Fellows'
Steward and College Lecturer
1976-1987]

February 1976 HUMBLE BEGINNINGS – the first hand-written door label on the front door of Thorneycreek.

I had the great pleasure and distinct privilege of being one of the earliest group of Fellows recruited to Robinson in 1975/76 when, to most people in Cambridge, the new College was a far-off outline concept; indeed, many still believed that it was going to be a new mixed hall of residence for Gonville and Caius (from which I believed the concept had grown).

33 years on, I believe that apart from the Warden (Professor Jack, now Lord) Lewis, the Bursar (Henry Woolston), the Domestic Bursar (George Coupe) and our very experienced Senior Tutor, Alan Sharpe (who, coincidentally, had been my Director of Studies in Jesus many years before) there were only five or so of us in that first group of Fellows (myself, John Gray, Morna Hooker, Chris Hughes and Mary Stewart) though this number grew steadily to include Helena Shire, Jo Whaley, Martin Brett, Myles Burnyeat, German Berrios, Mick Brown, Ian Drummond, Judy Weiss, Mikulas Teich, Jean Martin, Robin Kirkpatrick, Ian Thomas, John Williams and more. Some joined us and then were suborned to Fellowships at other Colleges – their loss and ours.

At this time I was a young University Lecturer

in Natural Sciences (Materials Science and Metallurgy), teaching the large Natural Sciences subjects 1A Crystalline State and 1B Materials Science as well as helping with supervisions in Engineering. Previously, I had held an SRC (now EPSRC) Research Fellowship, but I still had no College affiliation. Thus, after an unexpected lunch with Alan Sharpe and Jack Lewis, I realised that not only did a (most welcome) College Fellowship beckon but here was also a unique opportunity to help create Cambridge's first co-residential undergraduate college, testing not only which long-established college traditions might be relevant, but also exploring what other "new traditions" would be welcome in a family-friendly college.

I knew little of the steps taken to found the College up to that point, except that it was to occupy a block of land on Grange Road containing many large (and often tenanted) houses. I quickly learned that much had already happened and that the Benefactor was determined to push on quickly. Not only had architects been appointed (Gillespie, Kidd and Coia – a Glasgow firm described as "McIntosh's successors" and specialising in the



restoration of churches and castles) but there had already been an architectural competition from which the building design had been chosen (appearing virtually identical to that which is so well-known today!). The “castle-like” characteristic was already embodied, complete with drawbridge, moat, battlements and a two-pronged courtyard layout which, later, the first Head Porter (Fred Boyne) jokingly claimed could “easily be cleared with two loads of grape-shot from the Porters’ Lodge!” We also heard that the large C & A clothing store warehouse in Sawston was to be obtained to house all the soon-to-be-purchased cables, baths, doors and windows needed to progressively “fit out” the new building as various sections were completed.

More urgently, the piles on which the load of the building would be borne were being sunk into the site in June 1976 and so we had less than six months to finalise the layout of the College, at least with regard to major spaces such as the hall, the theatre and the chapel etc. The challenge was upon us and, very quickly, a number of working parties were created to look at large structural areas such as the kitchens, the hall, the bar, the theatre, the chapel, and student rooms. Not only did these heavily (and willingly) involve the early Fellowship and relevant experts from across the University (and outside) but also students from other colleges who were relied upon to tell us what they would like to see in a new college and what worked well (or not) in their own colleges. I served on the working parties for the kitchens, hall, bar and theatre, leading not only to pleasurable visits to other college bars and catering facilities, but also to a number of small theatres and cinemas in Cambridge and London. Memorably, while exploring stage lighting systems in a large theatre-lighting company warehouse in Wembley, I was allowed “hands on” with the lighting console and complex lighting rig being set up for the (then) forthcoming Rolling Stones world tour! I also learned much about the progressive raking of theatre seating, leading to an amusing incident whereby, when a test row of mocked-up seats was first delivered for the new Robinson theatre, I was asked to inspect them and sat down - causing total collapse! This caused

much mirth with colleagues but led the Bursar to establish the “Trevor Page test” as the hallmark for all future seating!

Throughout this period, our “base” in Thornycreek (offices for the Warden, Senior Tutor, Bursars and a hard-worked secretary, Alison) became a hub of activity, including several social functions for the expanding Fellowship – and their families. A very pleasant evening barbecue allowed us to inspect the “test panels” of different coloured bricks and “pointing” styles which the Architects had built on Thorneycreek’s lawn to allow the Benefactor to visualise how the all-brick College might look.

We also began to have regular Fellowship dinners in other colleges – not only to begin the tradition of our dining together but also to meet some of the University’s Trustees and those with views as to how our new college might develop its own “distinctness”. In those heady early months, the contractors – a joint venture of local companies - began clearing the site and I felt that someone should keep a photographic archive not only of the houses which were there (and soon to be demolished) but also of the way the building would evolve and rise from the old gardens. My aim was to have a “personal” archive, rather than the more formal one kept by the construction team. Thus began a collection of over 1200 slides, photos and recordings starting with some pictures of the “protest against Robinson College” placards found in the garages of one of the houses on site. Later slides reveal the tower cranes which dominated the Grange Road landscape for nearly 3 years and the complete flooding of the site (with a water-level well above the 100-year flood planning base-mark) which was claimed by some to be “divine retribution” for our developing the site! This archive spans the period to our first degree day, its opening by the Queen, a number of eminent visitors (Princess Margaret, Margaret Thatcher) and recordings such as the insert for the local Talking News for the Blind of the Queen’s visit and the Inaugural Organ Recital given by our Organ Consultant Professor Gerald Gifford (Royal College of Music).

As the building progressed, there were regular site visits by the Fellowship and we all began to recognise each other in yellow hard hats and wellington boots as we moved about the developing shell of the new building - often on fairly exposed ladders!

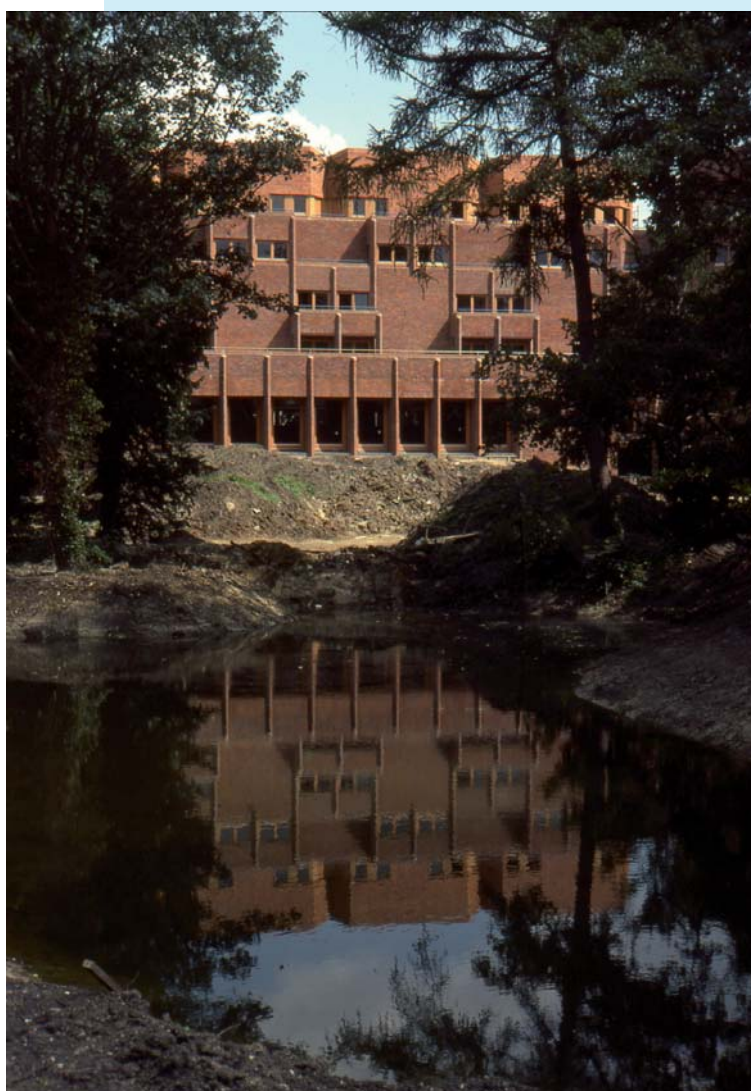
With the prospect of taking our first post-graduate students (all carefully chosen by Alan Sharpe to have that “right stuff, pioneering spirit”), our focus of College operations moved to the newly-vacated 5 Adams Road which was developed to house a kitchen and Dining Room, a Common Room (with TV!) shared by the Fellows and post-graduates and a small number of study bedrooms. Our first “Chef and Housekeeper”, Jean Fordham, readily embraced the challenge of creating a new Cambridge dining tradition (and later opened her own restaurant). Fellows and students largely met informally for lunch and often stayed for coffee. On the memorable afternoon of Virginia Wade’s Wimbledon Ladies Final, a (male) Fellow watching the warm-up on TV, and apparently oblivious to everyone else in the room, mused aloud at the levels of fitness he would have to acquire “to have any chance” - we assumed to succeed at playing tennis, but not all the ladies present agreed! Such were the unexpected pleasures of co-residence!

By this time, I had been asked to be Fellows’ Steward (I would like to think because of my interest in food and wine but it was probably more because no one else wanted the job) which led to my involvement with our dining patterns and the creation of an early wine cellar starting with the very small cellar in Adams Road. During the flood, the water removed most of the labels from our stock requiring further ‘tastings’ to identify what we had.

In addition to daily lunches, we also began having regular Fellows’ Dinners in 5 Adams Road, but now bringing in guests from around the University and outside, so that Robinson could start to become known. Christmas dinners were always followed by live music and out of these beginnings were some of the dining traditions set. Guest night dinners brought the expected problems of creating seating plans to please everyone. I was occasionally accused

of having consigned some of my very-difficult-to-please colleagues to “bores corner” – confession: I had!

The arrival of our first small tranche of undergraduates really brought home how close we were to occupying the building and becoming a “proper”, but much larger, college! Again carefully chosen by Alan Sharpe, these students largely lived either on site (in some of the houses gradually becoming vacant) or in lodgings as close to Grange Road as possible. Somehow, and quite suddenly, we



REFLECTION – the building approaches completion and the lake is created (8-1980)

seemed to possess the whole gambit of student activities and sports teams while also hearing more of how “our” students would like to see “their” College develop.

I always felt that this was another very special time, as our growing community – though still small enough for everyone to know each other - jointly faced the new challenges which now arose; for example how would dining work for students who, in the 1970s,



Clockwise from left to right:
THE LANDMARK CRANES viewed from the Corner of Adams Road in 1978
THE ENTRANCE RAMP finally takes shape (7-1980)
THE HALL begins to take shape (3-1978)
TEST PANELS OF BRICKS built around the patio at Thorneycreek to appraise how the all-brick building might finally appear – (2-1976)

Now we began to see whether the features we had felt so desirable all worked the way that we had planned.

wanted wider choices of food, less rigid adherence to traditional dining contracts and the ability to bring guests to their new College? A further debating point concerned the introduction of Robinson Identity Cards for everyone. For security purposes, it proved a ready means of protecting us from the unwelcome con-artists increasingly posing as a resident's friend or relative and asking for room keys! However, the cards rapidly gave all members of the College, including all our staff, a sense of belonging. ID cards allowed everyone to borrow books from library and everyone to dine. At that time I believe that bringing my family in to College Sunday Lunch and sharing a table with students, the Warden, the Librarian or a gardener who had just borrowed a book from the College Library, was both welcome and unique.

It then seemed a very short time to the removal of the tower cranes, our occupation of the building, the appointment of a much wider range of staff, and an expansion of the Fellowship. Now we began to see whether the features we had felt so desirable (e.g. the gallery over the hall enabling drinks to be held before dinner), the multi-counter cafeteria, the coffee lounge next to the theatre, the theatre itself, the bar and student rooms all worked the way we had planned – and largely, I believe they did.

The Queen and Prince Philip formally opened the College in 1981 and, almost immediately or so it seemed, our first undergraduates were making the long walk to the Senate House, presided over by Mr Boyne, to receive their degrees. Robinson's fascinating childhood and challenging adolescence was over and the life of a fully-fledged college had begun!

I have many special memories of people – not only my Fellowship colleagues, but also the College staff and our honorary Fellows and visitors. Meeting the famous American organist Carlo Curly, along with our organ builder (Frobenius) was a particular pleasure, as was welcoming John Piper (responsible for the design of our wonderfully asymmetric Chapel and its stained glass) and his wife, Myfanwy, to several of our College Guest nights. However, to my embarrassment, my asking John Piper how long he had been associated with Benjamin Britten and, particularly, the English Opera Group, solicited the reply “my dear boy, I founded it”. I should have done my homework better! I believe we were all delighted to meet the Queen and Prince Philip (I was addressed as “the young man who photographs holes in the ground”), Mrs Thatcher (who lost no time in reminding us how much David Robinson had achieved with no formal education and therefore how much more we should all be able to achieve) and Princess Margaret (whose interest in some of my photographs revived as soon as our thoughtful College Butler, Jimmy Bell - ex-Royal Yacht *Britannia* - had arranged suitable refreshments for her).

There was also a fascinating visit to the member of the Royal College of Herald (C. Scott-Giles, Fitzalan Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary), charged with creating the College Arms and Shield, who lived in a small flat in Cambridge totally surrounded by matters heraldic, his official Court Herald's uniform taking pride of place alongside many pictures of the Queen and the complete (though fictitious) lineage of Peter Wimsey for whom he had created a coat of arms to

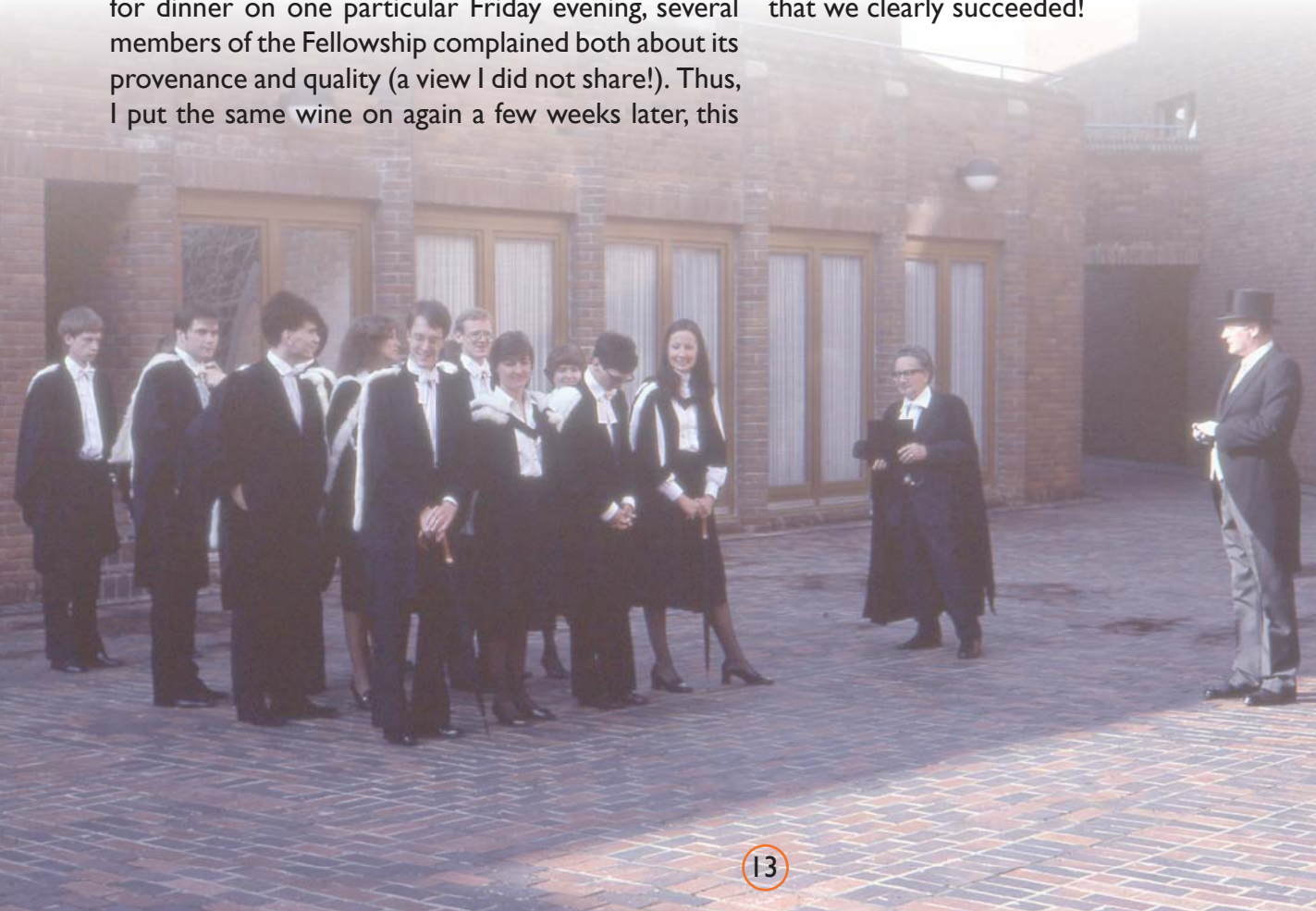
accompany the detective stories by Dorothy Sayers! I still have copies of the Bursar's round-robin memo, following an unknown student discarding used tea-bags out of his/her new room window, addressed to "The Phantom Tea-Bag Thrower of Tailings Leap" and another Bursarial memo to me, sent in response to my complaining about the lack of a telephone in my new College office, assuring me that I would look back on this time, "uninterrupted by unwanted communications, as one of great productivity and peace". He was quite right!

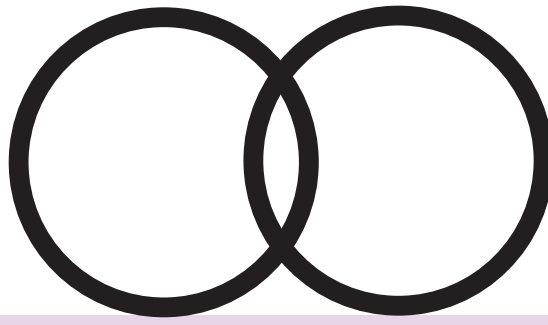
My role as Fellows' Steward could also provide unexpected amusement. We had established the unique practice, in Cambridge, of occasionally welcoming our students to the weekly Friday night High Table (an occasion perhaps to meet parents, a guardian or other guest). Several students took up this opportunity in the spirit we had intended, but my suspicions were aroused when one particular undergraduate (male) asked to bring a different young lady guest three times in the same term. Upon my commenting on this (access was at the Steward's discretion and depended on numbers dining), his unexpected response was that this was "the cheapest and most effective seduction vehicle in Cambridge"! Not a possibility that we had considered! Also, on our Founding, we were given a number of small packages of wine, one being an award-winning wine from an English vineyard in Suffolk. Having used it for dinner on one particular Friday evening, several members of the Fellowship complained both about its provenance and quality (a view I did not share!). Thus, I put the same wine on again a few weeks later, this

time mischievously listing it on the menu as coming from Alsace, and was complimented (largely by the same group) on the wine that evening! My palate was vindicated! Finally, I believe that the College Council minutes record my defining a Guest Night dinner as being a meal of "not less than five courses" with anything less constituting a "snack". I should explain that resulted from a debate concerning the quality and structure of our early Guest Night dinners with opinion divided between those who felt that the quality of our tables should reflect our not being one of Cambridge's most affluent colleges and others, including myself, who felt that our guests should enjoy a "memorable experience".

I have said little about the development of the Chapel and gardens though much effort was expended here and others may well be writing about these topics.

Be in no doubt that these were very stimulating and rewarding times. Having the opportunity to help found a new College is probably a once-in-a-lifetime experience and all that early group of Fellows gave much of their effort and time to ensuring success. When I have occasionally returned, it now seems that Robinson College has always been in Grange Road and, for successive generations of students and even Fellows, it must feel that it was ever thus. If I regret the passing of those stimulating and highly collegiate earlier days, this must be tempered with a feeling that to now be an established part of Cambridge, means that we clearly succeeded!





SURVIVORS' POETRY

*promoting poetry by survivors
of mental distress*

Survivors Poetry "is a national charity established in 1991 to promote the writings of survivors of mental distress and support their recovery."

Alumnus Simon Jenner (1990) is a Royal Literary Fund Fellow and a recipient of RLF grants. In his article below he writes about his experiences directing Survivors' Poetry (SP), the poetry and mental health charity, since 2003. His book *About Bloody Time* (Waterloo) was voted one of the *Guardian* readers' Books of the Year in December 2007. It has just recently had excellent reviews in *Stride*, *Tears in the Fence* and *PN Review*. Perdika Press are bringing out a booklet of his re-imaginings (not translations or versions) of the great Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa this autumn, describing it as 'a major event'. Waterloo are bringing out two further collections in the next two years, and more are planned.

A Brief History of Survivors' Poetry

SP is a national charity established in 1991 to promote the writings of survivors of mental distress and support their recovery. A Survivor may be a person with experience of psychiatric hospitals, electroconvulsive therapy, tranquillisers, or other medication, a user of counselling services, a survivor of sexual abuse, child abuse and any other person who has empathy with the experiences of survivors.

I first heard of SP in 2003, when an excoriating article by Barry Tebb alerted me to the idea - as he put it - that I could run something beyond Waterloo Press (a poetry publishing house I still guide with Arts Council funding). News to me. SP too was ACE-funded, but about to be 'disinvested', a wonderfully mandarin neologism. The previous Director had left on health grounds, loyal staff were playing indoor golf like that advert about dentists out of work because everyone is swigging good fluorine. One was

asleep on top of two years' correspondence. Another, James Ferguson, was a recent graduate of Caius. And there's a reason accountancy isn't boring: when an organisation is in free fall, with unpaid bills, no audit trail, and £500 lying casually around the office in expired notes and coins. Welcome to the world of work. James and I worked late, talking late Ruskin and recycling years in paperwork and memories.

Ruins and Visions

Four poets with first-hand experience of the mental health system founded SP. Over half our staff, volunteers, advisors and trustees come from a survivor background. We can thus uniquely empower the linguistic talent many survivors bring from insight into such conditions. We provide opportunities to publish poetry, attend and perform at public readings, participate in workshops and join our moderated online community and network groups.

Mental distress can destroy the quality of life for sufferers and families. It's frequently a cause of unemployment, homelessness, and addictions and can lead to enforced stays in hospital or psychiatric institutions. It is now implicated in more deaths than heart disease. 'The economic costs of mental health {are} £77 billion per year in England, more than the total costs involved in crime.' (A *New Vision for Mental Health*, produced by a consortium including MIND, Mental Health Foundation, Rethink, ADASS: Introduction). The creative discipline, which writing and performing poetry demands, helps survivors recover a sense of self-worth and emerge from often chaotic, desperate, and fragmentary lives.

Surviving Art

Survivors have a powerful artistic contribution to offer society. The government's increased grant to ACE (£418m-£448M) reflected ACE's proof that the Arts generate wealth and well-being

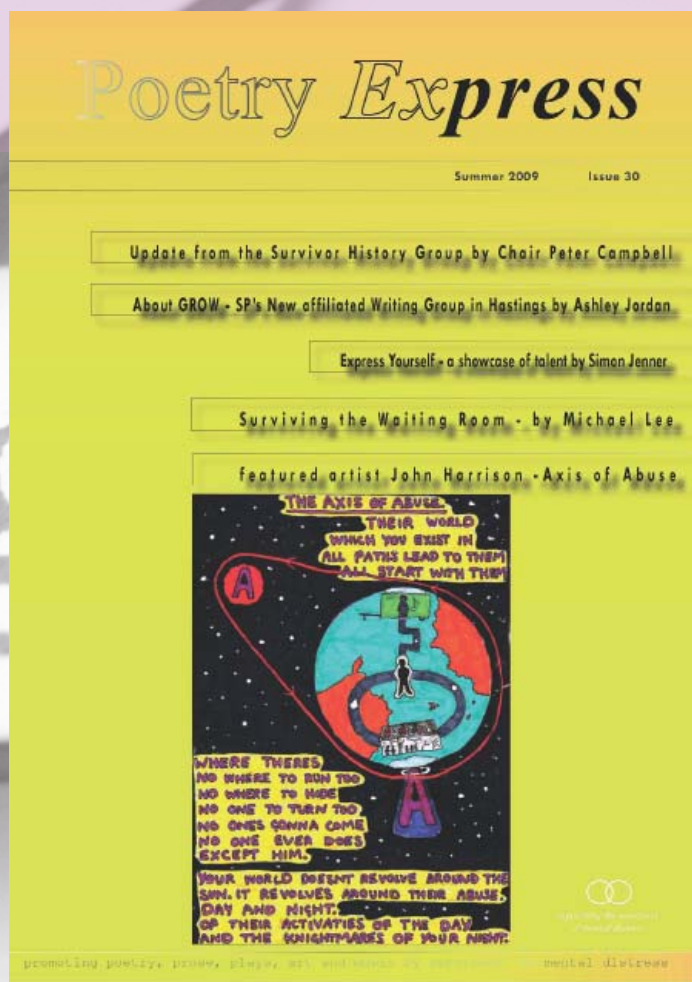
disproportionate to their size. Disproportionate, too, are the number of survivors within that community, often overlooked. Much could be avoided if people with mental health needs were better supported (Oxford Economics, *Mental Health & the UK Economy*, March 2007). Many health-care professionals and poets access our website. Professionals call us regarding someone in their care. Stephen Fry is a grateful recipient of our poetry volumes. We estimate at least 10,100 benefit from our work per quarter. Over 6,000 copies of each *Poetry Express* magazine edition are downloaded; research suggests at least two people read each copy. In reality, it's more. 30 mentored poets attest the difference it's made to their lives. Around 400 people contact SP every year.

Groups/Outreach

SP boasts 15 affiliated networked groups based all over the UK, with profiles regularly appearing in



Survivors offered me a safe space to write and try out themes that I know I won't have felt comfortable exploring in other writing groups (Conor A, a survivor).



Flight

Flippant flight on a butterfly's wings –
life, adult life, life, life:
born from coincidence, changing, passing,
soaring above the riverbank's grass,
shaped from the yearnings of distant childhood,
venturing over the menacing waves,
lured by the nectar of pulsing flowers,
sharing the sun with invisible stars.

Thomas Land

Poetry Express. They link into a national grid kept vital by visits from our Outreach and Mentoring Coordinator, and events and Festival appearances.

Thriving

The story is long, messy, dramatic, provisionally happy. We'd moved to a rat-free office. The John Ellerman Foundation saw what we did; its Director played an astonishing hand with his own Board, Lloyds TSB and ACE to win funding. The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - via the effervescent Hilary Hodgson - helped us twice. Now solitary, with staff volunteering from afar, I learned to fund-raise and hire a consultant, being rewarded by ACE in 2007 with a Director's salary for that and 'turning around the organisation'. I was Zaphod Beebebrock with two heads and no paid staff. But nine months later we regained our ACE Regularly Funded Status, albeit at a third of its old level. Three successive Chairs, John O'Donoghue (whose *Sectioned: A Life Interrupted* featured in the *Guardian* with Blake

Morrison), psychotherapist Marius Jankowski and poet and third sector advocate Phil Ruthen have chaired us on superbly – the latter two swapped positions. Old staff returned (preferring anonymity here). One's a superb magazine/book designer and administrates – radically opposing skills. Another specializes in rehab innovations, reiki and outreach. His Vale House project attracted NHS enthusiasm for quadrupling addict recovery (measured over two years). We're awaiting a new bid with John Ellerman, ACE and beyond. The times clamour: Diversifying funding streams? Don't put all your metaphors in one basket.

For more information about SP or to contact them please visit www.survivorspoetry.com or write to:

Survivors' Poetry

Studio 11, Bickerton House
25-27 Bickerton Road
Archway
London N19 5JT
Tele: +44 (0) 20 7281 4654



"Radio Gibbon"

See alumni Nick Lyon (1998) and Evie Wright (1998) in action in Borneo in their forthcoming production of *The Natural World* called "Radio Gibbon", which is scheduled to be broadcast on BBC2 on 29 November 2009. It's about a French DJ and gibbon expert called Chanee who is dedicating his life to saving Borneo's wildlife and has set up a radio station in order to do so. This follows on from the work that Nick and Evie do with Films 4 Conservation (www.films4.org). A full article on their inspiring work will be appearing in the Lent edition of *Bin Brook*, so watch this space!



In the beginning there was mud...and wet paint. I arrived at Robinson on September 30th 1980. The College was not completely finished and it was not fully operational. I was part of the first big intake at Robinson. The modern linguists had to go up about a week earlier than everyone else because we had to sit oral exams before term began. The first person my father and I met on arrival was Fred Boyne, the Head Porter. He was very nice and welcoming. My room (B11) overlooked Herschel Road and we had to carry my luggage across what was still essentially a building site. The blue paint on the railings was still wet. The cafeteria was not open, so we had our meals across the road at Clare Hall. It was all a great adventure. Once our oral exams were over we were able to enjoy a few days in Cambridge without the pressure of essays and exams. We went punting, drank lots of coffee in each other's rooms and generally had a good time. After about a week, the rest of our year arrived. There were about 150 of us in all. There were more rooms than students that first year and some of the surplus rooms were rented to students from other colleges. The chapel was not finished so services were held in the Hall for the first few weeks or months. There were no College societies so everything had to be started from scratch. I was a founding member of the Film Society. Of course everything was brand new - the carpets, the curtains, the furniture, the bedspreads...and we were all delighted to have our own bathrooms - definitely the best thing about getting a place at Robinson! On my very first evening in College the modern linguists were invited to Dr. Mary Stewart's room for sherry and I can remember meeting Dr. Kirkpatrick for the first time. It was a strange feeling standing on my balcony watching my parents and my younger sister driving home without me. The college was eerily deserted. There were very few people around. I can look back now, almost thirty years later, and say that I was one of the very first students to move in to Robinson College. I also had the privilege to be there on the occasion of the formal opening of the college by Her Majesty The Queen on May 29th 1981. All in all, it was an exciting and unforgettable experience. Helen Flower (1980)

I would still include my three years at Robinson as some of the best days of my life. I made some great friends and have far too many memories to list here- formal halls, the bar, law revision week and May balls all hold dear memories but it was the day to day things- walks into town, coffee with friends and much to my surprise even supervisions that I also remember fondly. I looked through our year book before writing this and enjoyed seeing all the old faces. Ten years after leaving Robinson I realise what a fantastic opportunity it was with so many experiences. I would relive my Robinson days again without a second thought. I hope the students today enjoy life there as much as I did. Antonia Rubin (1996)

I remember Princess Margaret coming to visit the college in the early eighties. I knew she had arrived because I was sitting in the bar and somebody came running in saying "Princess Margaret wants a gin and tonic" - apparently these were her first words on meeting the reception committee.

Margaret Thatcher came as well about that time. Several students who in reality were Tory sympathisers stood outside chanting "Maggie out!" I pointed out to one of them that there might be an ideological inconsistency here, and was told: "It's just what you do, isn't it?" I was later stopped by a policeman from walking past the dining room window while MT was having lunch, and when I protested, was told by the policeman "It's the name of the game, mate". Phil Lowe (1981)



Thorneycreek Cottage in 1989 was a haven for post graduate students. Sufficiently removed from the main College but close enough to get to the MCR without too much trouble. The cleaner has remained a lifelong friend, I don't know what happened to all my housemates, but we had a great time. I particularly remember my 26th birthday party on a snowy night in December 1989. Dr Ola Uduku (1989)

I first visited Robinson College in late 1990s to attend one of the open seminars held there, and then stayed several times in the summer months of early 2000s. I liked the quiet environment and convenient location, near to the University Library, Sidgwick site and Cambridge Concert Hall. Last year, I became a Bye Fellow of Robinson College and stayed for a full year, when the financial crisis took place. My interest extended from international economics, which is my own discipline, to such diverse areas as UK education and social systems. I could learn a lot from conversations with colleague Fellows, particularly at lunch time in the SCR. I really appreciate my association with Robinson College. Professor Ryo Watabe (Bye Fellow - 2007)

I was a Bye Fellow in the first half of 1995 and stayed with my wife at Robinson College. I was on a sabbatical leave from Iowa State University and specifically chose Robinson because I knew Warden Jack Lewis as a leading researcher in inorganic chemistry. He was a wonderful host during my 6-month visit. He included me in his group research meetings, invited me and my wife to many dinners, and made arrangements for us to have a real Robinson College and Cambridge experience. I was always struck by his boundless energies that were required to balance his efforts as Warden of the College, be an advocate for science as a member of the House of Lords, and guide his internationally-known research program. It is a period of my life that I will not forget. Robert J. Angelici (1995)

The most amazing place to stay as a Postgrad student! I was housed in Thorneycreek- 86-7- on my PGCE. Had the middle room on the top floor. Great memories/great views. Idyllic accommodation for a student! Didn't really want to leave but....! Thought Exeter Uni and living in Dawlish was great. Mark Woodward (1986)

I still remember clearly the first day I arrived in the College. It was a drizzling night at about 12 midnight August 29th 1995. After I got the keys and directions from the Porter, and got myself settled down in the cottage of the backyard in the college, I was so tired after 13 hours flight and 2.5 hours of coach from Beijing to Heathrow and to Cambridge. I was thinking to take a shower and get some sleep. All happened in the quietness, I heard a bird chanting just outside of my window. That was 3 o'clock in the morning! Thought the bird might be disturbed by the light and noises from my room, I turned off the light and half closed my window. Yet, the soloist was soon echoed by a large group of chorus from a variety of birds. This was so amazing! Later I found that was not an exceptional occurring. The marvellous singing accompanied me throughout the two years of my stay and ever becomes the tune of my memories of Robinson. Ju Xiong (1995)



Brickhouse production of Grease the musical in 2005 (Directed by Jen, Produced by Charlotte) where Jacob Levy and the College maintenance staff made a life-size version of Grease Lightning for the stage which even had working headlights. Not to mention the greatest 'stash' ever with pink lady jackets for the girls involved and t-birds jackets for the boys. We even had to have a high investment in 'tit tape' by costume man extraordinaire Rob Jeffries as the female cast members tried to avoid wardrobe malfunctions. Charlotte Whitaker (2003), Alison Bacon (2003) and Jennifer Rolfe (2003)

I cherish the memory of a very clear sky, golden hues and deep green undertones all around, as I cherish the memory of me, a pseudo-Romantic caricature, penniless and solitary, composing away for no reason other than the composition I had around me and on the sheet of paper in front of me. A purely creative experience. I no longer compose music. But I remember doing it. Oh, and that wise old library across the road is still missed. Panayiotis Demopoulos (2003)

During my second year I lived in 4 Adams Road with my very good friends Isabelle Bleaney, Helen Dixon (no relation of mine! and now Helen Chiareza) and Iain Ballentine. We all matriculated in 1996. I recall a wonderfully relaxed picnic in the back garden one summer's evening, when we were playing with a new circus toy of mine – a fire devilstick. To cut a long story slightly shorter, it ended up lodged in the branches of a tree about five metres above the garden, still burning away. It took all our ingenuity to knock it down before it set the tree alight. Needless to say, the Head Porter (the rather scary Fred Boyne) remained unaware of the whole incident! Neil Dixon (1996)

I came up to Robinson in 1982, in the third full-intake year I believe, and hence the buildings and facilities were in good condition, and I certainly felt very lucky in the quality of living facilities when I compared them to my friends' conditions at other, more ancient colleges, who had to walk (or crawl) downstairs and across quadrangles just to have a shower or even use the toilet. The fact that every bathroom had a large bath (but no shower) bemused us all somewhat and might not have happened in these more water-conscious times. But in those days just having your own bathroom was quite a luxury, and certainly the absence of a shower was not something I complained about.

Another recollection is of the so-called Party room, somewhere down near the dining hall, which was perhaps more akin to a cellar (or dungeon). It could be rather sweaty down there at a busy event, and pretty gloomy, so you had to be careful who you got too close to. There were a few embarrassing moments in the cold light of day! Mark Dougan (1982)

The Cuppers-winning Robinson table-tennis team from 1989/90, which at the time I claimed, without any actual proof, to have been the first Robinson Cuppers winners: me in need of a haircut, Rob Evans, Michael Ho Wan Kau and Dan Gaster. Back to 1989/90 and in the Varsity Games in Oxford that year myself, Dan & Michael provided three of the eight-man squad. Michael wasn't originally picked, but on the morning of the match, as we waited for the coach outside Kelsey Kerridge, it became apparent that one of our players wasn't going to show. I jumped into a team-mate's car and we raced through the deserted streets to Robinson, where I dragged a sleepy Mike out of bed, and we all raced back to find the coach waiting for us. Mike justified his place with a good win for the seconds, after I had saved six match points to win the opener, but we still went down 8:2 to a strong Oxford team. I was unbeaten for the seconds as we turned the tables on Oxford to win 9:1. Roger Courtenay (1988)

ALUMNI FELLOWS AND STAFF

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



Sebastian Chan (1987) was recently in the College for a brief visit in August. After graduation from Robinson, he lived and worked in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Shanghai for Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd and Exel plc. He eventually joined UPS (United Parcel Service of America) and is now a Senior Vice President responsible for their Asia Pacific supply chain solutions businesses. For the past six years, he and his family have been living in Shanghai and they have just recently relocated back to Hong Kong early this year. He would be happy to link up again with Alumni, especially those living in Hong Kong. Sebastian is now married to Feiny Widjaja and they have a 11-year-old daughter Emily (who took the above photo of Sebastian in the College garden).



Gary Lowe (1999) was married to Grace Soelistio MBA, Boston University, at the Infinity Chapel in Bali, Indonesia, on Sunday 2nd August 2009. A beautiful teppai and matrimonial service were followed by a dinner reception attended by 180 family and friends from around the world, including a number of Cambridge contemporaries. They continued their honeymoon in Bali before returning to London where both work in the Investment Banking division of Standard Chartered Bank



Clare Cowans (Jesus, 1997) and Ben Whitaker (1997) married on 20 June 2009. Robinsonians at the wedding included Ruth Kern, Philipa Downing, Zoe Umpleby, Anna Vaughan and Dan Austin (all 1997).

Jonathan Fowler (1987) is based in Poland, where he has been a correspondent for the newswire Agence France-Presse since 2006. It is his second stint there, after having spent three years in Warsaw in the mid-1990s as an academic and stringer for various media. Besides actually working on the coal face as a reporter, he also is editor for copy from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. His bureau recently expanded its turf to take in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. While the best part of his time at present seems to be taken up with economic crisis stories, one of his favorite sides to the job is reporting on historical issues with a contemporary flavour, thus going back to his Robinson roots.



Iain McNamara (1994) married Kate Whyte in Oxford on 18 April 2009. Iain and Kate met in Oxford, where Iain completed his clinical medical training and Kate was studying for her D.Phil. The service was held in Lincoln College Chapel, where Kate was a student, followed by a walk to Iain's College, Magdalen, for the reception. We had a brilliant day, and were delighted to be joined by fellow Binsonians, Dan Blackburn and James Milner (both 1994).

Professor Luckhurst (1980) is looking forward to welcoming the second intake of students to the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism and continuing to write and broadcast as often as possible.

David Gates (2000) is commissioning into the Honourable Artillery Company in July 2010.

Jessica Feather (1995) is about to publish (January 2010) a large tome of a catalogue raisonné of *British Watercolours and Drawings: Lord Leverhulme's collection in the Lady Lever Art Gallery*. After nine years working as an art curator in Liverpool, she is returning to London having received funding to work on a PhD on early twentieth century collectors of historic British watercolours, starting October 2009.

ALUMNI FELLOWS AND STAFF

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



Adam Crispe was born at 1.55am on Thursday July 2 weighing in at 10lbs 3oz to James (1987) and Anna Crispe.



After 28 years of loyal service, Jimmy Bell, the College Butler, is finally retiring for a well-deserved rest. Jimmy previously served on the Royal Yacht, *Brittania*, and in a letter from Buckingham Palace, HM The Queen sent her best wishes to Jimmy for a very happy retirement.



Chloe Houston (1997) and Will Mandy (1996) were married at St. Michael's Church, Highgate, on 12 July 2008. They were joined by many Robinson friends, including Amy Holmes, Harriet Becher, Stephen Thompson, Becky Roberts, Syril Pathmanathan, Jo Thompson, Alex Towers, Ben Moss, Henry Dowell, Ed Wilson, Luke O'Shea and Ruth O'Shea (all 1996), Rosalind Brown, Olivia Gordon, Zoe Gray, and Anne Flook (all 1997). Will and Chloe now live in Ealing, west London.

On international Women's Day Professor Athene Donald was awarded the 2009 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women In Science Laureate for Europe at a prestigious event in Paris. Established in 1998, the For Women In Science Awards recognize five exceptional women scientists each year - one per continent. The awards act as a benchmark of international scientific excellence, and an invaluable source of motivation, support, and inspiration for women in the scientific field. The Laureates serve as role models for future generations, encouraging young women around the world to follow in their footsteps.



Robinson College is delighted to announce that Anuj Dawar has been awarded a personal chair.



Ashley Young (1995) became a Partner at Allen & Overy on 1 May 2009

Kate Thompson (1991) is still living near Colchester although considering a move to Ipswich at some point for schools. She says "Most of my time is spent dealing with my Special Needs son who has Asperger's Syndrome (High Functioning Autism) and ADHD. I would be interested in hearing from any alumni with similar children to possibly bounce ideas re schools and family life off!!"

"After graduation I returned to Beijing and then went to Singapore to take on another job in the IT field. One thing I found through all those travelling around is that no matter where I go, I can always find Cambridge alumni who are doing really well in their career. I think this is what Cambridge teaches us - how to learn, how to live with others, and how to excel. So I'm grateful to this University, and to my beloved Robinson College. I'm currently in Perth, Western Australia, and would love to hear from alumni there!" Richard Li (2002)



Helena Costiff (1997) re-trained as a Physiotherapist in Sheffield. She married Nic Costiff, a fellow physio, in September 2008 and recently moved from Poole, Dorset to Devon: their first baby, George Toby Costiff, was born on 26 June 2009 in Exeter.



Congratulations to Rupal Kantaria (née Sachdev, 1999) and her husband, Jiten, on the birth of their daughter, Siya (above), on 29 June, 2009.



Lisa Bailey (1989) and Nigel Anderson are delighted to announce the birth of their son Thomas Christopher Anderson (above), born in May, a delightfully happy and contented little boy.



Talbot Stark has become the Global Head of Relationship Management (GRM) for BNP Paribas, based in London. The global effort consists of two teams: Hedge Fund Relationship Management and Institutional Relationship Management.

Alex Shipp (1980) qualified for his age group in triathlon, and will be representing the United Kingdom at the ITU Triathlon World Championships in Australia in September 2009.

Karen Telford and Andrew Telford (1989) welcomed a daughter, Erin Violet Grace Telford into the world on 14 January, a sister for William

Deryck Shepherd (1992) married Sara Gulzar at Noseley Hall, Leicestershire, 3 May 2009, after meeting 18 years after being in the same class at school. Attending was Louisa Potter (1992).

Dan Bradley (2000) has just returned from 3 years teaching English in rural Japan with the JET programme. While he was there he taught himself Japanese and is now pursuing a career in languages. Dan is currently working freelance translating for a UK Japan society website and will soon be applying to American graduate schools to complete a Translation and Interpretation MA.



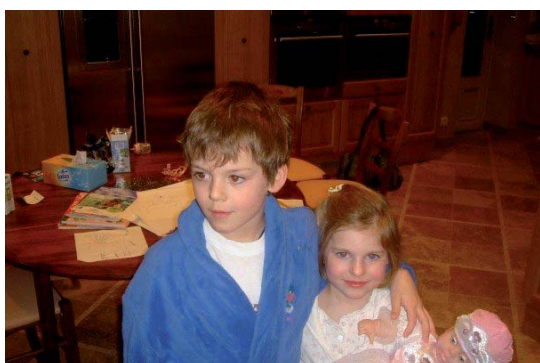
Clare Sharpen (née Valentine, 1997) and Tim (Corpus, 1997), pictured above, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Barnabas Clement, on 4 June 2009.



Clare (1990) and Richard Hewitt are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Lucy Hewitt, born 18 March 2009.



Staff member Helen Grattridge and her husband Paul are happy to announce the birth of their son, Evan, on 24 February 2009. A brother for Lauren.



Marc Francis (1986) is living in Brussels with his two wonderful children (photo above), Matthias (10) and Julia (7).

Saul Metzstein (1989) has been directing films and TV programmes for the past decade. His latest, "Micro Men," is a comedy about the rivalry between Clive Sinclair, maker of the ZX Spectrum, and Chris Curry of Acorn Computers, who manufactured the BBC Micro. The film was partially shot in Cambridge, and stars Alexander Armstrong and Martin Freeman; it will be broadcast on BBC4 at the beginning of October. Saul is the father of a five-year old, Eli.

Events

October

31 - Neil Mullarkey
Improvisation: anyone
can do it



Kathleen and James Ball above (both 1994) had a great time at fellow Alumnus, Aelyn Smith-Gillespie's (1994) marriage to Yuying, along with Eric Ling, Dan Edwardes and Mark Leonard (all 1994). (Aelyn Smith-Gillespie's email jfeball@gmail.com)



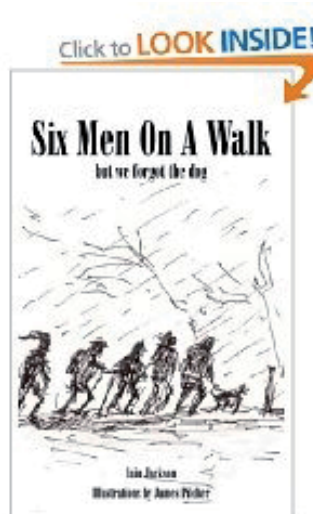
Nicole Weiner (1993) and David Appleton (Trinity 1994) are happy to announce belatedly the birth of Isaac Guy (above) on 24 November 2008 - a brother for Alice Hannah (age 4).

November

1 - Commemoration
of Benefactors and
supper in Hall

7/8 - The Art of
SamulNori

Sebastian Peattie (1983) says "I am a housing lawyer with the UK's largest legal aid provider. I am married unto a Sicilian and we have two children (as per picture at the Venice Carnival) and live in Ladbroke Grove. Apart from married life (are you reading this Stefania?), the years at Robinson studying Classics were the happiest of my life. Thank you alma mater."



Iain Jackson, (1980) a self-confessed 'grumpy old man', is a 19-stone former rugby player, 'wannabe-neverbe athlete' who has a passion for adventure racing. Iain lives with his family in Gravesend, Kent. In his spare time Iain commutes to Norrköping in Sweden where he is CEO for an electronics start-up company. He has published a book: *Six Men on a Walk (but we forgot the dog!)* This book tells the tale of The Gravesend Malt Whiskey Club - a group of irreverent whiskey-drinking forty-something's who, following a 'bright idea' in the local pub, decide to sign up to and train for the Caledonian Challenge.

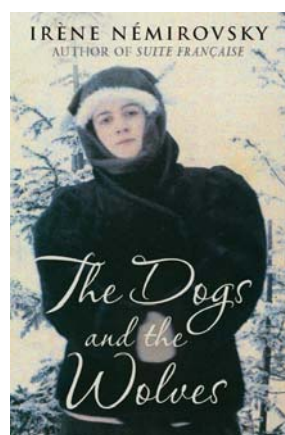


Mark Maurice (1999) married Sara Landau on 1 March 2009 and is now living in Belsize Park, London working in International Tax Consultancy.

December

5 - Christmas Concert

5 - Freshers' parents'
lunch



Sandra Smith (Fellow) has recently translated *The Dogs and the Wolves* by Irène Némirovsky, which is due to be published in October 2009. This wonderful, panoramic novel goes right back to Irène Némirovsky's roots, sweeping the reader from the Jewish quarter of a Ukrainian city in the early years of the twentieth century to Paris in the twenties and thirties, and back again to eastern Europe in a snowy winter on the eve of war. Sandra was key in helping the College establish the Irène Némirovsky Travel Grant for students.

Norman Wong (2004) is currently living and working in London. He joined the energy consulting industry not too long ago and is focused on global gas trade, with special attention in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). He can be contacted at norman.wong@cantab.net.

January

9 - Graduands'
parents' lunch

February

23 - Law Dinner
at Weil, Gotshal &
Manges

March

20 - Pegasus Dinner
and AGM

September

25/26 - Annual
Reunion, for years
1980, '85, '90, '95, 2000