

# BIN BROOK


The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



*A Royal Visit*



M I C H A E L M A S 2 0 1 1



## Proud to be Policing

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To book go to [www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php)

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Front cover photograph: His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, see article page 6.





Gavin Stephens (1990), a Chief Superintendent in the Surrey Police force, is interviewed by Bin Brook about how he came to a career in the Police. Gavin has worked in a range of different areas in the Police Service and gives us a inside look at the variety of work with which it engages.

*What made you decide to go into policing?*

Before starting at Cambridge I worked for GEC Marconi Research as a sponsored student, and as much as I enjoyed engineering, it made me realise that I wanted a different career, one where I could make a difference within local communities. A friend of mine dropped out of his university studies at Liverpool to join the police and his stories were captivating. For me it offered a new challenge and it hasn't disappointed.

In my final year I switched from Engineering to the Management Studies Tripos and through hard work (encouraged by excellent tutorials from Dr Rudy) I was delighted to obtain a First. At that point I did think twice about staying on to do post-graduate work. The Police Service has a strong relationship with the Department of Criminology, where I spent time in the library conducting research for my initial recruitment interviews.

*Who knows, one day I may be back in Cambridge.*

*What is a career in policing really like?*

Well it's not for the faint-hearted. When I started my police probation with Cambridgeshire Constabulary the first thing that struck me was just how vicious people could be to each other. The level of violence can be truly shocking. I remember vividly trying to quell a fight outside a nightclub in Peterborough, and as one of the attackers was wrestled to the floor a handgun fell from the inside of his jacket onto the pavement. From that point onwards I knew this was a career to be taken seriously.

The variety



Gavin Stephens





On the beat

of roles on offer in policing is fantastic. I soon returned to police Cambridge, based at Parkside Police Station, and it was fascinating to see an entirely different side of the city. The local knowledge I'd gained as a student was helpful – it's always handy to know the alleyways when you are chasing someone.

Since 1993 I've worked in around ten different areas of policing, including emergency response, community policing, CID (Criminal Investigation Department) and project work at a local and national level. Every role brings its own challenges. Some of the most interesting challenges in recent years have been working for Surrey Police.

As Head of a Serious and Organised Crime Command I had responsibility for all aspects of proactive, covert and undercover policing. The cost of organised crime to the UK economy has been estimated to be in the region of £40bn – more than double the overall budget for all 43 police forces in the UK. Every investigation I managed, from kidnap to drugs importation, had an international dimension, and most were very complex, requiring ingenuity and a great deal of skill from the investigators involved. The standard of work from these teams is exceptional, as they are often providing support to multiple investigations, including their colleagues working on homicide, which at the time included the high profile investigation into the abduction and murder of Milly Dowler by Levi Bellfield. In this

role I gained a deeper understanding of the legal responsibilities carried by senior police officers, as I was approving surveillance applications for intrusion into individuals' private lives. Balancing the proportionality of such intrusion against the objectives sought in preventing or detecting crime is not a decision that can be taken lightly.

Following this I led the Professional Standards Department, responsible for the investigation of complaints, conduct and anti-corruption. Quite rightly, public expectation of the standards in policing is very high. At the same time officers and staff are required to make decisions in conditions of uncertainty, with limited information or time and often under pressure. Such decisions can be unpicked at length by lawyers and media commentators many months after the event. Operating in this environment requires sound judgement and personal resilience.

As has been exposed in the mobile phone 'hacking' scandal, public tolerance of corruption in policing is very low. I can tell you that within the service the tolerance is even lower, as it undermines trust, confidence and hence our ability to police by consent, which we value so much.

At the end of my first week in post, the first fatal police shooting for 10 years took place in Surrey on the steps of Guildford Cathedral. The leadership challenges for my colleagues in managing the impact on the family of the deceased,



The public face of the police

the community and the officers involved, alongside working with the Independent Police Complaints Commission, were significant, and I can't think of many other careers where you'll be tested in this way.

*Are you able to apply what you learnt at Cambridge to your career?*

Absolutely. In many respects policing is about problem-solving, and Engineering IA & IB certainly provided me with a disciplined approach. Gathering evidence to understand the key issues, testing that evidence to provide options for implementation, and then evaluating the results, can apply to reducing youth offending, investigating major crime or negotiating neighbourhood disputes.

The time I spent at the Judge Institute of Management Studies, which in its early days, 1992/3, was in a basement off Silver Street, has also provided me with a curiosity about how organisations work effectively. Police leadership is not only about being professionally competent in operational issues, but also requires executive and business skills. Keeping the public safe and confident, whilst the pressure on public finances is so extreme, is very demanding. My current Chief Constable, Mark Rowley, who is also a Cambridge graduate (St. Catharine's, 1983) looked to research in the private sector that described how organisations which adopted

an aggressive strategy in times of recession were most likely to survive. Through a similar approach in Surrey Police we set ourselves higher savings targets than were necessary, in order to be the only force in the UK able to invest in 200 additional officers.

My time at Cambridge really stretched my thinking and instilled a love of learning. By its very nature there is very little stability in policing, which provides endless opportunities to learn something new. Policing excels in times of crisis through good team work and a can-do culture. I've found it a very refreshing place to work.

*What are the opportunities for career progression?*

I transferred to Surrey Police in 1996 when I married, and was fortunate to work for Peter Fahy, who is now the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester. He took an interest in my development and I completed the Accelerated Promotion Course (now called the High Potential Development Scheme). This exposed me to broader opportunities, including a work placement with Virgin.

Whilst working for Sir Denis O'Connor, who is now Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, I wrote a business case that secured Home Office, then Treasury, funding for a programme of reform that led to the introduction



of neighbourhood policing in every force in England and Wales. For four years I worked with colleagues from other forces, academics, researchers and senior civil servants. I was exposed to the politics of policing at a national level and I developed a national network of contacts that has proved invaluable over the years in supporting my professional development.

Providing you can demonstrate potential for operational leadership, performance management and an ability to lead people and organisations through change, then it is possible to advance quickly in policing. It is also possible to develop specialisms, for example in firearms command, or public order policing. Whilst working on organised crime I also took on the role of policing commander for the Epsom Derby, the UK's largest one-day sporting event. With crowds of up to 120,000, plus royalty protection duties, from a policing perspective it is much more than a horse race.

*What advice would you give to someone interested in a career in policing?*

Be prepared for continual evolution. Policing has changed dramatically since I joined. When I started we worked from paper crime reports, and now I've just launched the first mobile phone app that puts policing in your pocket. With each change of

Government, or each critical incident, comes new legislation and new expectations. The governance arrangements are due to change next year with the proposed introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners, which will add party politics to an already politically-charged policing environment. With each of these changes come fresh opportunities. If you enjoy making risk-based decisions, on both operational and organisational issues, and if you don't mind the public scrutiny that comes with that, then policing could be a career for you.

It is possible to make a real difference to peoples' lives, and although it is rare to receive public thanks in policing, because let's face it the police usually turn up when something bad has happened, it remains a very satisfying career. You only have to look elsewhere in the world, to where there is an absence of good policing, to realise that it is a worthwhile pursuit. You may be able to earn more in other careers, but you'll be all the richer for a career in policing. Just be warned – it's nothing like it is on TV.

If you want to find out more about Gavin's life in policing you can follow him on Twitter @CSuptStephens, or on his blog at <http://gavthecop.wordpress.com>

Engaging with the community





# *A Royal Visit*

*Robinson's first Visitor makes his last official appearance in College*

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

On 22 June His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, paid his final visit to the University and to Robinson before he stood down as Chancellor of the University and the first Visitor of Robinson, a role he has held *ex-officio* as the Chancellor.

His Royal Highness was welcomed at Robinson College by the Warden, Professor David Yates. After viewing an exhibition relating to the construction of the College from 1977, the year he was installed as Chancellor, to 1980, he was guest of honour at a reception for Fellows, students and staff and spent a great deal of time chatting and joking with younger members of the College. He enjoyed a performance by the choir in the College chapel and admired its stained glass windows by John Piper.

This was the Chancellor's third visit to the college, the first having been to the construction site in 1979 and the second when he accompanied Her Majesty The Queen for the official opening on 29th May 1981.





His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visiting the Chapel, meeting the choir, students and staff.

In the evening His Royal Highness attended a dinner to mark his 34 years as Chancellor at Trinity College with 200 guests. The following day he travelled to the Sidgwick Site where he visited the Faculty of Music and the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages. In between the two he paused to view the construction site of the new home for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences which, it was then announced, will be named the Alison Richard Building in honour of the Vice-Chancellor Emerita.

Prince Philip's final duty as Chancellor was the conferring of Honorary Degrees on eight distinguished individuals at a special Congregation in the Senate House.

Prince Philip's visit marked the end of his role as Visitor of Robinson. For those who are wondering, a Visitor, in United Kingdom law and history, is an overseer of an autonomous ecclesiastical or eleemosynary institution, i.e. a charitable institution set up for the perpetual distribution of the founder's alms and bounty, who can intervene in the internal affairs of that institution. These institutions usually comprise cathedrals, chapels, colleges, universities and hospitals. The British sovereign, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Archbishop of Canterbury, peers, and diocesan bishops, are the most common Visitors, though any person or office-holder can be nominated. There is a ceremonial element to the role, and the Visitor may also be called upon to give advice where an institution expresses doubt as to its powers under its charter and statutes. However, the most important function of the Visitor has been within academic institutions where the Visitor has had to determine disputes arising between the academic institution and its members. Traditionally, the courts have been exempted from any jurisdiction over student complaints. As a result speculation arose that this contravened the Human Rights Act 1998. However, in 2004 the Higher Education Act transferred the jurisdiction of the Visitor over student complaints in English and Welsh universities to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

An election by members of the University Senate for the next person to hold the office of Chancellor, who will also be, *ex-officio*, Visitor of Robinson, is due to take place on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th October. The four candidates are the Nomination Board's candidate, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, and Mr Abdul Arain, Mr Brian Blessed and Mr Michael Mansfield. Further details about the arrangements for the election and College hospitality available to alumni returning to vote may be seen on the College website at <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/viewnews.php>.





# TWEETS from TAHRIR

**Egypt's revolution as  
it unfolded, in the  
words of the people  
who made it**

Part of the front cover of the book *Tweets from Tahrir*, edited by Nadia Idle and Alex Nunns.

Alex Nunns is a writer and political campaigner. He read History at Robinson from 2000 and was awarded a First with distinction. He talks about his book, which explores the graphic reporting of the Egyptian revolution via Twitter and the effect that this had on the revolution and our perception of it.

Last year I could not have imagined producing a book about Egypt. I am not an Egyptian, or even an Arab. I am just an Englishman. But the Egyptian Revolution inspired me profoundly and that was in part due to social media – it was because I could hear directly from the activists in Tahrir Square, which was so central to the whole revolution, about every detail of their uprising as it happened. In that way their revolution became personal to me, and to millions of others around the world.

Not wanting to keep this experience to myself, with my Egyptian friend, Nadia Idle (who was in Tahrir

Square when Mubarak fell) I co-edited *Tweets from Tahrir: Egypt's revolution as it unfolded, in the words of the people who made it*. The book uses collected tweets from Twitter to tell the story of the Egyptian uprising. Despite sounding like a rubbish idea that would make for disjointed reading, in fact the story formed by this new medium is as gripping as a thriller.

The book was produced and published extremely quickly with an intensity that recalled my third year exams. All the effort was made worthwhile by its fantastic reception, with praise from people



From left to right; protesters gather in Tahrir around army vehicles; an injured man helped away from the front line by two friends, the front line of the protest; a woman singing songs of freedom. All the pictures in the article are from Tweets from Tahrir, copyright Sarah Carr

as eminent as Robert Fisk and Jon Stewart. Most importantly, it has been very well received in Egypt.

When the Egyptian Revolution erupted in January and February, I was transfixed by the 24-hour news channels. The pictures from the cameras stationed on the tops of hotels surrounding the square were remarkable, but they could not give me a true sense of what was going on – who the protesters were, their motivation, and the shifts in momentum they were experiencing.

So I turned to Twitter and found a different kind of reporting that astounded me. Here was a second-by-second, real-time account of a revolution. This tweet from Gigi Ibrahim, a young female activist, is one of those that grabbed me:

Gsquare86 Gigi Ibrahim  
I WILL NOT LEAVE TAHRIR TONIGHT so stop telling me to do so! We need more people in TAHRIR NOW!! Get here for our freedom!!!  
#Egypt  
19:39:22 Feb 2

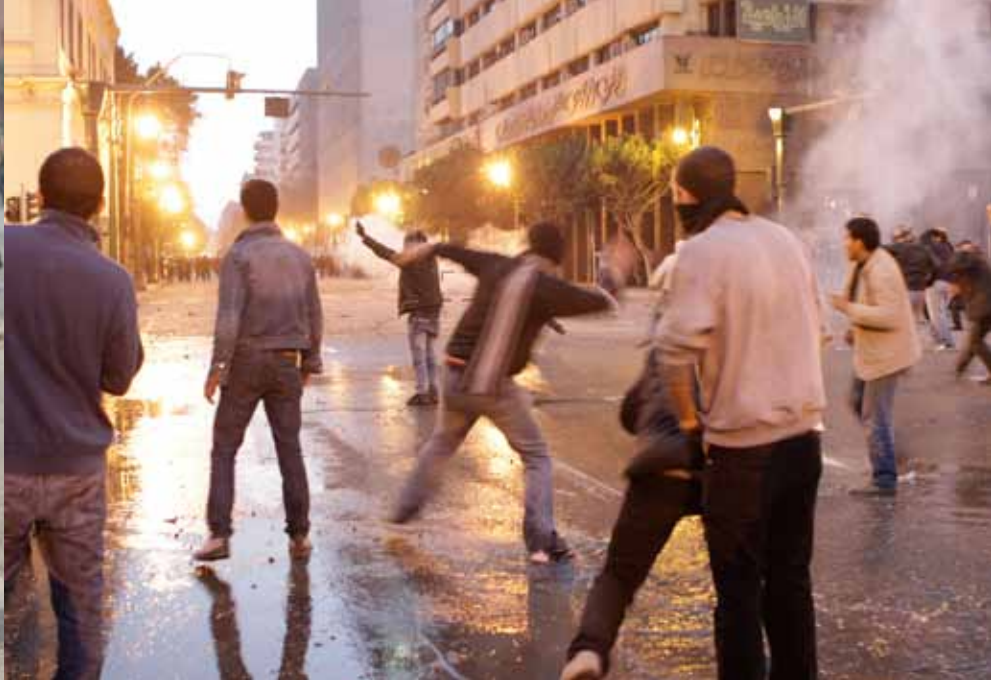
This tweet was posted right in the middle of the battle for Tahrir Square on 2nd February, when Mubarak's thugs attacked the demonstrators with rocks, knives, Molotov cocktails and guns. At the time it looked to all the world like the square would be overrun, with horrendous consequences



for those that remained. So there is drama and bravery in this tweet, and it was just one of many such messages from normal young people who found themselves in an extraordinary, world-shaping situation.

Having read History while at Robinson it struck me that this was a totally new way of documenting a great event. There are plenty of first-hand accounts of previous revolutions: letters, diaries, journalism and the like – what historians call primary sources. But none of them record on-the-spot reactions to events as they unfold. With new technology thoughts can be instantly published for the world to read. The trouble is that much of this information





is then lost in the vacuum of cyberspace. After a few weeks it becomes very difficult even to find old tweets, as they gradually disappear from Twitter.

But as well as preserving tweets, the book had to be readable. As this is the first time anyone has produced a book of this kind, there was no template. It could not be comprehensive – there were too many tweets and too many tweeters. One activist alone managed to tweet over 60,000 words during the uprising! So the book focuses on a core group of tweeters who lead the reader through.

Some of them describe themselves as ‘citizen journalists’, some tweet with raw emotion, some focus on tactics, while others are funny. The reader

gets to know them; it is very much a human story.

The book plays to the debate about the role of social media in the Arab uprisings. Some commentators have dubbed them ‘Twitter Revolutions’. This is wrong. There are deep, long-term causes behind this revolutionary wave, including the impact of neo-liberal economic policies, a lack of opportunities for young people, corruption, and the sheer brutality of the regimes. The key battles take place in the streets, not online, and in Tunisia and Egypt, while the dictators have been removed, the revolutions continue in more complicated circumstances.

It cannot be doubted that one of the distinctive features of this phenomenon is the way the new tools of communication have been used, and suppressed, and how they have enabled events to unfold at lightning pace. For its part Twitter has been a kind of alternative press in countries with state-controlled media, and it has given us some of the most riveting coverage ever recorded.

*Tweets from Tahrir* is available by mail order from [www.orbooks.com](http://www.orbooks.com) or Amazon (use the link on the Robinson website’s alumni page to purchase items and 5% of your purchase price will be donated to Robinson to support current and future students <http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/>).



# From Robinson College to venture capital and entrepreneurship

Dina Chaya (1990, above left) talks about how her career evolved from molecular biology to venture capital and entrepreneurship, to launching her own business, Winterson, dealing with luxury pearls.

## ROBINSON COLLEGE: THE FOUNDATION TO A CAREER IN BUSINESS

Molecular biology is the study of the molecular mechanisms of biology, whilst venture capital is the investment of capital in emerging enterprises with potential for growth and financial returns. So how did my career evolve from molecular biology to venture capital?

### NATURAL SCIENCES AT ROBINSON COLLEGE

My career started on a predictable academic path. I graduated from Robinson College in 1993 completing a Natural Sciences Tripos. Life at the College was both busy and fun. I have great memories of spending a day at the library buried in books, before playing squash across the road from the College, or catching up with friends.

During this time, I learned the importance of detail required in academic life, which has paid off many times in my professional career. My time at the College also opened doors to subsequent studies. I obtained Masters and Doctorate Degrees in cellular and molecular biology, working at the

Pasteur Institute in Paris, and carried on with post-doctoral research in the US.

Science was fascinating and in particular I enjoyed the study of developmental biology. For example, how do animals develop from a single cell to complex multicellular organisms? Why does the adult liver regenerate itself nearly fully, whilst the brain does not?

The truth is, however, I was neither good, nor bad, nor lucky at science. So ten years down the academic path, with a couple of publications and decent credentials to my name, my life took a sharp turn.

### INVESTING IN NEW VENTURES

In 2001 I joined the venture capital industry through a lucky break. I learned the ropes on the job and worked at great firms like Index Ventures and 3i. For the last couple of years I have been working with NeoMed, a specialist venture capital firm that invests exclusively in companies with innovative medical products.



NeoMed was founded in 1997 and has delivered top-quartile, venture capital returns for over 10 years. Notably successful investments include PregLem SA, a company developing pharmaceutical drugs for women's reproductive medicine, and Volcano Corporation, a company developing and commercialising medical devices that enhance the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

The role in venture capital is a privilege and fantastic in the breadth of its activities. Every day we consider new treatments for unmet medical needs, assess their commercial risks and market dynamics, and handle corporate, legal and financial aspects of company life. The profession uses both scientific knowledge and business expertise.

#### WINTERSON, 50 YEARS OF LUXURY PEARLS

With this experience in venture capital, I was recently inspired to extend my family's business, one of Europe's leading specialist suppliers of high-quality pearls to retailers, to a new online generation of lovers of luxury pearl jewellery. In early 2010 I launched Winterson together with my partner, Andrew Fraser, who is a Pearls Graduate from the Gemological Institute of America and who now runs the company.

The online retail market for luxury goods is growing as customers are attracted to convenience combined with quality and customer service. Winterson combines a modern, web-based approach with old-school service, expertise and quality. This means we can provide some of the finest ranges of pearl jewellery at competitive prices. If you get a chance, do please look around the site at [www.winterson.co.uk](http://www.winterson.co.uk).

#### CHALLENGES & REWARDS

The entrepreneurial path is filled with rewards. Financial gain is of course one of these potential

rewards, but not the only one. Working in small, dynamic teams can be empowering and a lot of fun. Equally, being involved with a fast-growing venture brings many opportunities to develop personally and learn.

But building a successful new venture is really not easy and there are three key lessons I have learned on the way from all my experiences in venture capital and Winterson. Firstly, partner with great teams. Every company will have setbacks in delivering its business plan. A trusted, complementary and skilled team is essential to overcome these challenges.

Secondly, know your product and your market. In a recession in particular, understand how your product is unique and adapt your strategy to take advantage of market changes.

Finally, be lean and mean. Whether you raise venture capital, or invest your own money, capital is scarce and expensive. Negotiate everything and keep your costs low.

#### NATURAL SCIENCES OR ECONOMICS?

Turning back to 1993, I would never have predicted how my career would unfold. Occasionally, I wonder if I should have studied Economics at Robinson College, instead of Natural Sciences. I would have surely learned the principles of venture capitalism and built business skills much earlier. In truth, however, I would never have broken into the highly competitive world of venture capital without a strong scientific education. The scientific skills of rigour and detail have also undoubtedly helped me in a competitive business environment. So in conclusion, my choice of Natural Sciences at Robinson was an unexpected, but instrumental, cornerstone in my privileged career.



# A Robinson & onefinestay

Demetrios Zoppos, Economics (1990) talks about his new start-up business onefinestay and how his Robinson experience helped to shape his entrepreneurial inclinations.

I came up to Cambridge to read Economics in the autumn of 1990 with no previous exposure to the dismal science. So Keynes' General Theory wasn't exactly the easiest introduction to the discipline. Besides, there was so much to do beyond studies – and I did. Lots of sport – athletics and football – representing the University in the former and College in the latter. I even tried my luck at rowing and fondly recall the May bumps when one of us (who shall remain unnamed) rowed the entire race on his backside, having come off his seat in the first few lengths. I was also involved with the Robinson College Students Association, initially as Overseas Students' Officer and later as JCR President. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my time at Robinson was the interesting mix of fellow students – a Noah's Ark of people with a wide range of interests and outlooks on life.

After Cambridge came Harvard – two years at the Kennedy School seemed like a walk in the park compared to the inquisition-cum-supervision sessions on the Industrial Revolution with Professor McPherson at Caius. Following a few years as a management consultant with McKinsey in London, I decided to cross the rubicon into "startup land", initially with a technology business in the airfreight sector and, more recently, in hospitality with onefinestay.

I launched onefinestay together with another fellow

Cambridge alumnus, Greg Marsh (Christ's, 1997), just over a year ago. The concept is simple: we let out people's homes while they're out of town to guests looking for distinctive stays in London. For guests, we provide hotel-style services such as toiletries and 5\* hotel linens, towels and an iPhone. For hosts, we offer a hassle-free solution to earn an extra income on their greatest asset, their home. We now have more than 100 homes on our books – all in central London. And we are planning international expansion next year, with a membership scheme which will allow our hosts to stay in distinctive homes across the world.

Like Robinson students, our hosts also come from a wonderful kaleidoscope of backgrounds – doctors, designers, singers, civil servants, lawyers and the occasional academic. They are all hosting sophisticated travellers in their London homes and benefit from our service, which takes the hassle out of rental. From insurance and marketing through to cleaning and tidying, we look after their homes when they are away.

For current Robinson students or recent graduates interested in getting involved with startups, feel free to reach me on [demetrios@onefinestay.com](mailto:demetrios@onefinestay.com). Any alumni interested in listing their homes on onefinestay you can take a closer look at [www.onefinestay.com/hosts](http://www.onefinestay.com/hosts).





Fiona Baxter (née Dane, 1997) and Richard Baxter (Queens') are delighted to announce the arrival of Jennifer Marie on 2 July 2011, a little sister for Catriona Bethany (born March 2008).



Helen Chiarenza (née Dixon, 1996) & Emiliano are delighted to announce the arrival of Milena Louise on 26th March 2011 weighing just 5lb 3oz. Her big sister Sara May enjoys helping look after her.



Rachael Gooding (nee Minton, 1999) and husband James would like to announce the arrival of their lovely daughter Lara Sophia, born on 1 July 2011.



Huw Daniel (1998) and Kristin Deeken would like to announce the birth of their daughter Nesta Johanna Deeken. She was born on 6 July 2011 at Watford General Hospital weighing 8 lb 12 oz.



Jeremy Wall (1985) had a baby two years ago and lives in Los Angeles producing movies.

Michael Barrett (1987) and Claire, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, son Luke, on 3 December 2010.

Neil Mullarkey's alter ego L. Vaughan Spencer is back at the Comedy Store in "Don't Be Needy Be Succeedy" 17 October <http://bit.ly/eQhrqv>. Neil recently worked with entrepreneurs at the Judge Business School, as he has previously done at the Cass School of Business at City University, who he says "were kind enough to describe me as a 'visiting lecturer' as I apply my take on improv theatre to the world of leadership and organisational development".



A Fellows' VIII went out on the river a number of times in 2010/11. The crew was: Francis Pope, Michael Hurley, Andrew Sharkey, Marcus Gehring, Jeff Mackowiak, Ross Reason, Rory Finnin, John Sergeant and Holly Hedgeland. There were wildly varied skills but a good time was had by all. They were not able to row enough to issue a challenge to another College, but maybe next time?

Ed Constable was awarded a prestigious €2.5 million ERC Advanced Researcher Grant for his project Li-Lo (Light-In, Light-Out) examining the development of renewable technologies for lighting and solar energy use. This project started in 2011 and will run for five years. He has been appointed Vice Rector of the University of Basel from August 2011 with a special responsibility for research and development. He was also awarded the Sustainable Energy Award of the Royal Society of Chemistry for his work on supramolecular coordination chemistry for the design and fabrication of next generation energy-devices, especially his work centred on energy generation from photovoltaics and efficient lighting devices based on LECs & OLEDs.

Rosamund Thomas (Bye Fellow, 1982) has finished work on a new book entitled *Business Ethics*, in which she has edited and written 2 chapters, one being *The Ethics - or Lack of Ethics - in the Global Financial Crisis 2007-2010*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALUMNI  
FELLOWS  
AND STAFF



Helen Cornish (Fellow) and her husband, Liam Devlin, were delighted to welcome a second son, Harry Joseph, to their family in August 2010. Like his elder brother, George, Harry was baptised in the Robinson College Chapel by the Rev'd Dr Maggi Dawn. The College choir sang during the service, which made it an even more special occasion for all those attending. Helen returned to work as Fellow Director of Development in May 2011.



David Gullette (2001) and Mini Choi are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Pia Victoria, born on 12 June 2011.



Paul and Ruth Burden (née Morton, both 1981) celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 28 December 2010. They met at Robinson in 1981, and presumably must be one of the longest married Robinson couples! Although Paul studied Engineering and Ruth Natural Sciences, Ruth is now a secondary maths teacher and Paul is vicar of two churches on the edge of Bath.



Phu To (1997) announces the birth of his son, Cam Sai To, born on 2 February 2011



A day out for Robinson mothers and children at Littlehampton in November 2010. Back row left to right: Sarah Davies, Karen Murphy, Karen Postlethwaite, Karen Hunter, Beth Harding. Front row Lisa Bailey (all 1989).

**PRACTICALLY  
POSITIVE.**

Jen Rolfe (2003) has just set up her own professional training and coaching business: [www.practicallypositive.com](http://www.practicallypositive.com). If you need any learning and development consultancy, training, one-to-one executive/life coaching, or general insights into how positive psychology can help your team/business, get in touch. Happy to offer 10% off usual prices to Robinson alumni.

Ashley Young (1995) has become a partner at Kirkland & Ellis in Hong Kong where he lives with his partner, Andrew, who is studying Mandarin at Hong Kong University.



Anne and Rory Finnin (Fellow) are happy to announce the birth of Shane Atticus Finnin who was born on 29 June 2011 in Cambridge, 9 lbs 3 ounces and 23 inches long.

Laura Sole (1992) has been preparing the Nomination Dossier for the UK's 2011 nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. The Nomination for the Twin Monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow was submitted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to UNESCO earlier this year, and will be considered by the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee annual meeting in St Petersburg in July 2012.

Mark Galeotti (1987) is thoroughly delighted to announce his engagement to Martha Coe. He proposed on Red Square in Moscow on the eve of the Victory Day celebrations, where they were indulging their mutual Russophilia. The couple live in Brooklyn, New York, with their two dogs, Hugo and Pippin.





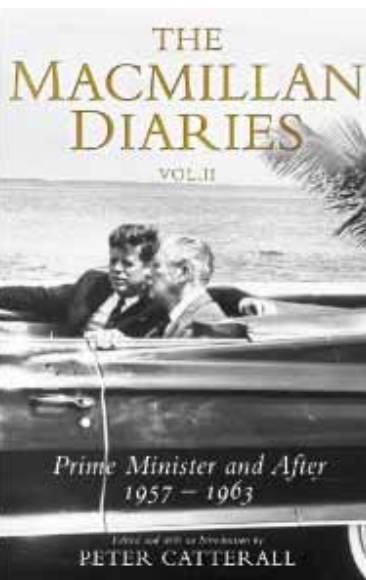
Mandy Palmer (1980, formerly Bull, née Maltby) married Ian Palmer on 16 April 2011. Ian and Mandy have been together for 22 years and have two children: Ellie (17) and Adam (10).



Athina Markaki (Fellow) and her husband are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Constantina Eleonora Vimpli, on Friday 13 May 2011, weighing 2.920 kg.



Sok-Theng Cheng (1990) had a third daughter, Naomi Enning Kanagalingam, in November. Sok-Theng now works as Head of Legal for Morgan Stanley in Singapore.



Peter Catterall (1981) edited *The Macmillan Diaries: Prime Minister and After 1957-1963*, the diaries of Harold Macmillan, published by Macmillan (who else) in May 2011.



On 16 July 2011 Andrew Morton (1989) was married in Chester to Brenda Morton.



Penny Avril (1989) and Lloyd Wayne Puckett are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter Lucia Avril Puckett, in January 2011. Lucia is younger sister of Max Patrick Puckett and companion for Weimaraner Lady Jane.



Adam Babiker (1999) and his wife Eleanor, are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter, Marla Rose Babiker, on 13 September 2010.

Iain (1994) and Kate McNamara are delighted to report that their first born, a daughter called Tessa Erin, arrived safe and sound on 17 November 2010

Sam Tully (1984) married Nandita Sahgal at St Michael and All Angels Church, Chiswick on Friday 22 July 2011. The reception was at Syon House, Isleworth.

After an exciting 12 years in New York, Greg Norton-Kidd (1987) and his wife, Louise, are off to Hong Kong with their three monsters Isabella (9), Sofia (8), and Oliver (3). They will be in Hong Kong from August 2011, and look forward to a pint with any Robinsonians in that neck of the woods.

Claire Gordon (1982), Teaching Fellow in East European Politics at the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science was the co-author of a recent European Parliament Report on 'Measures to Promote the Situation of EU Roma Citizens' (January 2011).

Brian Skeet (1985) - now celebrating two years of marriage to the lovely Terry Cummings - is currently in prep on three films for the next two years; *Disorientated* - a gay film noir set in Italy, starring Dee Wallace ("ET"), Michael Kearns ("90210") and Armand Assante; *In Search Of The Miraculous*, starring Joanna Cassidy ("Blade Runner", "Under Fire") and Erica Durand ("Smallville"), which has won an award at the Monaco Film Festival; and *My Mistress* - starring Robert Gant ("US version of 'Queer As Folk'"), and Shelley Long ("Cheers", "Frasier", "Outrageous Fortune").

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Rachel Simmonds (1999) married Jason Anthony Crozier on 21 May 2011 on the National Theatre's roof in London, with a party on a boat after a beautiful ceremony and bbq! The honeymoon was in Borneo: they loved seeing wild orangutans, macaques, proboscis monkeys, crocodiles and elephants. Rachel qualified as an Architect in 2007 and works at Waugh Thistleton Architects in Shoreditch. She enjoys working on residential and mixed-use projects in East London and Clapham, and being involved in some fantastic new masterplans for developing areas of London.



Zoë Gray (1997) married Bob Geldermans in the mairie of Saint Sulpice de Roumagnac (France) on 18 June 2011, in the presence of several other Robinsonians such as Rosalind Blundell (née Brown), Catrina Davies, Chloë Houston and Will Mandy.



June 10th 2011 saw Stew Webb (1993) marry Connie Kim at the Richard Nixon Library near Los Angeles. 1993 Binsonians were well represented - Dom Marnell was Best Man and Marty McKee, Gavin Parnaby, Rachel Watson (née Aspinall), Ros Holland (née Besford), Clare Stephens and Martin Smith were all present.



Robert Freedman (1999) announces his engagement to Erin Willis, of San Diego, California. They will marry in New York City in September 2012.



Alex (2002) and Ailsa Corbishley are proud to announce the birth of Annabella on 16 July 2011. She weighed in at 8lb12oz and was born at home. Their first-born, Harriet, is delighted with her new baby sister and all are doing well.



Torsten Alexander Heilmann was born to Per (Downing 1997) and Lydia Heilmann (née Breen, 1995) on 21 July 2010. Their first son, Lars is now 3 1/2. They live 'beside the seaside' in Fairfield Connecticut, USA.



John Dodds and Kirsty Harrison (both 2001) were married in their home village of Castle Donington in July 2009. Several Robinson alumni were there to celebrate, including: bridesmaids Claire Hallissey (née Willer, 2001), and Ruth Harrison (née Westbrooke, 2002), usher James Malton (2001), plus, Stephen Greene, Dave Halse, Ronan Wade, Mark Plane, Tom Headen, Matt Ironside (all 2001) and Mark Sydenham (2000). Two years on, they have a beautiful daughter, Emily Charlotte Dodds, who was born on St Patrick's Day this year.



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Victor Chua (1989) has become engaged to Anastasia Maximova. He continues to live in Cambridge and sponsors a local polo team, named Candestic, after the healthcare consulting company he co-founded in 2002.





Skip and Stacey Schultz (née Blades, 1997) are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Jackson Arthur Schultz, born 29 June 2010 weighing 8lb 8 ½ oz. Stacey and Skip moved to Lincolnshire in 2009, where they work as teachers of languages and humanities respectively, and are enjoying their new jobs as mummy and daddy, watching Jackson grow into a loveable, cheeky toddler.

Jill Lin (née Kitchen) and Dean Lin (both 1999) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Joshua Jonathan Lin, on 20 December 2010 in Washington, DC.

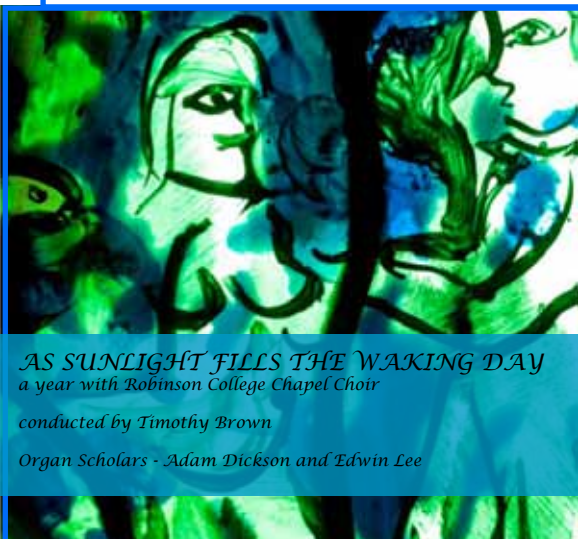
From October 2010 Dr Bill Nolan (Fellow) took on the role as Senior Tutor - to ensure that all our students continue to give it their best shot and take full advantage of the tremendous academic opportunities that Cambridge offers.

Athene Donald (Fellow) has been honoured as one of seven major female figures, working in the fields of science, engineering and technology, recognised at a ceremony at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London. The UKRC awards recognise women who are 'an inspiration to others'. Their portraits will be displayed in the halls of leading scientific professional bodies and academic institutions.

Murray Evans (Bye Fellow 1986-87), Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg, Canada, is preparing a book for press. *Sublime Coleridge: The Opus Maximum* will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in their Nineteenth-Century Major Lives and Letters series.

Leonard Conolly (Honorary Fellow) has published a history of the Shaw Festival, one of North America's major repertory theatre companies. *The Shaw Festival: The First Fifty Years* (Toronto: Oxford University Press) was released in May 2011. Professor Conolly has been appointed editor of *The Journal of Canadian Studies*, Canada's leading interdisciplinary scholarly journal in the humanities and social sciences. He has also been elected a Senior Fellow of Massey College, the University of Toronto's residential graduate college.

Joan Booth (Bye Fellow, 1981; resident Senior Member 2007) is retiring from the 450-year-old chair of Latin Language and Literature at Leiden University in the Netherlands on 31 August 2011 and re-migrating to the UK. At this point she will have completed almost 40 years as a university teacher and almost 10 years in Leiden. Even so, she is retiring slightly early, but she will retain a so-called 'zero appointment' (i.e. unpaid!) as a full professor in the Leiden Faculty of Humanities up to the obligatory retiring age of 65. She is looking forward to saying goodbye to relentlessly escalating administration and returning to full-time scholarship, with a perfect excuse to visit Robinson College even more frequently than at present: she will be taking over from Professor Len Conolly in the Michaelmas term as chair of the Bye Fellows' Bursary Fund, a scheme with a mission very close to her heart.



## NEW ROBINSON CHOIR CD

The College's new CD, *As sunlight fills the waking day*, captures the Choir in thrilling form, singing music from right round the year under the direction of the new Visiting Choral Director, Timothy Brown, and the Organ Scholars. From rousing anthems such as 'O thou the central orb', through Christmas carols such as 'There is no rose', Schubert's Mass in G, recorded in the composer's original scoring with strings and organ, May morning Madrigals, new pieces written for the choir by Giles Swayne and Jeremy Thurlow, to jazzy harmonies from the May Balls, this CD will make an ideal gift for Christmas, or for any time of year! RRP £12; available for £10 to pre-orders made at the Alumni Reunion or sent to the Development Office by October 15th. Please make cheques payable to Robinson College Chapel Choir.

## Name and Address

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