

BIN BROOK

The Magazine of Robinson College, Cambridge



M I C H A E L M A S 2 0 1 3



In this issue

<i>My Robinson</i> , by Glenys Denton.....	2
<i>A Taste of the Andes</i> , Rutie Ballestas.....	3
<i>Gamlingay Eco Hub</i> , Dan Jones.....	5
<i>The Story of Great Little Place</i> , Rossa Shanks.....	7
Announcements	9

Forthcoming Events

November 3rd	Commemoration of Benefactors
November 27th	Architects' Drinks (see page 9)
December 7th	Christmas Concert & Freshers' Parents' Lunch
January 11th	Graduands' Parents' Lunch
Lent Term	Lawyers' Dinner (date and venue t.b.c)
March 22nd	Pegasus Society Seminar, AGM and Dinner

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

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Cover illustration, an architectural detail of Robinson College, from the College photo competition, 2009. For architectural news, see page 9.

My Robinson: Glenys Denton

So Glenys, how long have you been at Robinson and how has your role changed?

I've been here 22 years this December. I used to run a guest house, and then came to Robinson in 1991 as a part-time food service assistant. Eventually I moved up to the SCR (when Sheila Wilson retired) and have been SCR supervisor ever since.

What does the role of SCR supervisor entail?

There's only one of me, so it means doing a bit of everything. I start off by ordering in supplies, tidying the kitchen and the general rooms, and then prepare the dining room for lunchtime service. Fellows come and go, and then I serve lunch. In the afternoon I clear the lunch service and clean. On Wednesday evenings, the Fellows have a self-service supper and so I set that up too. As some of you know, I also supervise High Table during Formal Halls.



Glenys, September 2012.



The SCR kitchen

What skills do you think make you good at your job?

Well, I'm not very good with names, but I never forget a face and I get on with people. I'm lucky that I've got a good memory for detail and I can always remember everyone's little preferences, which definitely comes in handy when working with lots of different people. I think it's really important to be welcoming, especially with new Fellows and visiting academics, and I do make a particular point of making them feel comfortable in the SCR. It must be difficult coming to a new place and it's good that I can offer them a bit of familiarity when they arrive. It's also lovely when visiting academics come back and remember me!

What's it like to supervise a big dinner?

Well, I only supervise High Table now, but I did spend many years as general supervisor in Hall and it was always entertaining! The students were often naughty, but we always had a bit of a joke. I think you have to have a light touch with these things, and it's always better to interact with the diners rather than tell them off too much. I was really firm, but you have to be fair and let people enjoy themselves. Of course, the Fellows never pose these problems...

What's the most outrageous thing that you've seen at a Formal Hall?

Like I say, most students back in the nineties were naughty but nice. There was no disrespect or rudeness and actually, the vast majority were polite and friendly – if a bit worse for

wear! They'd be naughty, but if you said 'no', they would always stop. Usually the worst incidents involved vomit, but the least said about that the better! I do remember that when I first came here, the Boat Club weren't allowed dinners because of an incident in the Garden Room where footprints were found on the ceiling!

How about May Balls?

I've worked about 20 balls now, and I have to admit they do all rather merge into one. After a while, the scenery does start to look a bit familiar! But I do think our balls are really good value and there's always a lot of food. It's always great to see the students having fun – and I remember a particularly funny moment when one alumnus (who will remain unnamed) staggered over and told me that I was his favourite dinner lady!

Do you enjoy working at Reunions?

Absolutely! It's great to see everyone again – and I always try to work these events when I can. Like I say, I'm not always great remembering people's names, but I always recognize your faces. I was really sorry not to be able to work at this September's event – my daughter Laura was getting married – but I hope you all had a really good evening. I'll certainly do my best to be at the next one!



The SCR



A Taste of the Andes

Rutie Ballestas (née Stranack, 1986) studied Architecture at Robinson. Here she tells us about her move to Colombia and her experiences in the fruit juice trade.

When Robinson College kindly sponsored some Spanish lessons in my second year, little did I imagine where they would eventually lead. I was reading Architecture and that summer I set off to South America for the first time to research housing projects for my BA Dissertation. The experience changed my life. I decided to continue my studies and to specialise in development issues. After my degree I was awarded a research grant, and undertook a case study working with 35 families living in *barrios marginados* (shanty towns) in Colombia where I advised them on the design of houses that they would self-build.

I was the first European some Colombians had ever met and I was plied with questions. Why do young people in your country take drugs if they have everything going for them: free education, housing benefit and no war? And, instead of financing military aid for Colombia, and focussing on the drugs trade, why doesn't your government educate your people about our other crops? These questions, especially the latter, prompted much personal reflection.

During that time one member of the group of families I was working with died following a confrontation similar to the recent incident in Woolwich. On my return to the UK this tragedy came up in conversation, and my friends asked what I had done to help the family get justice. In Colombia I had been advised not to get involved. Back in the UK however, all the logical reasons seemed like feeble excuses. I decided to seek out another opportunity to return and to do something practical for those without a voice in Colombia. I wanted to do something for those Colombians too poor to demand justice, by helping them develop their country's rich assets. The resulting project was *Fruto del Espíritu*, a company I set up to develop, market and sell Colombian exotic fruit products.

It is well known that the ongoing civil conflict in Colombia has been largely financed by the trade in drugs. But although this single illicit crop has generated such notoriety, what strikes any visitor to Colombia is its biodiversity. It is one of the world's seventeen so-called *mega-diverse* countries.

There are two sides to *Fruto de Espíritu*'s activity: the sourcing, quality control and packaging of exotic fruit products; and the distribution of the Andean fruit to new overseas markets. There are over 70 species of fruit in Colombia, many of which are yet to be discovered by the British palate, and part of our company's mission is to bring these new flavours to the UK.



Dried fruit and purées

A good example of our activities is our work with *Frutos de los Andes*, our dried fruit supplier, which was set up with the backing of the Menonite Church. The Menonites were running refuges for people displaced by the conflict and arriving in Bogotá. Once, in response to the Colombian Government's *Shared Responsibility* campaign, I had had the opportunity to meet a politician who had been made a target by one of the armed groups for refusing to compromise with them. She had been rescued and flown to the capital, but had had to start life anew as a displaced person. She later invited me to a conference of Displaced Women, where I finally began to realise the full magnitude and gravity of the plight of four million displaced Colombians. The Menonites are a crucial support for many displaced people, and as the cost of accommodating the refugees spiralled, the Church set up a drying plant to



employ displaced women and to offer fairly-traded dried fruit to their congregations in Canada. They also offered a market to smallholder fruit farmers struggling to make a decent living legally in regions vulnerable to the armed groups.

We source our dried fruit from *Frutos de los Andes*, and our Andean Dried Fruit mixes are some of the most successful products in our range which, along with the more conventional mango, pineapple and banana, also include *uchava* and *pitaya*. *Pitaya* (a yellow dragonfruit) is especially unusual - it tastes like a biscuit when dried, which makes it very popular with kids! And with an eye to healthy eating, the packs come in at under 100 calories, and count as one of your five-a-day.



Our *uchuva* (sometimes called physalis or cape gooseberry), is a superfruit, and is sourced from *Asociación Biofruit*. This group has been so successful that the Gobernación de Nariño (County Council) has now invested in a new local drying plant to cut costs further. *Biofruit* was recently audited for Fairtrade Certification.



In addition to dried fruit snacks, we also produce a range of fruit purées. Our fruit purées are sourced from a fruit production plant honoured by the Chamber of Representatives of the Republic for services to export, which has generated 'wholesome rural development'. Our *lulo* purée, which tastes like kiwi or gooseberry, comes from Risaralda in the Eje Cafetero, the main coffee-growing region. Its name comes from *ruru*, the Quicha for fruit. The farmers developed *lulo* to reduce the dependence on such a volatile commodity as coffee. Coffee prices have recently fallen over 40%, causing great hardship in Colombia, so this alternative crop is going some way to stabilise the region. Our top *lulo* customer is the bar of a well-known hotel in Park Lane, which offers a Mulito (*Lulo Mojito*). A former UK Bartender of the Year, who created the Mulito, finally got the chance to encounter a *lulo* bush personally last year!

Earlier this year, thanks to Avonbank Juice at Pershore Agricultural College, we developed an English Pressed Apple Juice with a Taste of the Andes. The Andean purées complement sweet, English coxes and are presented in wine bottles with the story and map of provenance on the label. *Lulo* and *mora* juice, served in wine glasses have come to be known somewhat affectionately as 'Andean Red and White.'

Supporting the community

Tremendous grassroots work is being done by Colombians themselves, who are turning their country around. Ten years ago in Antioquia, Liliana, a Colombian chemical engineer, asked all 400 staff in her employer's company to donate up to 5% of their salary monthly for local people marginalised by poverty and the conflict. Every member of staff responded. The management were so impressed that they doubled the sum collected. Liliana went on to set up the *Fundación el Cinco*,



The Five Foundation, which now has over 3,000 employees committed from 16 corporations, and their money supports the development of local crops. The Foundation has helped the *mora* (Andean blackberry) and *maracuyá* (passion fruit) farmers improve the quality and quantity of their fruit which enables them to negotiate directly with the fruit factory which

we buy from. We pay a social premium at the fairtrade rate for *maracuyá* direct to the fruit farmers' associations. Social support, counselling and psychological assistance have been given for those families scarred by the conflict.

Adult children of the *mora* farmers have been sponsored by *El Cinco* to undertake a year's technical training. They have set up their own association, *Lideragro*. Connections and networks are developing: their representative, displaced with her parents when only 15, recently video-called with the bar team of a well-known West End store, telling them her story - and inspiring them to create a range of Andean alcohol-free cocktails. Twenty-six families who supply *maracuyá* had been displaced, but have now been able to return safely to their land.



Looking to the Future

After 49 years of war between the FARC guerrilla and the Colombian Government, peace negotiations are in progress. The primary issue of land reform has been agreed in principle, with large areas of land to be returned to smallholder farmers and displaced people if the agreement is ratified by a national referendum in 2014.

Last year we contracted our first harvest – *maracuyá* from an association, who were recent finalists in Colombia's annual Enterprise for Peace competition. Now in view of the Peace Process, and hopefully the return of land to its rightful inhabitants, our goal is to expand the market to support those farmers and displaced families in developing the agricultural potential of that land.

Last year I spoke at the Robinson College Fairtrade Group, and since then new juices and dried fruits have been launched. We are continuing to grow our business and our community: inspired by *El Cinco*, I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you all to drink the success to the Peace agreement!

For more information contact info@fruto.co.uk or browse the website at www.fruto.co.uk



GAMLINGAY ECO HUB



Dan Jones (1990) explains the philosophy behind his practice, **civic Architects**, which recently won the Architect of the Year Award for its work on a village community centre in South Cambridgeshire.

I was at Robinson from 1990 to '93. There were three architecture undergraduates at Robinson in my year. I had come from a state school background with Science and Maths at A-level – not Art – so I felt the admissions team at Robinson had been broad-minded when they offered me a place.

After leaving Robinson, I worked for various architecture practices before setting up '**civic**'. The practice specialises in helping community groups shape their approach to designing buildings and outdoor spaces.

Now, following a 10-year quest with the residents of a South Cambridgeshire village called Gamlingay, **civic's** first significant public building has just emerged. The Gamlingay Eco Hub has been heralded by The Department of Energy and Climate Change as 'one of the greenest community centres in the country'. We also won this year's Architect of the Year Award for Environmental Excellence for our work on this project.

Background

From a standing start – never having been involved in the design process before – a loose association of residents got themselves together as a team and raised £1.5M to lead the redevelopment of this defunct 1970's community centre in their village, turning it into a nationally significant mixed-use community facility for the 21st century.

The Building

The remodelled Eco Hub is an exemplary, sustainable, community building, providing the sort of facilities small communities aspire to. It includes a library, a large hall for sport and functions, a kitchen, a café-servey, changing rooms, a new dance studio and a Parish Council office.

The civic impact made by this building is tangible on walking through the door. The sheer range of community-focussed activities and facilities supported there means that many local people feel a direct sense of ownership and pride in at least some part of the building. This might be

because it is where they work (15 people are employed at the building, where none were employed there before), or because they volunteer there (currently 32 people regularly volunteer), or because their children attend classes there, or their grandparents learn IT there – the list of different community uses and activities regularly held in the building is long and diverse.

Green-ness

The renamed Gamlingay Eco Hub presents a catalogue of eco-friendly techniques. Not only does it make extensive use of sustainable and locally-sourced materials, but it incorporates three different passive heat and power technologies without any fossil-fuel backup.

The 'renewables' include photovoltaics to produce electricity, solar water heaters and ground source heat pumps to provide heating and hot water. However, the client, Gamlingay Parish Council, is not only doing this to be 'green'. Powering the building by renewables helps the Council sidestep rising fuel costs. As the Hub's visionary leader and erstwhile resident at Robinson College, Bridget Smith, says, 'Eco means economical'.

Philosophy

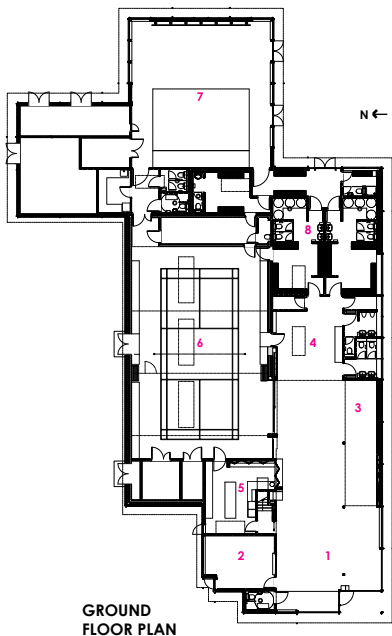
For **civic**, creating sustainable buildings is not just about looking at the environmental impact of building, it is also about looking for the social and economic opportunities of green-ness. We often see our projects as being green out of necessity, not just out of ideology.

Designing our buildings with the people who use them is fundamental. We consistently place the user at the centre of the design process. We do this because we believe that effective community engagement can lead to diverse and individual results, and that these results are better for being idiosyncratic. We endeavour to raise the status of users' needs in the design process, so that we address more than just their technical and functional requirements. This means enabling people to answer questions like "what does this design say about me?". We link step-by-step education about the design process, with direct opportunities for people to get involved in physical regeneration projects.

Beyond this, an important distinction between what we are proposing and more conventional ideas about public involvement in the design

The foyer incorporates a café and retractable shelves housing the village library. The wall to the right of the image is retained fabric incorporating scrupulously retained existing window openings that create a deep plan ventilation path via the Main Hall.

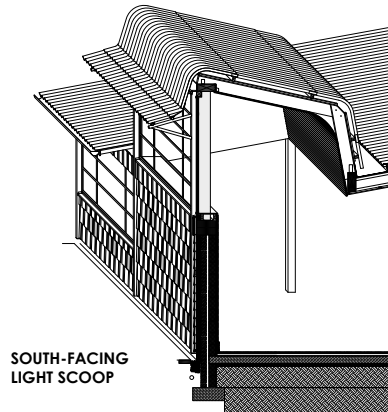




GROUND FLOOR PLAN

- 1 Information point
- 2 Parish Council office
- 3 Library/resource space
- 4 IT suite
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Main hall
- 7 Dance hall
- 8 Changing rooms

View across the adjacent football pitches, beneath which a ground-source heat array has been installed.



SOUTH-FACING LIGHT SCOOP

Simple fittings designed by civic made from Latvian Birch plywood were fabricated by a local joinery firm who makes opera sets for the London stage. The Library book cases under the light scoop open and shut like Venus shells allowing the room to be used in different ways.



process is that users are neither soft partners in the consultation process, nor are they being asked to design their own buildings. Rather, they are being enabled to lead the design process by their own experiences and from their position as lay people. We call this 'demand-led design'.

In practice this means that 'user-clients' lead the design process rather than the people providing the money. This may seem like a somewhat back-to-front approach, but ultimately, this approach delivers a kind of social sustainability.

The Gamlingay Eco Hub is a special project, and offered us – and the local residents leading the project – a chance to re-assert the link between local community action and our collective understanding of what 'civic' means.

This 'civic' architecture is exhilarating. It is about enabling local people and local communities to decide the future of their own neighbourhoods. The Hub offers a study in how to creatively bring back to life an apparently redundant community asset on a budget. It is about rebalancing decision-making between local governments and the people they represent.

Architects have a great opportunity to act entrepreneurially in this renegotiation, I think, perhaps just as much as the community entrepreneurs who are bravely and ably realising community design projects in neighbourhood settings across the UK.

For an excellent presentation of the impact achieved through designing and realising this project, please navigate to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx40NA_jabg, where there is a short YouTube film made by a local TV news company. This features local residents describing – in their own words – what the Gamlingay Eco Hub means to them.

Left: At the eaves, softwood rafters overhang the building by 750mm shading the south-facing glazing from adverse solar gain, while focussing views of the surrounding Fenland landscape from inside.

Below: The centre's sustainability credentials have been enhanced by re-using the existing building rather than demolishing it.



Cables fitted to tension the roof double as a means of hanging boxing bags or wedding decorations.



Sliding shutters and fully glazed doors fold back to transform the same space for different uses.



The Eco Hub incorporates three different passive heat and power technologies without any fossil-fuel backup. Photovoltaics to produce electricity, solar water heaters and a ground source heat array to provide heating and hot water.

The Story of Great Little Place – a guide to Planet Earth's charming spots

Rossa Shanks (MBA,1995) tells us about his new social media venture, and offers some tips to those interested in startups.

I hate business rules. Every business is different, so it's very hard to apply the same rules to everything. There's no one-size-fits-all, but here are some helpful guides that have served our business (Great Little Place) well. So they may be useful to you if you ever decide to take the plunge...

Rule 1 - Find a problem or project you're passionate about

Having an idea and launching a business are two fundamentally different things. Execution is everything. An idea is worthless until it's well executed. It requires unbelievable and tireless effort, perspiration and dedication. Long nights and longer days. Nothing is an overnight success (don't believe the stories you hear). That's why the most important thing to focus on is how passionate you are about the problem you're trying to solve or the need you're catering to (aka rule number 1 of good business). Because if you simply chase the money, your interest in a project will burn out well before you make any cash. Money is simply a by-product of success, not the reason behind your business idea.

The problem I was interested in solving was a long-standing one. It's really hard finding somewhere special to take out someone special. Whether you've got a date lined up or it's a surprise birthday party for a friend, this is a perennial problem for a lot of people. The pressure is on. The stakes are high. And it's really hard finding a place to go that cuts the mustard. Despite the fact that there are lots of services out there like *Timeout*, *Yelp*, *Foursquare* and even *Google*, no one was focused on the very thing that makes a place special, the thing that makes a place unforgettable. That secret ingredient is personality, or charm if you prefer. Everyone else in the market categorised venues by price, prestige and pointless star ratings. There was an untapped niche, an open door to disrupt the market.



I know this great little place
205,288 likes · 4,029 talking about this

Product/Service
<http://www.greatlittleplace.com/>. We're helping each other uncover London's great little places, or unusual things to do. Email: team@greatlittleplace.com

About - Suggest an Edit



Photos



Newslet



Above: www.greatlittleplace.com

And so it struck me on a brilliant night out in London: wouldn't it be great if there were a central place where all the very best little places were collected? Just the good stuff. Quirky spots you stumble upon and tell stories about. Lesser known marvels like bonkers bars, rickety restaurants or curious museums where the curator's cats run wild.

I was hooked on the idea and wanted to create it: a place that sorts the wheat from the chaff; the ultimate collection of venues that are so frequently preceded by the phrase 'I know this great little place...'. This was a problem that was personal to me and that I was passionate about. And so I co-founded *Great Little Place* with Rich Brown, a friend I'd met along the way in my advertising career.

Rule 2 - Pick a partner who shares the same passion for the problem

Picking your business partner(s) is the second biggest decision you'll make. No one makes it alone. It's a huge fallacy. You need someone else to help you make something a reality. Make sure they're as passionate about the project as you are and willing to give 100%. I'm extremely lucky I picked the perfect partner. Rich is as determined as I am about making it happen. You need someone who's all in, who is going to be as tireless and driven as you are to make it work. This was



in London...

Like

Message

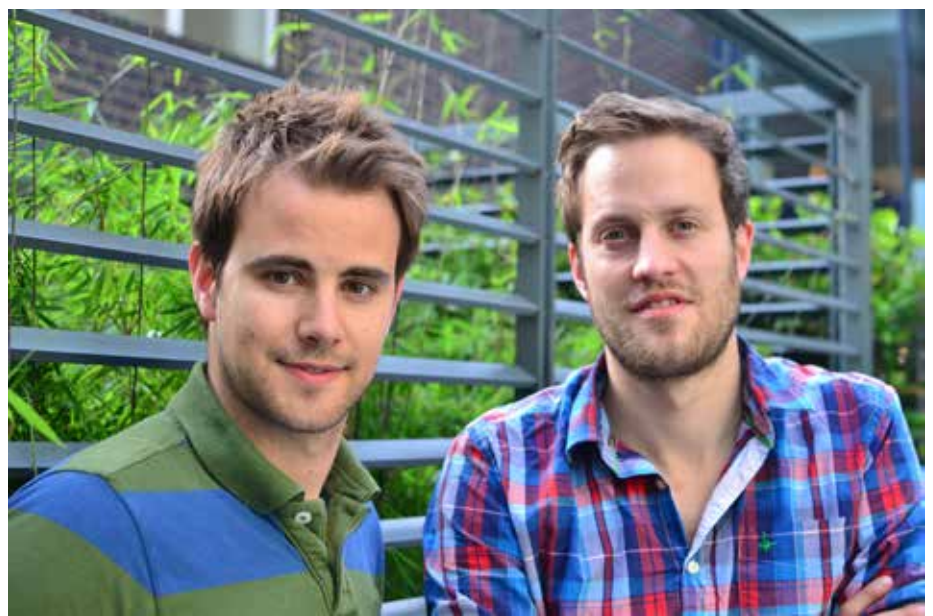
Sign Up!
Newsletter
That Shines
in London



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Above: Rossa Shanks and Rich Brown

Left: The Facebook page

especially important for us because we founded *Great Little Place* in our spare time with full-time jobs. That was 3 years ago and we've only just left our jobs now to work on the project full-time.

Rule 3 - Figure out 'why' you're doing what you're doing, before you figure out 'what' it is you're building

Have a USP. I don't mean a 'unique selling point', so frequently taught in business strategy books. Unique selling points or features are not enough because they are increasingly easy to copy in the modern business world. What I mean is a unique selling *purpose*. That's what we started with when we had nothing. We were on a mission. We knew our 'why' before we figured out our 'what' (i.e. what our product was - a digital platform for discovering and sharing places with personality). We saw ourselves as modern day digital Robin Hoods, taking from the rich bland high-street chains and giving to the independent, off-the-beaten-track labours of love. That's what struck a chord with our audience. People could really relate and obviously felt the same way as us. Plus they liked our tone of voice - we've always been transparent and straight-talking, we are a business that was built for the people by the people, not a business governed from an editorial ivory tower. Tone of voice is vital; it's how you communicate the personality behind your brand. Innocent Smoothies, for example, practically built a business out of tone of voice alone (but it helped they had a great product to match).

Rule 4 - Don't break the bank to validate an idea

We never had the luxury of cash. That was helpful in a way. Because it made us more entrepreneurial. Plus today it's never been cheaper to get a business off the ground. The important thing is to validate your thinking or hypotheses as quickly and as cheaply as possible. Because, for example, it's a massive risk building a £100,000 website to then discover no one is interested in your idea. Failure is fine obviously; just make sure it doesn't cost you too much financially.

Because we had a purpose and a mission (to champion the little guys and make going out more memorable), we decided to find an audience for our idea before making a product. So we launched a Facebook page called 'I know this great little place in London...' to test whether people would like the idea and, more importantly,

contribute their very own personal tip-offs (this was crucial to validate if we were to scale-up in the future without massive editorial overheads). This was our 'minimum viable product' to use the language *du jour* of the tech start-up scene. It went viral. Within two weeks, we had amassed 40,000 fans. People started emailing us. Can we open a page for Toronto? Can we open a page for Amsterdam?. And so we did (plus many more) and made those individuals administrators of the pages to help manage the various communities locally across the world. Now we have nearly 400,000 Facebook fans around the world and nearly 100 different city pages.

Better still, because people really bought into what we were trying to achieve, we managed to crowd fund £10,000 for free from our Facebook fans to build a website for them: www.greatlittleplace.com. So hopefully this is just the beginning of a long and interesting journey.



"Great Little Place"

Announcements

MML Lunch 28th April 2013



In April we honoured the retirements of Mary Stewart and Robin Kirkpatrick. Over sixty alumni attended, and both Mary and Robin were thrilled to see so many familiar faces. Thank you to all those alumni who have made donations to the Vacation Studies Fund, either during the event or as part of this year's telephone calling programme - we are pleased to announce that over £2,000 has been raised so far. Thanks also to Rebecca John for providing the picture: from l-r, Heather Warren (née Malley), Rowan Reed-Purvis (née Shutt), Jo Turner (née Kewley), Dr Mary Stewart and Rebecca John (all 1989 matriculation, except Mary!).

New Notecards



Artist, Hilary Gibson, visited Robinson for Steve Trudgill's retirement dinner in September 2012 and sketched some lovely images of College. We are pleased to announce a new notecard, designed for the College by Hilary. Cards will be available to purchase from our website here:
<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/>

Architects' Drinks 27th November 2013

Jo Bacon (1980) is kindly hosting a drinks gathering at Allies & Morrison's studio on Wednesday 27th November 2013 for all Robinson architects, including the current students and Fellows. The event is free to attend and all Robinson architects should have received information about the event. If you have not received your invitation and would like to attend, please contact the Development Office on development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk. We are very grateful to Jo and Allies & Morrison for supporting the event and helping to launch the Isi Metzstein Fund for Architects.

The event is intended to provide an opportunity for Robinson architects to network and reconnect socially and to launch the Isi Metzstein Fund for Architects. The new fund will commemorate Isi's many contributions to Robinson, as its architect along with Andrew MacMillan, his partner at Gillespie, Kidd and Coia, and as an Honorary Fellow.



Above: Isi Metzstein

The initial target is to raise an endowment of at least £25,000 for the fund, which would allow grants totalling at least £1,000 per year to be made to Robinson architecture students to help them meet some of the additional costs of training. 11% of this target has already been raised. If you would like to make a donation towards the Isi Metzstein fund for architects, please use the form on the back of this edition of Bin Brook, or make a gift online at <https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni2/donation.php>. For more information, email development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk.

Making a Will

We are very pleased to announce that Siôn Hudson (2003), who is a partner specialising in wills and estate planning at Miller Sands in Cambridge, has arranged for Robinson members and alumni wishing to remember the College in their will to receive a 50% discount on the cost of preparing the document. If you would like to receive more information about this offer, please contact the Development Office.



Lakeside Terrace

The Terrace fund target was met and more details about the project (which has now begun) will follow in the next issue. Thank you to all the donors!

Births

All photos are below the announcements

Danny Burkeman (1998) and his wife Micol are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Gabriella, on 20th March in New York.



Rory Campbell (1993) and his wife are pleased to announce the arrival of Alice Freitas Campbell, who was born on 10th July, at the Descobertas hospital, Lisbon, Portugal, and weighed 3.125 kilos.



Pete Campton and **Billie Lever Taylor** (both 2000) have recently had a baby girl. She is called Robyn Emily Campton and was born on 8th June at 6.51am weighing 6 pounds 8 ounces.



Alex (2002) and **Ailsa Corbishley** are delighted to announce the birth of Cecily Loveday on Saturday 18th May. She was born at home, just in time for the whole family to have fish and chips for lunch with the midwives. Hattie and Annabella have proven to be enthusiastic and conscientious big sisters, whilst Alex uses his only man-friend, Nelson the spaniel, to escape the mayhem.



Rhys Evans (1997) and his wife Talia would like to announce that William Howell Evans made an appearance in the world on January 31st, weighing in at 7lbs 1oz.

Jon Davies (2001) and wife Victoria are delighted to announce the birth of daughter Romilly Elizabeth Davies on 2nd February.



Ben Farren (1997) writes: I launched two things this summer:

- 1) Baby Elodie, pictured below. My wife Meg did most of the launching.
- 2) And SPOKE: www.spokefit.com - selling properly made trousers that really fit.



Vicky Ford (née Howard, 1995) and Martin Ford are delighted to announce the arrival of Sophie Anne on 21st February.



Tim Gibbs (2000,) and **Anjali Bajekal** (1999,) were married in India in 2008 and recently welcomed their second daughter, Maya. She has a very proud older sister in Arya, who is 3 and showing her the ropes.



Tim Hughes (1997) and his wife Sarah are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Edward Oliver Hughes, who was born on 5th June.



Matt (1996) and **Jo** (1998) **Luscombe** are happy to announce their first child, Theo, who was born on 23rd April.



Alice MacLachlan (1997) and her wife, Amy Campbell-Noseworthy, are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Emmylou Grace Noseworthy, on 26th March. Emmylou and her parents live in Toronto, Canada, where Alice teaches philosophy at York University and Amy works as a musician and graphic designer. Both mamas are already looking forward to Emmylou's first visit to the UK.



Anna (née Finlayson, 1999) and **Daniel Neale** welcome their first son Arthur Jacob Douglas Neale, born 15th January 2012 at the Rosie Hospital. He is one wriggly, giggly explorer who gets into everything, and we're thrilled he's here.



Alastair Newman (2002) and **Serena** (née Aylward, 2003) are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Sebastian Thomas Morley Newman, on 26th April.



Mark (2001) and **Liz Plane** are delighted to introduce Serena Joy, who was born on 5th January.



Savvas Polyviou (1995) and his wife **Natalie Curry** (Newnham, 1993) are pleased to announce the arrival of their second child, **Christopher**, in March 2012.

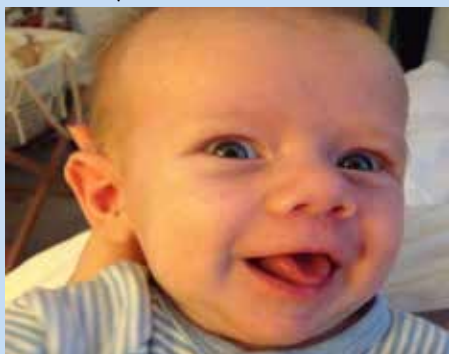


Franklin Poon (1994) and his wife **Lillian Ng** are delighted to announce that their son **Carl** was born on 1st August 2012.



Natasha Rosen (née Grayson, 2000) and her husband **Michael** are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Allegra Rosen**, on 7th December 2012. She is their first child.

Skip and **Stacey Schultz** (née Blades, 1997) are pleased to announce the arrival of their second son, **Theodore (Teddy) Andrew Schultz**, born 30th May. Teddy is a much-loved baby brother for their three year old, **Jackson**, and a happy addition to the Schultz family.



Stephanie Sieff (formerly Cohen, 1996) and **Steven Sieff** (1995) are delighted to announce the birth of their baby girl, **Chaya** was born 10th January and is doing really well.

Kirstie (née Fieldhouse, 1992) and **Frank Vreede** are pleased to announce the arrival of **Aaron Joseph Vreede**, born on 10th April, brother to **Tomas**, who will be three in October.



Daniel Workman (1997) and his wife **Helen** are pleased to announce the birth of their son **James** on 8th February in London. James' interests include gummy smiles, vomiting and a bright green rattle from Sweden.

Marriages

Megan Pearson (2004) and **Graham Allsop** (1995) were married at Southwark Cathedral in June. The reception at Middle Temple Hall was attended by 20 Robinsonians of all ages. **Kate Browne** (2004) and **Alex Brocklehurst** (1995) acted as bridesmaid and best man, with **Chris Abram** (1995) giving a reading during the ceremony.



Leo Beckham (2000) writes: I have just recently celebrated my first anniversary with my beautiful wife, **Megan**. We were married on 30th June 2012 in Islington and it was simply perfect. We had a few other Robinson alumni present, of course!

Richard Bradley (2001) was married to **Claire Andrews** on 8th June. Several Robinson alumni attended.



Victor Chua (1989) and **Anastasia Maximova** were married on 26th August 2012 in a Russian Orthodox ceremony in the chapel of Westcott House, Jesus Lane, followed by a reception in Downing College. **Victor** (victorchua@gmail.com) is keen to get back in touch with old friends from Robinson and medics generally and would like to gauge interest in a reunion of medics in 2014, the 20th anniversary of our graduation, perhaps to coincide with the Alumni Festival (usually the last weekend of September). **Victor** and **Anastasia** spend the week in London and weekends in Cambridge.



Katy Bell (2000) and **Stuart Costley** (1999) were married on 11th May at St Mark's Church, Kennington, London. A number of other Robinson alumni were in attendance: **Michael Atkinson** (1999), **Adam Babiker** (1999), **Alex Simcox** (1998), **Mike Brett** (1999), **Olivia Thornton** (1999), **Toni Baldwin** (1999), **Holden Frith** (1999), **Jenny Plant** née **Barker** (1999), and **Jon Plant** (1999).

Edward Goodwin (1995) married **Giulia Ricci** in Robinson on 8th June. Sadly, not bathed in glorious sunshine, but a wonderful day nonetheless. **Roger Greeves** (former Robinson Chaplain and Senior Member) presided over the ceremony in the chapel.



Richard Longman (1996) married **Dr Helen Abbott** (Christ's, 1997) at St John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield, on 12th January.



Simon Lyddon and **Hannah Tongue** (both 2003) married in the College Chapel on the 3rd August, followed by a reception in the garden and Hall. It was a really special day, made even more special by the number of alumni present.



Ewan Nicholas (2004) married **Dr Charlotte Wilson** (2004, Magdalene).

Charlotte Whitaker (2003) married **Matthew Williams** on 13th July. The day was attended by a number of Robinson friends: including (and a big thank you to) **Jen Rolfe** (2003) for her role as Master of Ceremony; **Alison Bacon** (2003) who was Charlotte's bridesmaid; and **Ben Cole** (2005) www.bmcweddings.co.uk, who took the most stunning photographs



Updates

Ulrike Bauer (Research Fellow) will be leaving Robinson in January 2014 to take up a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the School of Biological Sciences in Bristol University.

Dr Shane Bryans (1982) has taken up a six month appointment as Special Advisor to the Minister of Justice in Libya. Shane took a career break from his post as a Director in the



Home Office, and his work as visiting Professor at Staffordshire University law school, to work in Libya. He is providing advice on a range of Rule of Law issues in the post-revolution transitional justice environment, everything from legislative changes, to restructuring the Judicial Police, and implementing a new court administration system. Shane is no stranger to working in challenging environments, having worked on Rule of Law issues in Pakistan, Palestine, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines and Haiti in the last couple of years.

Peter Catterall (1981) was appointed Reader in History at the University of Westminster in October 2012. He finally made it to dining at High Table in Cambridge when speaking to the Cambridge Intelligence History Group on 'Macmillan and the Middle East' in May.

Tony Choi (2010) finished his Training Contract with Herbert Smith Freehills in Hong Kong on 31st July, and has become a Judicial Assistant at the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal and Court of Appeal from September.

Victoria Dale-Jones (1990) is living in Prague on a diplomatic posting with her husband and three children (pictured below) following previous postings in Chile and Spain. "I've had to adopt a portfolio approach to my career to fit in with the demands of young children and regular moves. So far in Prague, this has included writing, teaching and even professional acting, while grappling with the challenge of learning a Slavic language. I'd be very happy to hear from any Robinson friends who find themselves in this beautiful city for business or pleasure."



Christopher Forsyth (Fellow) has recently been authorised by the Lord Chief Justice to sit as a Deputy High Court Judge in the Administrative Court.

Adam Fox (1990) was awarded the Raymond-Horton Smith Prize by Cambridge University for his doctoral thesis on the causes of peanut allergy. Adam is a consultant Paediatric Allergist and currently clinical lead for Allergy at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals in London and a Reader at King's College London and recently featured in *The Times* Britain's 100 Best Children's Doctors. He lives in Bushey Heath with his wife Tanya and children (Ethan, 10 and Charlotte, 7).

David Gullette, PhD (2001) writes: My family and I continue to enjoy the Tien Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan. Here, I am working with development organisations in the region on conflict and disaster risk reduction. I am also publishing work on perceptions of energy use in the region.

Lydia Heilmann (née Breen, 1995) is still living an hour north of New York City with her husband Per (Downing, 1997) and sons Lars (5 1/2) and Tor (3). Lydia is a Dutch translator and triathlete. She recently took part in the ITU Amateur World Championships in Hyde Park on Friday 13th September.



Peter Hutchinson (Fellow) has been awarded an NIHR Research Professorship.

Suzanne Jacob (1999) has been awarded an OBE because of her role in running part of the security programme for the London Olympics last year.

Garry Jones (2000) has been appointed at the Chief Executive of York CVS. The CVS movement supports community groups charities and social enterprises across England.

Eric Kline (LLM, 1993) recently served as Co-Chairman of the Three Rivers Venture Fair hosted in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in April. The 3RVF is a regional venture fair bringing together venture capital and high net worth investors with emerging growth companies in the Midwest US region, and is attended by over 600 people. Eric is the manager of the Corporate and Securities Practice for the Pittsburgh law office of Pepper Hamilton LLP.

Peter Kornicki (Fellow and Deputy Warden) writes: This year we said goodbye to four students at Robinson, two studying Chinese and two Japanese; there have never been so many from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in one year in Robinson, and they left with one First and three Upper Seconds. I took over as head of the Department of East Asian Studies in October 2012 and a tiresome business it has been! In June I made a quick trip to Japan to receive the Yamagata Bantō Prize, an award given every three years to scholars working on Japan and named after a merchant intellectual of Osaka. Lots of top-quality Japanese food, but I had to sing for my supper by giving two - different - lectures in Japanese.

Peter Lee (1987): 'I am well and working very hard in Hong Kong. Cheers!'

Gary Lowe (1999) is Global Head of Credit Risk Distribution for Corporate Finance at Standard Chartered Bank in London, and would welcome contact from any alumni working in similar areas in the City at gary.lowe@sc.com

Louise McMillan (2002) has just completed a Masters degree in Statistics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Having worked for 5 years as a technical consultant in the UK since finishing at Cambridge, she is now planning to continue her career as a statistical consultant in New Zealand, and is in the process of applying for permanent residency jointly with her partner, Giles Turner.

In early 2013 **Juliette Nebel** (née Coffey, 1994) was appointed as a Deputy District Judge and a First Tier Tribunal Judge. She writes: I would be happy to speak to any Robinson students who aspire to a career in the judiciary, or indeed as a Government Legal Service Lawyer, as so often the default option seems to be a city career.

Giselle de Nie has published *Poetics of Wonder: Testimonies of the New Christian Miracles in the Late Antique Latin World*, Brepols, 2011.

Neville Roberts (1986) writes: It has been 27 years since I matriculated, so a lot to catch up on. Here goes: on the personal side, I married Anne (Homerton 87-91) and we have 4 wonderful children, who are now 18, 15, 12 and 11 (girl, boy, girl, boy). We settled in Cheshire and I have worked for Accenture (89-07), where I was a partner, and then Best Buy, who are the world's largest consumer electronics retailer as their CIO (08-10). Then I setup 2 new companies: Planix, a software company based around business analytics; and RVC, a retail consultancy. Both doing well, but a long way to go!

Antonia Rubin (née Collins, 1986) writes: Our news this year is that we decided (after 13 years) that it is time to leave London and moved to Tonbridge, Kent on 19th July. Sad to leave behind good friends, but we are all excited and enjoying a house with more space! We're thinking now towards senior schools eventually for our two daughters, so doing what everyone else seems to be doing and moving to good grammar catchment areas. Ironically we are now going to be about 6 miles from **Stef Reichenbach** (1995), who has recently moved back to the UK from Canada. If anyone is ever in the area, please do look us up.

Sandra Smith's (Fellow) translation of *The Outsider* by Camus will receive a one-off performance at the Southbank Centre on 7th November.

Kendra Strauss (Fellow) has recently co-edited *Temporary Work, Agencies and Unfree Labour: Insecurity in the New World of Work*, Routledge, 2013.

Anke Timmermann (2003) has returned to Cambridge as the Munby Fellow in Bibliography. A historian of alchemy, Anke has travelled the world since leaving Robinson in 2007: she fostered fellows and communicated chemistry at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, PA; engaged with Bess of Hardwick's correspondence held at the University of Glasgow (her exhibition was recently on show at the National Archives); discovered the alchemical secrets of medieval physicians at the Medical University of Vienna; and spent this summer researching alchemical images at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. Although now associated with Darwin College, Anke is looking forward to observing life at Robinson from the UL tower, and to joining in halls and festivities on occasion.

Following the enthusiastic reception of his two-volume work *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire, 1493-1806* (Oxford, 2012), **Joachim Whaley** (Senior Member) was awarded a LittD for his books and articles on early modern German history on the recommendation of the History Faculty in May 2013. He has been appointed Professor of German History and Thought in the Modern Languages Faculty from 1st October.

This spring, **John Voigtman** (1993) opened a new hotel and restaurant, La Bandita Townhouse, inside the UNESCO Heritage village of Pienza: www.labanditatownhouse.com

Merchandise

<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/index.php>



Christmas Cards (above, l-r)

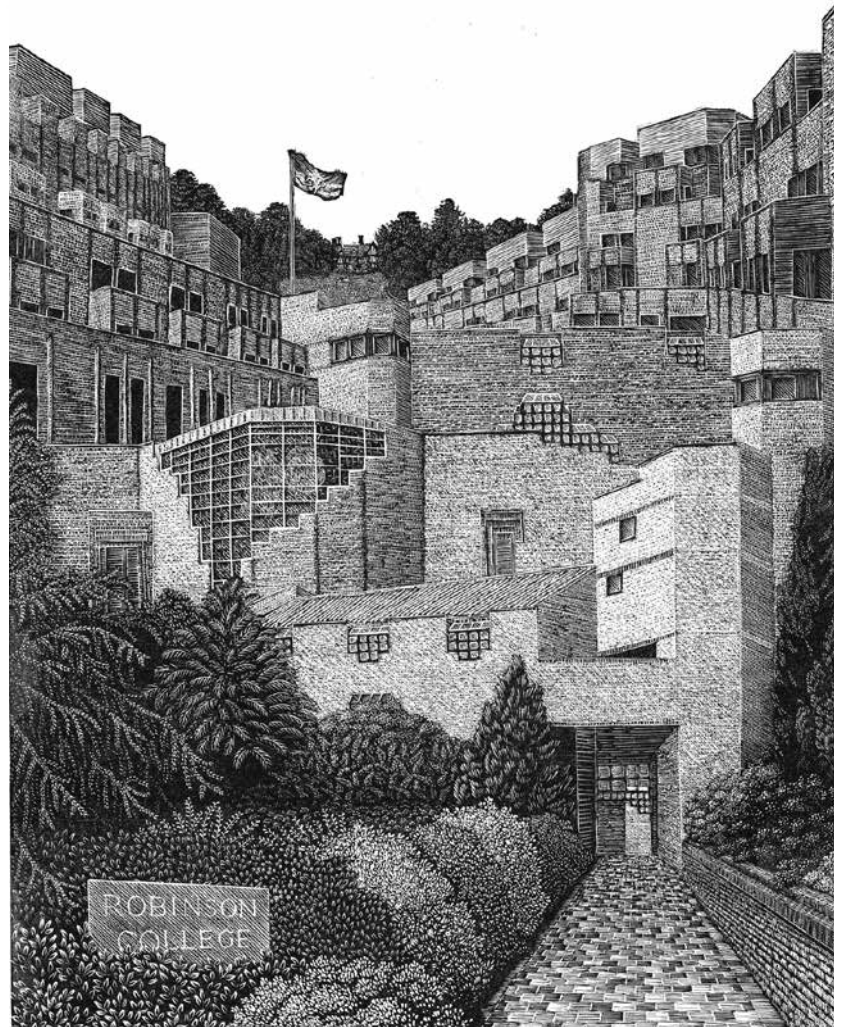
- The Beginning and the End (10 cards, £5.00)
- Bridge and Snow (10 cards, £3.00)
- Thorneycreek in the Snow (10 cards, £3.00)
- Conversing Figures in the Snow (10 cards, £3.00)

New Notecards (left)

Featuring the artwork of Hilary Gibson. Cards are available individually (£1) or in packs of 10 (£7.50).

Limited Edition Engraving by Geri Waddington

To mark his retirement, the former Domestic Bursar, Peter Milloy and his wife, Irena, commissioned the renowned wood engraver, Geri Waddington, to create an image of Robinson. Geri trained in painting at the Slade School of Fine Art. She started engraving in 1995, and was elected a member of the Society of Wood Engravers in 2001. She has exhibited regularly and makes and sells independent prints and illustrates hand-made private press books and has work in collections in the UK and abroad. The result of Geri's work at Robinson is a beautiful montage of the College, seen above. Peter and Irena have made a gift of the first copy of a limited edition of 150 prints of the engraving to the College. The remaining limited edition prints are available for purchase at a price of £95 (unframed). £52.25 from each sale will be donated to the College to support its work.





Robinson College Choir CDs

both £12:

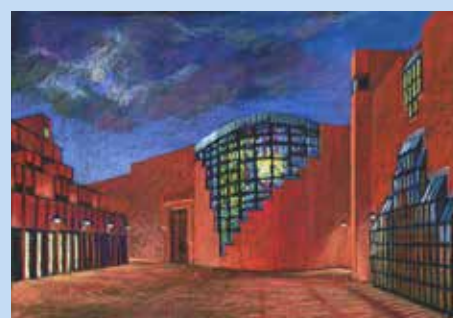
Deo Gracias: A selection of music for Advent and Christmas (2008);
and *As Sunlight Fills the Waking Day* (2011) captures the Choir in thrilling form, singing music from right round the year under the direction of the Visiting Choral Director, Timothy Brown, and the Organ Scholars.



We have a wide range of merchandise available for purchase on our website. Some of the most popular items are shown below: (l-r) Robinson mug (£5); Ties (Polyester, £10; Silk, £15); Teddy Bear (£10); Pashmina scarf (£20) and Enamel Cufflinks (£15).



We are very pleased to offer a range of items in these five images, all by a Robinson alumna. Ranging from large framed prints (£65) of individual scenes, to sets of coasters (£13.50), keyrings (£2.25) and bookmarks (60p), we have something for every budget. We even have a snow globe for £10!



All items shown can be purchased from our online shop:

<http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/catalog/index.php>



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