

changing lives



Newnham College Newsletter

Get in touch

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



We want to reach out to our alumnae – please send us your news and views!

Follow our special College Twitter account @Newnham_College and the @NewnhamRoll account.

Please 'like' our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewnhamCollege to keep up to date with College news and events.

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Winter is now around the corner, with Halloween just behind us, and the College Christmas cards about to be signed. Each year I send a card to every alumna who supports the College. I am provided with a large spreadsheet and can see what form that help has taken – be it donating finance, or time, lending premises, mentoring, providing an internship, sitting on a committee, becoming an Associate, speaking at a Lodge seminar, or helping to arrange events around the world. It is all very humbling – I know how many calls there will have been on time and resources, and yet assistance is so freely given. This support most certainly changes the lives of our students and their teachers.

The Christmas cards also bring some unexpected rewards, as I receive the most wonderful replies. I am allowed a glimpse into the lives of former students, and I realise that their memories of Newnham are often vivid and long-lasting.

Our alumnae also enable the College to be a more effective place. A recent example is the appointment of our new Communications Officer, Jo Tynan. We know that attracting bright young women to Newnham depends to a large extent on our external communications. Since Jo's appointment in February 2014 – made possible by alumnae – we have increased our visibility in both the national and regional press, recent examples being interviews for the *Times Higher Education* supplement and on BBC Cambridge. We have also recorded a pleasing increase in traffic to our website, and now have a presence on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube, all important communications media for the young. Jo is also deeply involved in the work we are currently doing on our website.

As our very successful Changing Lives campaign comes to an end, with deep congratulations due to all those who contributed, the Campaign Board and others, we look forward to our next, truly invigorating, challenge – the largest building programme that Newnham has undertaken since the Champneys era. We are one of some sixteen Cambridge Colleges which have taken out a Private Placement Bond, mainly to improve their estates. This loan will go a long way over the next five to six years to enable us to create a new building for graduates, rebuild Strachey, and re-model the front of the College and adjacent structures. This is all tremendously exciting. We are working hard to ensure that the new buildings will provide top-class, modern facilities for our students, as well as making a notable addition to Newnham's distinctive and beautiful built environment. I am looking forward to this next phase in Newnham's life.

Professor Dame Carol Black

2 collegenews

100 Leading Ladies

Newnham Principal Carol Black is featured in a new book focusing on one hundred senior women in Britain who have helped transform what it is possible for women to achieve. The book, whose launch was accompanied by an exhibition of photographic portraits at Somerset House, also includes Newnhamites Germaine Greer and Baroness Shirley Williams, and aims to inspire younger women by telling one hundred unique women's stories and shining 'a guiding light on the paths they took to success in their fields'.

The Leading Ladies were photographed by award-winning international photographer Nancy Honey and interviewed by former *Times* journalist Hattie Garlick, who asked: 'How on earth did you manage it?'

A copy of *100 Leading Ladies* will be available in Newnham's library and can be purchased from Somerset House (see www.thesorority.org/100leadingladies for more information).

Oh Do Shut Up Dear! – Mary Beard on the Public Voice of Women

Mary Beard's fascinating Winter Lecture for the *London Review of Books* earned her five stars in *The Telegraph*, which referred to her as 'something of a classicist pin-up'. The lecture explored misogyny from Antiquity to Twitter, weaving examples from Ancient Roman and Greek texts with the shocking threats Mary and other prominent women have received from internet trolls. Pondering how women can make themselves heard, Mary admitted she wished she knew, suggesting that 'we need to go back to some first principles about the nature of spoken authority ... and how we have learned to hear authority where we do'.

Mary also recently appeared on the *Independent on Sunday's* 'Happy List', as one of ten household names who 'went the extra mile' to inspire and make people happy: she was described as having a 'relish for the saucy or bizarre'!

An audio recording and transcript of Mary's Winter Lecture are available at www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n06/mary-beard/the-public-voice-of-women

Professor Rae Langton, Professorial Fellow in Philosophy, has been awarded a Fellowship by the British Academy in recognition of her 'unrivalled expertise and knowledge'.



Green fingers (and green lipstick!)

In September, Newnham's Head Gardener puckered up and wore green lipstick to work after raising £1,500 for charity. Colleagues, friends and family dug deep to support Tony Arnold after he pledged to don a green wig, nail polish, tights and lipstick if he raised £500. Tony, who was surprised and delighted to reach three times his initial target, was raising money in aid of HortAid, a fundraising campaign run by charity Perennial, which helps horticultural workers in need.

3 researchnews

Thinking about thinking

Professor Mary Margaret McCabe (NC 1968), Bye-Fellow

Socrates did philosophy in conversation with his fellow-citizens; Plato does philosophy by writing about those encounters. But he writes – or so I argue – to engage his readers in philosophy: so he writes with challenges, puzzles, misdirection and changes of tack, to invite his readers to take a critical view of what is being said, by any of the characters in the philosophical drama they read. If he is right, an account of philosophy emerges as not so much a system of doctrines (as many suppose Plato, above all, to offer) but rather as a way of thinking about thinking: systematic, theoretically complex but always critical and subject to revision. Plato writes as he does to present philosophy this way, and to get us to do it as we read. (Or so, at least, I have claimed: e.g. *Plato and his Predecessors*, CUP 2000; *Philosophical Conversations*, OUP 2015.)



From a contemporary perspective the Socratic ways of thought can seem both familiar and strange. The conversational mode may seem utterly ordinary; but its principles are demanding. Attending to others, listening, thinking about what is said from the point of view of another, gives inquiry ethical content, as well as saying something about knowledge and about what may be known. This challenges a common view that we should argue, or inquire, or reflect in ways that are 'value-free'. Challenges of this kind are just what the study of ancient philosophy has to offer – not so much the inspection of a philosophical antique, but a fresh perspective on what we may be worrying about right now, and on how we should go about thinking about it.

I worry in two rather different directions. Plato regularly makes a connection between virtue and knowledge. Many have recently argued that ancient 'virtue' talk may give us a way of understanding how we best should live. But Plato supposes that 'virtue' also explains how we best should think, and concludes that doing philosophy transforms how the world is for us. This turns out to be a claim not only about good states of character and right actions, but also about states of mind – about the right ways of seeing and thinking and knowing – as well as about what is seen and valued and known. Moral virtue, Plato suggests, just is moral perception, developed through the kinds of reflection that collaborative inquiry provides. Might Plato have something to say to us here? (This is a major project for the 2016/7 Sather Lectures in University of California, Berkeley: 'Seeing and saying: Plato on virtue and knowledge'.)

In a different mode, the Socratic view of learning may help us with the present crisis in the university system – both in this country and elsewhere (a series of short essays/lectures are at www.marymargaretmccabe.com). I believe we have mislaid – in the various so-called reforms of the past thirty years – the fundamental role of the university as a public good, where that public good is constituted by learning together and inquiry together. This should commit us to attentiveness and critical thought, to moral attention to others, and to a broad egalitarian basis for our educational institutions. Those are the kinds of principles I was taught, when I first came to Newnham nearly fifty years ago, by those great classicists Joyce Reynolds and Pat Easterling. It is a privilege and a delight to come back to Newnham and to find myself working under their eagle eyes again; I hope to keep speaking up for the principles they represent.

4 spotlight

Dawn Moody (NC 1986) – The Polar Doctor



'Live the dream and work as a polar ship's doctor'

When I listed this as one of my medium-term professional development objectives three years ago, my appraiser raised an eyebrow and looked sceptical. This was not surprising considering I was a forty-something GP in Staffordshire with a busy job and five teenagers at home.

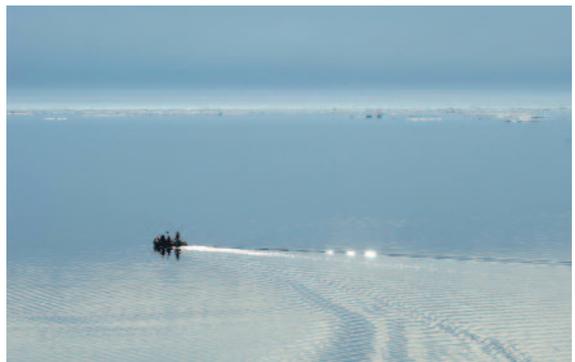
I have been intrigued by polar places for as long as I can remember and in 2008 I finally fulfilled my childhood dream of visiting Antarctica. However, far from 'getting it out of my system', the enormity and intensity of that experience only served to fuel my



fascination. I made that journey as a passenger on a small expedition ship and after seeing the expedition doctor in action my immediate thought was 'I want that job!'

Back at home, over the next few years, I pursued this dream. I signed up for expedition medicine training in the Lake District, followed by polar medicine training in north Norway in winter, and wrote endless emails to expedition leaders and medical directors asking for work.

Eventually my persistence paid off and in February 2014 I returned to Antarctica, this time in my professional capacity. I confess to a few moments of terror at the start of the voyage, absorbing the responsibility of working in one of the remotest places on earth, with just my own two hands and a modest selection of emergency drugs and equipment. Then as the fear subsided, the thrill of adventure began.



5 infocus

Amidst all that light and ice and space and wonderful wilderness, I delivered general primary care with the best view in the world, as well as dealing with more serious incidents such as head injury, hypothermia and upper limb fracture. I also carried out expedition staff training and helped out with a variety of other team tasks: everything from unloading stores to putting names on cabin doors and counting life jackets. It was exciting and exhilarating to work in such a radically different environment and I was well and truly hooked! August found me back on the same ship, but this time it was polar bears not penguins as we sailed through the North West Passage, steeped in Arctic history and surrounded by orcas, narwhals, bowhead whales and northern lights.

So what reflections will I be entering in my portfolio for this year's appraisal? I enjoyed really challenging myself professionally and along the way rediscovered what matters most to me within the heart of the practice of medicine. Personally, I loved not only revisiting the polar places that have captivated me for so long, but also the sense of satisfaction and fulfilment that came with turning a distant ambition into a host of precious memories.

I arrived at Newnham in 1997 from Aston University, where I was Catering Manager. The College was moving from contract caterers to catering in-house, and I was excited to see if I could build something from scratch. I only planned to stay for three years, but Newnham is such a great place to work! I've built my own team, and I was given freedom in determining new operational measures and the opportunity to offer input into the refurbishment of the catering department. I've become part of the Newnham fabric, I think. No two days are the same – it's a challenging and rewarding experience with not a dull moment!



Peter Robertson, Catering Manager Working in a College, you have the entire spread – from beans on toast to a restaurant-worthy three-course menu. It's an intense field where you're only as good as your last meal – there's no room for complacency. To create a menu, I budget carefully, meeting chefs and local producers and researching suppliers to find the best possible options, with an emphasis on fresh, seasonal produce and locally-sourced ingredients. Our key drive is towards sustainability, cutting food miles and reducing our carbon footprint, whilst getting the best price for Newnham.

I'm passionate about the history of food, and the way British cuisine has changed. We're proud to produce food tailored to Newnhamite sensibilities, offering menus that are vibrant and seasonal. Working at Newnham has also had a personal influence on me: I eat less red and more lean cuts of meat and more vegetables.

We've had exciting additions to the menu such as deep-fried ice cream, soft-shell crabs and ostrich! But I feel students appreciate honest food and keeping things simple. I interact with students through regular e-mails: I want food to be part of the fantastic Cambridge experience.

I served as a missionary for two years in Rocky Mountain. I love working with people from all walks of life: everyone is different but important. Just like a recipe, that's what makes everything work!



Peter was interviewed by graduate student Srishti Krishnamoorthy (NC 2013)

6 roll&development

The Telephone Campaign

The annual telephone campaign has become a key part of the College year. Twice as many students apply for the job as there are places available; it is well paid and they receive excellent professional training. Employers are impressed to see the experience on our students' CVs. It also provides valuable practice for the telephone interviews that most job applicants now have to undergo before they get a face-to-face interview, and of course we provide references.

The telethons are great fun; the students make new friends across the years and they thoroughly enjoy speaking to our alumnae. This year our students received lots of cards back from Newnhamites to whom they had spoken, offers of work experience and invitations from around the world. We are very grateful to all 861 of you who spoke to the team. Nearly 70% chose to make a donation and we raised £259,000 which provides important financial help for Newnham. Thank you.



HOLD THE DATE FOR A CELEBRATION AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS TO MARK THE END OF THE CHANGING LIVES CAMPAIGN: 14 MAY 2015.

AN END OF CAMPAIGN REPORT WILL BE SENT OUT TO ALL ALUMNAE LATER IN THE SPRING.

Save the date: Wartime Remembered, 4 July 2015

Every few years we hold a large family event for our alumnae – you may remember the successful Victorian Day in 2009! We're delighted to announce that the theme of this year's event will be the war years, covering World Wars I and II. Come and learn how to bandage, watch performances by lindy



hoppers and enjoy other activities and displays, including a football match, an air raid shelter, wartime games, actors recreating wartime memories, presentations and much more. We would love to see you and your family on the day. Please save the date: **Saturday, 4 July 2015!**

As part of this event, we will be holding a special reception for alumnae who matriculated before 1945 and their families. If you worked at Bletchley Park, we would like to hear from you (email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk).

The Roll Committee and the Associates are working together on plans for 2018 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Roll. Please would any alumna who has given a TED Talk get in touch with the Roll Office (email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk).

7 studentnews

Newnham gallops to victory!

In October, Kate Walters (NC 2009) led Cambridge to a spectacular victory in the first ever Varsity flat race, held at Newmarket's Rowley Mile racecourse. Teams of five represented Oxford and Cambridge in the competition for the Bearsted Perpetual Challenge Trophy. The Cambridge team was captained by Caius student Oli Lawrence: also representing Cambridge were Evie Hampson, James Alexander, Ginny Fellows and Kate.



Kate, a final-year Veterinary Medicine student, has an impressive list of equestrian accomplishments to her name, most notably in dressage. Always up for a challenge, Kate was only too keen to shorten her stirrups and don the Cambridge colours when Harry Beckett, son of Khalid Abdullah's racing manager Lord Grimthorpe, approached the University with the idea of a Varsity horserace. Kate also worked closely with Oli to organise and publicise the event. The hard work paid off: the day was an overwhelming success, topped off by a convincing win for the light blues. Kate, on board Mr McLuskey's beautiful gelding Ocean Applause, rode a brilliant race and beat the rest of the field past the post by a length. Team mate Evie Hampson finished second on Phosphorescence.

Amongst the Cambridge supporters was racing broadcaster Clare Balding (NC 1990). Clare was very encouraging and gave Kate some valuable advice.

The event marks the establishment of the Cambridge Varsity Horseracing Team, which hopes to inspire more Cambridge students to get involved in racing and ensure victory over Oxford for many years to come!

Newnham Graduate Conference 2015

The third Newnham Graduate Conference will take place on 12 March 2015. The aim is to give students an opportunity to practise presenting their work to a non-expert audience, to meet their fellow Newnhamites on an academic level, and to discover more about the research that goes on in College. Four eminent guest speakers will give keynotes throughout the day. This year, members of Newnham's Oxford sister College Lady Margaret Hall have also been invited. The conference will be followed by dinner.

Alumnae are warmly invited to attend, and are encouraged to share any experience or feedback which might help with the current students' future research or careers. The organisers are still assigning chairs for individual sessions and alumnae would be welcome to lead the discussions after the presentations.

For more information, please email newnhamconference2015@gmail.com or see the website at <https://sites.google.com/site/newnhamconference2015/>.

Congratulations to our NCBC novices who won both the Division 1 and 2 categories of Queens Ergs on 11 November. This is unprecedented, well done to all involved!

8 feature

The spectacular **Newnham College Iris Collection** was launched to commemorate 100 years of Newnham College gardens, and for breeder Simon Dodsworth it has been a way to carry on the legacy of his late father's meticulous work. **Jo Tynan** spoke to him about the very special collection.

Simon Dodsworth regrets that he didn't show much of an interest in irises when his father was alive. Bryan Dodsworth was a successful businessman, but his real passion was his remarkable range of tall, bearded irises. He started hybridising them in his garden in the late 1960s and spent more than 45 years developing a unique range of irises.

Bryan was a true perfectionist and although he produced more than 100,000 seedlings, he registered fewer than 50 varieties. He was awarded 12 Dykes medals for hybridising, making him the most successful British hybridiser in the 80-year history of the medal.

Simon didn't catch the iris bug until after his father's death in 2009. An accountant by trade, he inherited his father's stunning collection, which sparked a quest to get more recognition for his flowers, which have been described as the 'Quintessential Modern British Iris'.

Simon formed the English Iris Company with Barry Emmerson, also a leading hybridiser and the current President of the British Iris Society, who had been mentored by Bryan. The pair set about trying to understand the detailed records left by Simon's father – no mean feat, as the war veteran had written his notes entirely in code! 'It was a major exercise identifying exactly what he had, but we realised he had created an extraordinary gene pool of irises which were unknown to the public.'

Simon and Barry spent years sorting and cataloguing Bryan's irises, which are characterised by perfectly shaped flowers that are evenly spaced along the stem with good bud counts and clear, clean colours. 'My old man worked to hybridise irises that would perform well in the garden and look good at shows. He favoured clear colours which allowed the flower to be viewed from a distance, but hybridising can be a lottery, which is where Barry's expertise has been invaluable.'

The pair were approached by Professor Jenny Morton, Chair of the Newnham College Garden Committee, after it was decided that the College would like to commemorate more than a century of gardening at Newnham with a special collection of flowers.

The iris has a special place at Newnham: a gilded iris sits above the original entrance to the Yates Thompson library, and anyone who has enjoyed the gardens in May or June will have noticed the important contribution that irises make to the borders.

Four new tall bearded irises are the founder members of the Newnham College Iris Collection: Henry Sidgwick and Peile Hall (both hybridised by Barry), Old Hall (bred by Bryan), and Anne Jemima Clough.

Simon says many of Newnham's alumnae have expressed an enduring fondness for irises; 'Many remember their childhood gardens having irises and they have ordered from the Newnham collection because they want to recreate that. Irises only flower for four weeks of the year, from mid-May, and one iris looks much like another for 48 weeks of the year, which makes it truly spectacular and very special when they appear.'

Irises are not as complicated to grow as people think; in fact, tall bearded irises are easy to grow in the right position. They need a good sunny area with well-drained soil and can tolerate temperatures ranging from 30 to minus 15 degrees. But the important thing to remember is not to crowd the rhizomes: 'They can get crowded in modern, smaller gardens so they need to be split up every four years or so, otherwise you will end up with a clump in the middle which won't flower. They are remarkably tolerant of extreme temperatures which make them ideal in modern gardens.'

The English Iris Company has received more than 500 orders for irises from the Newnham Collection and many have already been despatched. The iris border at Newnham has been planted and is expected to look beautiful next year, and truly spectacular by 2016.

Simon believes his father would be delighted to know that his work is being recognised and that his irises are available to buy. He says 'one of my sons is already showing an interest so I am hopeful that irises will continue to be a source of joy and fascination for future generations of my family and the families of the Newnhamites who are introducing the collection to their gardens.'



Anne Jemima Clough



Henry Sidgwick



Old Hall



Peile Hall



Marsilio Ficino



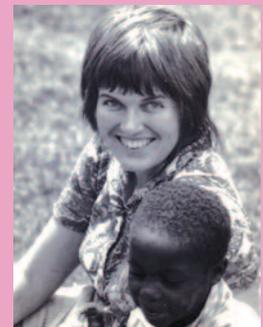
Ann Snee

Naming the Newnham irises

Valery Rees (nc 1965) won the right to name an iris in the raffle at last year's Secret Gardens Ball. She chose 'the Marsilio Ficino iris', named after the Renaissance philosopher and physician, who lived from 1433 to 1499 and had a keen interest in the medicinal properties of plants. Valery has been working on his letters and other writings for the last 38 years, and therefore feels the name is very fitting!

Barbara Brend (nc 1959) successfully bid for the right to name an iris in the auction. She named it after her friend **Ann Snee, 'Flan' (nc 1959)**.

Barbara said, 'Ann Snee, mostly known as Flan, is remembered with great affection by many of us. Her flair, kindness, sense of fun and adventure, combined with her focus on her medical studies and later her work as a doctor, attracted all who met her. When she died of Hepatitis B in Kenya in 1971, aged 30, her loss reverberated widely. She'd been working as a medical officer for IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation) at Maseno, in western Kenya – organising clinics, promoting women's health, running training courses and preparing reports. After her death her friends set up an appeal in her memory, which paid for the building of an operating theatre at Maseno, which is still in use today.'



Ann Snee (Flan)

As reported in the *Roll Letter* 2013, an iris bed has been planted around the Observatory. This can be visited informally next year and we will send out a 'flash email' nearer the time to let you know when the main blooming period will be. We hope to have a more formal Open Day in 2016.

Peile Hall, Old Hall and Henry Sidgwick can be purchased from <http://englishiriscompany.com/>. Anne Jemima Clough is currently being micro-propagated and we will notify you when this iris is available for purchase.

9 internationalnews

Australia

Newnhamites have gathered for two delightful Australian lunches this year.

A sparkling Sydney Harbour was the backdrop for lunch with the Principal, Dame Carol Black, on Sunday 4 May. Dame Carol was making another brief visit to Australia as keynote speaker at the National Australian Rehabilitation Providers Association Conference in Sydney. A lovely venue with views across the Harbour to the Opera House, wonderful food and lively, thought-provoking and diverse conversation made for a memorable lunch. While the topics of conversation were many and varied, those present talked at length about their career paths since leaving Newnham and, in particular, the choices they have made to achieve a balance between work and family and relationship commitments.



Brisbane showed off all sides of her weather for an alumnae get-together on Sunday 9 March at Saint Lucy Caffè e Cucina at the University of Queensland. Present were June McNicol (NC 1944), Mary Playford (NC 1960), Evelyn Williams (NC 1967), Mary Garson (NC 1971), Marina Marangos (NC 1975) and Victoria Jennings (NC 1995). Also present was Marina's husband Charles (a Caius man, but who was allowed to get an occasional word in edgeways...and to take the photo!).

USA

The Development Director was thrilled to catch up with a number of alumnae at Margaret Campbell's lovely home in Brooklyn in November. She then went up to Boston, where Antonia von Gottberg (NC 1988) (standing) and her husband Fred hosted dinner for nine, and finally travelled down to Baltimore to have lunch with Elizabeth McDowell (NC 1966). We are proud that our US community is so strong and very grateful for the US Committee's continuing support for the US Travel Award which is greatly sought after by Newnham students each year. You can read Clare Donaldson's report on her trip in the summer on the US website (newnhaminamerica.org).



International alumnae successes

Professor Brenda Milner (NC 1936) received two very prestigious awards in Science during 2014: she was elected laureate in both the Dan David Prize and in the Kavli Prize. In both prizes she was the only female laureate.

Brenda is the Dorothy J. Killam Professor at the Montreal Neurological Institute, and a professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill University. She was an undergraduate at Newnham in 1936, a Research Fellow and is now an Honorary Fellow (1990) of the College. She is generally regarded as the founder of the field of the neuropsychology of memory and other cognitive functions in humankind and is a truly inspiring female scientist of whom we are very proud.



Laura O'Reilly (NC 2007) (pictured), History graduate and former JCR President, has been announced as the winner of *The Australian Women's Weekly* Women of the Future 2014 Award. Laura was selected from more than 500 entries from the philanthropy, community, academic, science and business sectors.

Laura was recognised for her work with Fighting Chance, a charity she developed and now runs with her brother Jordan, which provides employment and training opportunities for people with significant disabilities through the creation of innovative social businesses.

Hear and see what Fighting Chance is about from Laura: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQHggig1VoU

Brigid Hogan (NC 1961) has been awarded the 2014 Croonian Lecture for pioneering contributions which have transformed understanding of cell specification, organogenesis and morphogenesis in mammalian development.

Visit to the Folger Library

Heather Wolfe (NC 1993), Curator of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, hosted a private 'behind the scenes' tour of the exhibition *Symbols of Honor: Heraldry and Family History in Shakespeare's England*. Heather co-curated the exhibition with Nigel Ramsay, also a Cambridge alumnus. She was joined by Sir John Baker, past president of St Catharine's College, who had lent items to the exhibition, as well as his wife Professor Elisabeth van Houts, former Fellow of Newnham, Sue Williams (NC 1965) and Margaret Campbell (NC 1966).



10 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Nora Franglen (NC 1955) – Teaching acupuncture to the Chinese



I studied for a Modern Languages degree at Newnham from 1965–68, followed by a brief period at the British Council, before marriage and children swallowed up the next ten years of my life. I returned to work as a freelance translator until, at 45, I decided to study acupuncture. This led to my founding an acupuncture college in London focusing on one branch of acupuncture, that is called ‘five element acupuncture’, from 1995–2007. Since then I have been concentrating on postgraduate work both in this country and abroad.

With the advent of Communism in China, and in particular the Cultural Revolution, many traditional practices, including acupuncture, were viewed as not fitting into the picture of the modern China Mao Tse-Tung was trying to create. They were banned or so watered down that many of the long-established practices were lost. Partly encouraged by the West’s warm welcome to acupuncture, there has now been a revival of interest in China for its more traditional forms. Through contacts I made with a Chinese acupuncturist in the Netherlands, I was invited to present a seminar in China in 2011. I return there twice a year to teach enthusiastic groups of Chinese acupuncturists.

The Mandarin version of one of my books, *The Handbook of Five Element Practice*, has now sold over 10,000 copies in China, evidence, if it is needed, of the interest my visits have stimulated. This can indeed be called ‘coals to Newcastle’!

Charmaine Saw (NC 1990) – Work-life balance and the business of wine



While a Management Consultant, the concept of work-life balance started to play a big role in my life – the realisation of the importance of it. There seemed a lot of work and not so much life! This was the start of a new chapter in my journey to achieving balance. And because it seemed that so many of us need it, the topic of my MBA thesis was *Achieving Work Life Balance in Consulting*.

In deciding what I would do next, an opportunity to manage a vineyard and start a wine business seemed too good to miss. It was an opportunity for me to create a name and brand with which the consumer could have a special relationship, and one inspired by balance and contentment. I decided to call my business UMAMU, a palindrome to harness balance, five letters in respect of the five elements, with the fifth flavour of food, Umami, at the back of my mind.

Of course the journey to achieving balance has been more ‘off-balance’ than ‘in balance’ given the challenges of growing grapes and managing vines! But it has made life much more colourful and increased my appreciation of the need for balance; in everything we do in our lives and indeed in how we grow our vines or how we make our wines. Our balancing point keeps changing so we need to morph as we go. But one balance point is that the name UMAMU has been well received. It’s calm and it is the first word my two year old nephew can pronounce perfectly! Therein lies the balance, right?

Rosemary Francis (NC 2002) – The architecture of computers



I started my business in 2010 after working in the computer chip design industry for a few years. During my PhD and my time in industry I saw how much time was being spent struggling with complex software that was difficult to set up. I established my company, Ellexus to solve these installation and configuration problems, initially targeting the semiconductor industry, but more recently working in other areas of scientific computing.

Our customers are all technical people and experts in their own field: we work with companies such as ARM and Cancer Research. This has helped me keep a technical role, even if I no longer work on the products themselves, something I really enjoy. I studied Maths and Computer Science at Newnham and I don't want to give that up.

I started the company with a small investment and, although it was harder than I ever imagined to start a business on a shoestring, I'm sure that having to budget carefully has saved me from making some expensive mistakes. This year I am thrilled to be working on some larger projects that will bring more rapid growth. We are starting to look more at storage and performance for High-Performance Computing, an area in which there are still a lot of problems to solve. I'm really looking forward to the challenge!

Dr Janaki Sunil Galappatti (NC 1966) – A passion for plants



Plants have always been one of my passions. I studied botanical subjects at Cambridge but went on to a career in education, developing strategies to stimulate students to become lifelong learners. When a friend invited me to join in compiling a book on plants for the newly established National Trust of Sri Lanka, it felt like a return to a first love.

Ours was to be one of ten books covering aspects of the country's heritage. 'Do about 300 plants, two to a page', we were instructed. Together with the Director General of Sri Lanka's National Botanic Gardens, our first task was choosing 300 out of nearly 4,000 possible flowering plant species. As the book was intended for the general public, we decided to celebrate 300 commonly occurring plants rather than rare species. The hardest part was capturing photogenic specimens. Highlighting a particular plant, while avoiding other species in a lush tropical background, was not easy. Sometimes we located a fruit only to find that monkeys had been at it before us!

Several photographers generously donated pictures but often we had to record specimens ourselves. If we missed a flowering season, it might be a whole year before we had another chance. My supportive husband got used to shrieks of 'stop!' as we drove around the country. Then my co-author and I would clamber out and hop over barbed wire or flounder into a marsh in search of that elusive shot. On one occasion, we even found ourselves looking into the barrel of a gun. In our enthusiasm we had stumbled into a high security zone in a country then in the throes of a civil war.

Ultimately the photographs were so lovely that instead of two plants per page, often we had two or more pages per plant. That was how one book grew into two; the first (already published*) focusing on plants that have spread naturally, the second (awaiting a sponsor) on those planted deliberately.

**Flowering Plants: Commonly Encountered in Sri Lankan Habitats*

11 legacies

Investing in Newnham's Future

Below is an extract from Penny Hubbard's speech at The Sidgwick Society Event.

We currently have 400 members of the Sidgwick Society who have given legacy pledges to support Newnham. Our legators are making a fantastic investment both in the future of Newnham and in generations of students to come. We are incredibly lucky to have such loyal alumnae who believe in giving back to enable others to have the extraordinary opportunities from which we all benefited. Thank you.

The fantastic thing about Newnhamites is they give what they can and when they can. By pooling our gifts we achieve great things. Newnham is regularly among the top Colleges for the number of alumnae making a life time donation each year. Many of these are small but they make a tangible and real difference. The average participation rate across Cambridge is in the region of 13–14%, and Newnham has had the second highest ever rate across the Cambridge Colleges at 24%.

Other alumnae generously choose to support Newnham through a legacy gift where they feel they can make a larger donation. One important aspect of making a donation through a legacy is that you can be sure that you have first provided for your own needs and for your family before supporting your old College. If you are able to leave 10% of your estate to charity overall you reduce the level of inheritance tax that your family and other beneficiaries will pay.

When we launched the Changing Lives Campaign in 2009 to raise £15 million, the target was the most ambitious in the College's history. We knew that we had very loyal alumnae. But the Changing Lives Campaign was a little different from previous fundraising efforts for the library or the roof for example: it was for outreach, to encourage young women who might not otherwise think of applying to Cambridge to have a go, to provide bursaries, to support our outstanding academics, and to enable projects which enhance the experience of being at Newnham, such as the Literary Archive or the creation of the Newnham iris collection. We have been both touched and thrilled with the response.

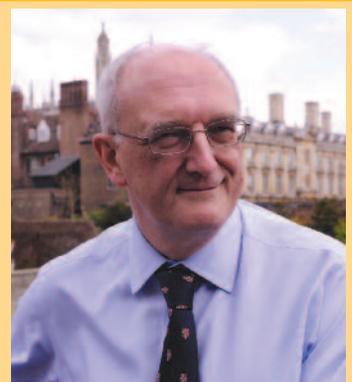
As a result of the Campaign we have received 175 new legacy pledges, and 30% of the sums raised have come from legacies which help strengthen our endowment. As a result our endowment will generate more income to support teaching costs. Your generous pledges will make a huge contribution to our being able to continue to offer the supervision system which makes coming to Cambridge so special. Thank you very much indeed for the part you are playing and will continue to play through your legacy for Newnham College.

If you are considering leaving a legacy to Newnham, please get in touch with the Development Office and we would be happy to send you more information, including examples of the wording you can use. Call Fran Watson on 01223 335749 or email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk.

The Sidgwick Society

In October we were privileged to welcome the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, to speak privately to the Sidgwick Society. Legators from matriculation years as varied as 1944 to 2005 attended the fascinating talk on 'Cambridge and the Future' before enjoying a special lunch in College Hall and a tour of the library.

'What a super day! I came away feeling so pleased and proud to be part of Newnham and felt so welcomed back as part of the Newnham family. The Vice Chancellor was highly impressive and thought-provoking. And Newnham felt very healthy and happy!' (From a guest)



12 presentationskillsfund

The Veronica Crichton Presentation Skills Fund

Newnham is committed to providing its students not only with an outstanding academic experience but also with the core skills they need to thrive and make their mark in an increasingly competitive world. Recognising how vital it is for young women to present their ideas well, Rosemary Emanuel (*Nabarro*, NC 1957) has been helping the Development Office to raise funds to hold small group professional presentation skills training for students. The **Veronica Crichton Presentation Skills Fund** is named after an alumna who was a renowned and respected trainer in such skills and who died in 2002, aged only 53.

We have already run three intensive courses and have received some very positive responses. The trainers film the participants' presentations, giving detailed feedback and teach them how to judge their audience and to tailor their talks accordingly.

Rosemary has asked us to encourage other alumnae to join her in supporting this very worthwhile endeavour. Please consider donating to the Fund to enable more students to benefit from training in these 'extra' skills – you could help to make a tangible difference to a student's future! For more information or to make a donation, please contact the Development Office (tel. 01223 335757, email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk). Thank you!

Regina Hansda (NC 2011), a PhD student in the Department of Geography, participated in the presentation skills course in January 2014.

'It was a great privilege to attend this wonderful course! The trainers were brilliant, and the design and delivery of the course excellent, with space to accommodate our varied needs and concerns. The group, although small, was representative of the diverse Newnham community and the right size for intense, personalised engagement.

I found the video session particularly useful. It enabled us to dwell on our strengths and weaknesses through one-to-one and group feedback sessions from both trainers and participants. The depths of insight into the nitty-gritty of presentation were commendable.

Since I received this training, I haven't missed a single opportunity to share and present my research work! In every month from February onwards I made presentations, beginning with my 'reading group' in the department, to inter-disciplinary seminars in other departments (e.g. CRASSH), in College, at the Newnham Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (where I even won the second best presenter prize), and finally, I made my first international presentation at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Florida, USA. I have to acknowledge the pivotal role this training has played in allaying some of my fears and hesitations about presenting.

The Veronica Crichton Presentation Skills Course is a wonderful opportunity provided by the College. I would highly recommend this course to all Newnham students, irrespective of their year of study. Thank you to all those alumnae who made this course possible. You have truly made a difference.'



13 didyouknow

Individual Tutors for each Hall used to be responsible for the interior décor of their particular Hall, with wallpaper and furnishings chosen to work with the architecture and furniture selected from antique shops. Women students were not expected to bring furniture from home in the way that men in some Colleges were required to furnish their rooms.

Joan Clarke (NC 1936), the Newnhamite who cracked Enigma cyphers with Alan Turing at Bletchley Park, is portrayed by Keira Knightley in the new film *The Imitation Game*. Clarke, who was Alan Turing's lifelong friend and his fiancée for a short time, was the only woman to work in the nerve centre at Bletchley Park. Her task was to break Navy ciphers in real time. The messages she decoded would have resulted in immediate military action, saving thousands of lives.



Dame Mary Archer has been appointed as Science Museum Group Chair for a term of four years from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018. **Professor Maggie Boden (NC 1955)** recently appeared on Radio 4's *Life Scientific* with Jim Al Khalili. **Alice King (NC 2012)** has been elected the First Female President of the Cambridge Clay Pigeon Shooting Society. **Gabrielle Dorland Taylor (NC 1984)** went up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with CULES (Cambridge University Light Entertainment Society), where she and the cast rehearsed at Holyrood Palace with Prince Edward. We have just appointed a new Bursar, **Jenny Raine**, who comes from Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. She joins our other new recruit, College Secretary **Holly Adams**. In November, the **Reverend Dr Judith Maltby**, formerly a Junior Research Fellow at Newnham, delivered the University sermon at Great St Mary's. **Dr Cristina Branco-Price**, Director of Studies in Natural Sciences, has been awarded a five-year Breast Cancer Campaign scientific Fellowship, worth £600,000, to carry out ground-breaking work to help improve breast cancer survival rates.

newnhamassociates

Having left Newnham with an engineering degree that included a dissertation on the social and environmental effects of hydropower in Vietnam, and then working in the UK civil engineering sector, I got a policy job at Traidcraft (a fairtrade organisation) – a return to my interest in international issues. Traidcraft sees trade as the sustainable route out of poverty for developing countries. But not all people contributing to trade are benefiting; in fact, some become more impoverished. Developing countries keen to participate in the increase in international trade frequently don't have well-functioning independent legal and justice systems. This means that a minority of businesses are able to bring their products and profits into the UK on the back of harming their workers or neighbours, or polluting the environment. Those harmed do not receive compensation to pay for treatment needed for injuries, long-term illness, or to replace a breadwinner's income. Fortunately more than 70% of the UK public and MPs recently polled want British firms held to account in the UK for harm caused in developing countries. I hope this sense of fairness can lead to the UK providing a parallel practical route to justice for people harmed. Only then will trade be just.

Do get in touch if you would be interested in learning about my work (fiona_gooch@yahoo.co.uk).

14 recent events

Alumni Festival

130 alumnae from matric years 1959, 1974, 1984 and 1994 (with a sprinkling of those from 1975 who knew Sian Rosser (NC 1974)) enjoyed beautiful weather for the Alumni Festival.

Friends and family of Sian Rosser (NC 1974) celebrated her memory on Peile Lawn with the donation of a beautiful garden table, bench and two chairs. They also planted a tree in her memory in the memorial orchard. We are very grateful indeed that sufficient funds have been donated to start a Sian Rosser Bursary, the first of which was awarded this year. If you would like to contribute to the fund to enable more students to benefit in Sian's memory, please contact Penny Hubbard.

The successful Newnham Conversations continued between Dame Julia Cleverdon (NC 1969) and Carol Sergeant (NC 1971). Julia, Vice President of Business in the Community and Special Advisor to the Prince's Charities on responsible business practices, was searingly honest and very funny about the challenges she faced on the way to the boardroom. Carol, who now has a portfolio of appointments in the private, public and charity sectors, spoke of lessons learned during senior positions in the Bank of England, the Financial Services Authority and the financial services industry as well as from her time on the board of Lloyds TSB. It was a fascinating discussion and we thank them both enormously.

NewnhamRoll Mums event

Novelist and author of *The Hive*, Gill Hornby, led a panel of speakers chaired by Dr Jane Morris (NC 1971) in a discussion on those who steer a path in between having a full-time, full-on career, and being a mother. Gill emphasised her view that there is a huge gulf between policy makers in Westminster and their understanding of the challenges that most people face on a day-to-day basis. Five Newnhamites spoke about their different experiences, going back to our grandmothers' time through to current day. Another speaker spoke movingly about her challenges raising a poorly child and her reward and satisfaction in helping her achieve a full and successful life. A delicious buffet lunch was followed by an energising Q and A session with many thought-provoking comments from our audience. Twitter was buzzing both during and after the day!

HOLD THE DATE for next year's event on 7 November 2015.

Visit to the National Portrait Gallery

Thirty Newnham Roll Members had an outing to hear Virginia Nicholson, great niece of Virginia Woolf, speak at the National Portrait Gallery. She gave a very personal account of growing up in a household suffused with the spirit of Virginia Woolf. Seventeen then had a convivial dinner in the Portrait Restaurant. The evening was open to all – if anyone wants to organise a similar informal event in future, the Roll Office can email alumnae on your behalf, if you are willing to co-ordinate the event.



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15 events

Forthcoming events

Literary Archive Event

28 February

This year poetry will be the focus of our event.

Wartime Remembered Day

4 July

This will be a special family day open to all. Bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy learning about WW1 and WW2. Invitations will be sent out in the spring.

Alumni Festival

25–27 September

The special reunion years invited for dinner will be 1960, 1975, 1985 and 1995. Invitations will be sent in early summer.

For further information about all the events listed here and in the Calendar please contact the Development Office at:
E: roll@newn.cam.ac.uk
T: 01223 335757

Call for email addresses

The Roll & Development Office is keen to send out more mailings via email where this would be welcomed by our alumnae, as it helps keep costs down and is more environmentally friendly. Please let us know your preference and check that we have your up-to-date email address.

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



Follow the tweets
@NewnhamRoll for
the latest news



Newnham College Business Alumnae
Sign up to the alumnae-run LinkedIn group and join the thriving Newnhamite network

calendar

2015

21 January

Formal Hall – AMES, MML, Linguistics

28 January

Formal Hall – HSPS, PBS (including Archaeology & Anthropology; and PPS)

5 February

Formal Hall – Law, History of Art, Music, Management Studies

18 February

Formal Hall – Economics, Land Economy, Computer Science, Mathematics

25 February

Formal Hall – NSB, HPS

28 February

Literary Archive Event

21 March

Commemoration – alumnae who matriculated in 1945, 1955, 1965, 1990 and 2005 are invited back to Newnham to celebrate their special anniversary year

24 April

Henry Sidgwick Memorial Lecture – open to all – Speaker – Sir Christopher Frayling

14 May

End of Campaign Celebration at the House of Lords – alumnae are warmly invited to join us at a celebration to mark the end of the Changing Lives campaign

13 June

Women of the Year Event – details will be sent out nearer the time

4 July

Wartime Remembered – every few years we hold a large family event for our alumnae. The theme of this year's event will be World War I & II

26–27 September

Alumni Festival – previously known as the Alumni Weekend, those who matriculated in 1960, 1975, 1985 and 1995 are invited to attend the Reunion Dinner and other special College events

7 November

NewnhamRoll Mums event

Please note: anybody wishing to attend a particular Formal Hall should check the website in advance in case of alteration.



Chloe Chin

for an up-to-the-minute listing of events, please visit
www.newn.cam.ac.uk