



Bin Brook

Robinson College Newsletter

Easter Term 2003

THE FUTURE OF THE COLLEGE GARDENS



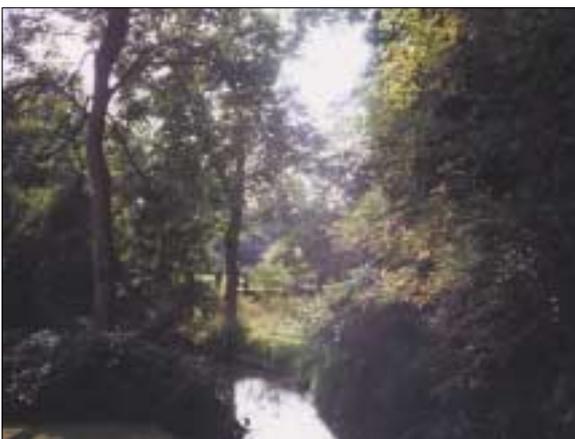
Nothing ever stays still in Nature – and so it is with our College gardens. We in the Gardens Committee are beginning to look ahead to the future. Many shrubs were planted when the College began and some of our older trees are up to 100 years or more old and none can go on for ever. We were fortunate in the gales of October 27th that we only lost a few trees, thanks, in our view, to considerable effort in tree inspections and

judicious prunings or even fellings. But we cannot escape the fact that we are now enjoying the heritage of planting which was undertaken in the pre-College gardens 50 or more years ago. So what do we want the College gardens to look like in the future? What are we going to leave for future generations?

Gardens in Cambridge – will it always be so? Many of us think the gardens are fine as they are but as plants need replacing we shall have to discuss what to do. I will be pleased to hear from anybody with views on the future of the gardens.

Recent press coverage said that ours was one of finest of the College

Dr. S. Trudgill
Fellow in Geography and
Chair of the Gardens Committee



Older trees currently looking good but what of the future?



25 year old shrubs which will need replacing soon.

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**PEGASUS SOCIETY LUNCH
27 SEPTEMBER 2003**

The Pegasus Society will be hosting a lunch in college for members, their families and guests, on Saturday 27th September. All members of the society are welcome – both those attending the College reunion dinner in the evening as well as any returning to Cambridge for the University Alumni weekend. Tickets are available from the Development Office (Anita Hudson) Tel: 01223 339036 or e.mail development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

The buffet meal will be accompanied by wine and/or soft drinks, and activities for younger members will be on hand in the form of supplies of Lego and Knex.

ROBINSON REUNION 2003

Matriculation years 1992 and 1993 are invited to return to College this year for their first Reunion on the weekend of the 27th/28th September, 2003.

We are inviting undergraduates and graduates who matriculated in 1992 and 1993 to a formal dinner in Hall on Saturday together with their partners. This is a departure from our usual practice of inviting College members only to the dinner, but popular demand has prevailed and tickets for the dinner will be available to each alumnus and their partner. Invitations will drop through your letterboxes during May of this year.

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

MAY BALL



CHAMPAGNE CONCERT

22 APRIL, 2003 7.30 P.M. ROBINSON COLLEGE CHAPEL

By popular demand, and with the enthusiastic backing of the college choir, we are holding a Champagne Concert on Tuesday 22nd April, 2003.

Why not gather some friends together and make a party of it? The concert will include soloists and ensembles of the best singers and instrumentalists from across Cambridge University performing much loved masterpieces from the chamber music and song repertoires. Ice-cold champagne and delicious *hors d'oeuvres* will be served while promenading in Hall during the interval.

Tickets available at £25 each from the Development Office.
Tel: 01223 339036 or e.mail development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk
Please come if you can.

A ROBINSON ATHLETE

Daniel Bray came to Robinson in October 2002 to study engineering. He tells me that he chose Robinson because it was the closest College to the University sportsground – We don't really believe him!



Daniel is a gifted athlete in his chosen discipline of the 400m hurdles.

He began competing at the age of 15, choosing the triple jump initially, and competed on a county level in Hampshire. He joined Havant Athletic Club on his fifteenth birthday and spread his interest to the decathlon. The 400 metres proved to be his most successful event and he competed in venues as far apart as Cardiff and Sheffield. Hurdling had always interested Daniel so once he had worked on his technique and built up his strength he reached the English Schools National Championships. Last season he achieved a silver medal position in the 400m hurdles and was ranked fourth in the UK for the under 20 year old age group.

Daniel knew before he applied to Robinson that Steve Green, another 400m hurdler and ranked first in the UK, was an undergraduate in Cambridge, and he and Steve have been able to train together. Training consists of track work (University ground) and weight training here in Robinson.

It's a different level of competition for Daniel this year as he moves on to the under 23 group. Already he has reached a Blue standard in the 400m hurdles, when he competed in the Freshers Varsity Match. He also won the 100m, 200m sprints and the triple jump competition and was awarded athlete of the match. All this success does not come without dedication to training on a regular basis. Both Daniel and Steve have trained with the National squad at the Commonwealth track in Manchester – two of only six hurdlers invited to do so.

We wish Daniel success in competition in 2003 and in the future. Remember his name for National teams to come.

CRICKET

Alex Simcox (1998) gained his Blue in summer 2002, and after leaving Robinson decided to take time out before beginning his career in accounting in 2003. He ended up in Australia, complete with cricket bat, playing for Warringah CC (Sidney) at the Weldon Oval, scoring an impressive 138 not out. Quote from the local press:

"Ward was eventually dismissed for a fine 53. His opening partner and English import Simcox proved that some Englishmen can actually bat with one of the best innings ever played on Weldon Oval. His 138 n o was littered with boundaries to all parts of the ground. He was instrumental in guiding the Green Men over the line with three overs and three wickets to spare". Alex plays First Grade cricket in Australia and is in the under-24 team in the Frank Gray Trophy.

BOXING

Remember Ali D'Vaz who we featured in the Easter term 2002 edition? Well he captained the Light Blues against a strong team from Trinity College, Dublin leading them to a 6 – 2 victory winning his own middleweight contest in the second round.

ATHLETICS

The Inter College Field Events and Relays meeting was held on the 22nd February at the University Ground at Wilberforce Road with Robinson entering a men's and women's team.

The men gained a creditable second place to Trinity College (87 – 82) well clear of St. Catharine's with the women's team taking third place in their match.

HOCKEY

The 9th of March saw Robinson men's hockey team compete for only the second time in the Cuppers Final. Impressive victories against Corpus, 9-1, and Fitz, 4-2, followed by a dramatic win decided by penalty flicks against Caius preceded an emphatic 3-0 victory over league champions Jesus in the semis, to set up the date with Catz. Very much the underdogs against opponents featuring eight university players, including 5 full blues, Robinson produced a tenacious performance, inspired by the heroics of goalkeeper Ashwin Harjarnavis. Despite conceding three early goals, strikes from Dave Halse and Gareth Collins saw Robinson come back into the match.

By the second half, however, Catz were comfortably ahead, and though the 8-2 scoreline was tough on Robinson, the better team won. By some consolation, the following afternoon saw Robinson's mixed team victorious in the Mixed cuppers final, Halse, Ginny Anderson and Rob Lancaster scoring in a deserved 3-1 win over Magdalene to bring the mixed title to Grange Road for the second time in three years.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Head Chef, Gary, placing daily orders

There is a large team of staff here in College intent on providing a first class catering service to undergraduates, graduates, Fellows, staff, conference delegates and, in fact, anyone who is lucky enough to sample the delights produced by the College kitchens.

The Conference and Catering Office team, headed by Bob Wickett, handles all enquiries, administration and bookings for catering events and conferences in the College. Once bookings are confirmed the detailed requirements are passed on to the food production and food service departments.

These two departments amalgamate under the "catering" banner and are run by the Head Chef Gary Dougan, and the Assistant Catering Manager Sarah Harold. Both Sarah and Gary have developed their careers by working their way up through the ranks, and now, having reached the top, understand many of the pitfalls and problems which their staff may encounter. This understanding allows the communication between the kitchens and food services to run incredibly smoothly, and is only achieved by sheer hard work and respect for each other and their staff.



Provisions being checked on arrival by store manager

Catering operations officially start at 7.30 a.m. each day, but more often than not staff are in before that time ready to check in deliveries of fruit and vegetables and other perishables, fresh or frozen meat and other goods and deal with early breakfast requests. If any items delivered do not meet our high standards they are rejected, sometimes causing problems for the Chef who then has to source items from elsewhere if menus cannot be adjusted. The 8 chefs cover the various sections of a modern kitchen: stoves, larder, vegetable and pastry. Meanwhile the front of house food service team are busy meeting and greeting customers, clearing rooms used the previous night, laying up

From The Chef's Table CRANBERRY PUNCH

- 2 litre Cranberry juice
- 1 Traditional spice mix sachet (for mulled red wine)
- 1 113 ml ginger ale
- 1 113 ml orange juice
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 sliced oranges and lemons

Makes about 15/20 portions.

1. Combine all the ingredients except the sliced fruit and ginger ale.
2. Mix well, heat and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes; do not boil.
3. Add fruit and ginger ale just before serving.



Preparation forms a large part of the chef's day

tables, and preparing for the tasks of the day ahead.

In all cases flexibility and the ability to prioritise are paramount. There is no room for error when you are providing breakfast for 250, refreshments for a similar number mid morning, buffet lunch for 250 in the Dining Hall during term time plus lunches for staff, students and the Fellowship and then a formal dinner in the evening. If one element of the jigsaw is missing, whether it be food, staff or equipment, the customers must still be served, so improvisation and initiative are common in the catering department.

'Service with a smile and courtesy at all times' is one of Sarah's favourite sayings and all our waiting and serving staff are aware they are the face of Robinson College.

New challenges are always presenting themselves. Menus need to be updated; volunteers are needed to sample new dishes; special dietary requirements need to be met and new legislation has to be adhered to.

There are occasions when our staff deal with extraordinary events. Recently a reception in the Dining Hall organised by the Commonwealth Trust for overseas scholars entailed a drinks reception and finger buffet for 700 guests. The May Ball is of course another annual large scale event.

Catering staff work with the May Ball Committee throughout the night providing food, drinks and finally breakfast to 800 to 1,000 guests. When events go according to plan the sense of achievement is hard to equal.

Both Sarah and Gary encourage their staff to take on different roles and responsibilities, and to develop their careers. Gary's first love is cooking and Sarah is happiest when she is providing hospitality – together their talents and those of their staff give Robinson College's catering services the high reputation and respect it has achieved.



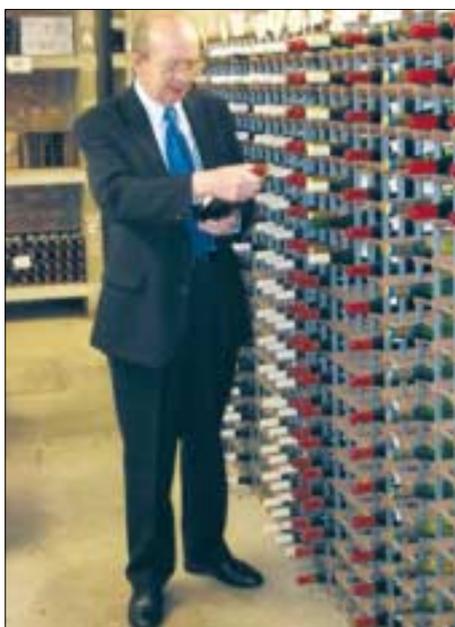
Hot work on the stoves



Doreen Fordham, Pastry Chef and longest serving member of the kitchen staff



Cold buffet display



Bob Wickett in the College cellars



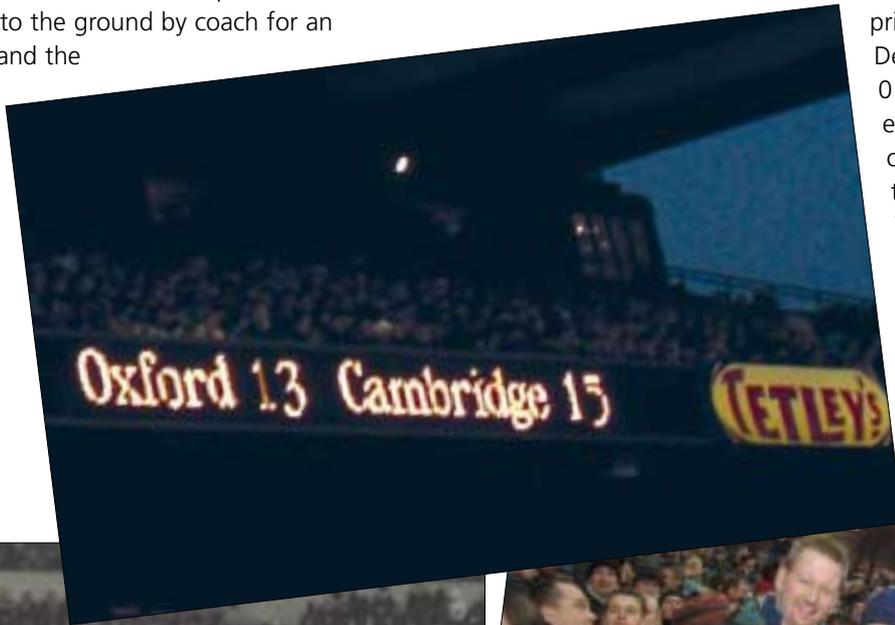
Sarah is always looking for perfection

RUGBY VARSITY MATCH 2002

This was a first for us – a contingent of Binsons attending the Rugby Varsity Match. The Development Office managed to get 40 tickets for the 2002 match plus hospitality at London Welsh. The day began with people leaving Robinson early in the morning, driving down to Richmond to join the rest of the Light Blues supporters from Robinson. We met at London Welsh at midday for sandwiches and liquid refreshment before being taken to the ground by coach for an absorbing match – and the right result. I think it was one of the coldest days of the year, but well worth the effort. After the match we returned to London Welsh for a sausage and mash supper and more alcoholic sustenance!! Many thanks to Adrian

Davies for his help in putting us in touch with the right people in London Welsh Rugby Club, and to the Club for their hospitality.

Let's go for bigger and better next year. The Development Office will endeavour to obtain 100 tickets for the 2003 match if there is enough prior interest. Contact the Development Office on 01223 339036 or e.mail development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk to register your interest. The price will just cover the cost, and in 2002 was £45 per person.



News from Nicola Norman (1988, nee Pugh) is that she is married with two daughters, Dominique and Gabrielle. She is teaching French, German, Psychology and Dance in West Somerset and following her love of the theatre is acting in, directing and choreographing many local productions – planning to take Edinburgh by storm next year!

Congratulations to James Harrison (1992) who is marrying Tiffany Boardman on the 26th April 2003 at Siddington, Cheshire. James is working as a partner at Soros Private Equity Partners, making investments in European businesses across several sectors.

More news on Neil Mullarkey (1980). He will be appearing in Spring 2003 on a National Tour with the Comedy Store Players, visiting Leicester, Jersey, Wakefield, Keswick, Kendal, Stratford, Hebden Bridge, Telford and Blandford Forum. Check www.thecomedystoreplayers.com for dates and places. Neil also runs communication workshops for industry, charities, business schools, etc. For more details check the website www.neilmullarkey.com David Kightley(1998) and his wife Trudy live in Maine, USA with their two year old daughter Lindsay. (pic)



Lindsay Kightley.

Dr. Clems Kaminski and his wife Gabi are thrilled to announce the arrival of their daughter, Josefine who was born on the 11th February, 2003. A proud and happy family.

YEAR REPRESENTATIVES

JON PLANT

We've spent 3 years of our lives living with each other, working with each other and of course going out, getting drunk, saying/doing embarrassing things and generally having some of the best times of our lives with each other – so why should we let it stop now? OK so we live a little further apart but we all have a bit of red Binson brick in us and, admit it, it would be good to get together and relive just a little of those years.... I'm sure you'll hear from me and Mike at various points in the future but suggestions are always welcome (as is news, gossip or a drink and a chat). Enjoy yourselves and keep in touch.

Jon



THE FIRST ANNUAL ROBINSON RECEPTION – 24TH JUNE 2003

A MAJOR EVENT AND PART OF OUR REINVIGORATED ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAMME AT ROBINSON

Held on this first occasion at Brooks's in St James's in London, we are hosting the reception to give our alumni the chance to catch up with the College's news and with contemporaries, as well as meeting other alumni for the first time. Champagne and canapés will be served from 6.30 p.m. and Members of the College will be providing some musical entertainment. We are pleased to welcome an honoured guest – **The Right Honourable the Lord Woolf of Barnes, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales**

You will have already received your invitation. Please do make every effort to come and to encourage any other alumni that you know to do so too.

Through the generous support of family law specialists Hughes Fowler Carruthers in London and the work of our Development Office, we are ensuring that the reception is self-funding. The College would otherwise be unable to host it. Accordingly, whilst your reception ticket is free, we simply ask that, if you can come, and would be prepared to help with the costs for the evening, that you enclose a donation with your booking. We recognise, however, that some of you may not be able to pay or to pay very much. We quite understand this and

would be delighted to see you anyway. If your company would be interested in sponsoring such an event please contact the Development Office and they will be happy to discuss details with you.

If you have any queries about the reception before sending confirmation of your booking, please just call or email us (development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk). We'd be delighted to hear from you and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in June.

Event Sponsor



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STAFF NEWS

WELCOME TO

David Lee, (Lodge Porter) and **David Summerlee** (Chef). **Reverend Annabel Shilson-Thomas** (Chaplain) for the Lent and Easter terms.

GOODBYES

David Tucker, Housekeeping, **John Webb**, (Lodge Porter) and **Ivor Mitchell** (Chef). **Reverend Hugh Shilson-Thomas** (Chaplain).

RETIREMENTS

Ivor Mitchell retired from the College in February 2003 after 16 years with the College working in the kitchens as vegetable chef. Ivor's friendly face will be missed, and we all wish him a happy retirement.

John Webb also retired from the College in February of this year, as did **David Tucker** in December 2002. Good Luck to them both.



Ivor is pictured here with his mother at his retirement presentation in College.

Travels in Europe, by "Wayfarer"

If you have three or four days free, and fancy an exotic destination, then think Prague!

The Czech capital is a truly beautiful city, with a mediaeval castle and cathedral towering above the skyline; an old town square with an astronomical clock, centuries of history and around thirty museums catering for all interests. It is a 'must-visit' destination.



Local transport (tram/bus/metro) is very cheap: half a litre of beer costs 35p and lunch from £1 – spending money goes a long way!

Hotels can be booked through C.S.A. Airtours in the baggage claim area at Prague Airport (from £20 per person per night in a 3-star hotel). Best flight deals (from Stansted) – out on Wednesday/Thursday, returning Saturday/Sunday, from £50 return.

Next issue – Naples.

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E. development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

MR FRED BOYNE MBE



"Shocked, surprised and honoured" – not the usual sorts of words associated with Mr. Boyne but that's how he felt when he first received notice of his MBE in November 2002. Notice of a proposed honour still commands complete secrecy until it is confirmed by the Queen, so Mr. Boyne spent a frustrating Christmas in 2002 unable to spread the news to his family and friends.

New Year's Eve brought confirmation of his award of an MBE for services to higher education, swiftly followed by the media – ITN News, local and national newspapers. At last Mr. Boyne could tell his family of an honour of which he is immensely proud. His message to Robinson is "I would like to thank my friends, colleagues, the Warden and Fellows (past and present), students and staff for their support over the years, and for the pleasure of knowing so many students who worked hard, played hard and respected other people".

Should you wish to contact Mr. Boyne, please do so via the Development Office.
Telephone: 01223 339036
or e.mail
development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk.

THE FELLOWSHIP

Two members of the Fellowship have been awarded professorships as follows:

Dr. R. Kirkpatrick in the Department of Italian, School of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. D. A. Ritchie in the Department of Physics, School of the Physical Sciences.