

changinglives



Newnham College Newsletter

Get in touch

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



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

Follow our special College Twitter account @Newnham_College, which links to the @NewnhamRoll account, and ‘like’ our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewnhamCollege to keep up to date with College news and events

Jenny Staples (NC 1963) is a keen bridge player and has volunteered to give lessons in her lovely home in London N1 to any Newnhamite who would like to learn. She would love to hear from any of you who fancy either having lessons (beginner upwards) or joining a Newnham bridge club (email jenstaples@hotmail.com).

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Cover photo: Truda Weiler (Classics, NC 1944) and her granddaughter Sarah (MML, NC 2004) who came back to share Commemoration together. Photograph by Stills Photography.

1 fromthelodge



Professor Dame Carol Black

This year women in the University have heightened the debate on gender inequalities. *The Meaning of Success: Insights from Women at Cambridge* brings together views and insights gained from searching enquiries of high-achieving women. The narratives recorded in this book are personal, recalling the experiences, perceptions and judgements of their own lives from the outset of their careers and often before. They are diverse, showing the many pathways to the positions and places they have come to hold in organisations and societies once characterised by the predominance of men.

These women have lived through years in which our place, participation and influence in almost every domain of society has changed for the better. They and their contemporaries have been chief agents of those changes. Unsurprisingly their accounts bring out the determination and clarity of purpose needed to achieve worthwhile goals; but they also show an uncommon personal candour, with modesty and humility, and admission of the unease and uncertainties of life and careers lived in masculine environments.

For these women, whilst their achievements give natural pride, any associated power is valued not for its own sake but because it enables them to influence actions that they judge to be worthwhile for a wider good. They set great store in collaborative effort, in the shared contributions of colleagues and teams, in the idea of cohesion.

A familiar observation, running through the book, is the continued dominance of a masculine mindset, particularly in the characteristics that define success. It is plain to many that current widely unquestioned views of success are to the detriment not only of diverse organisations and institutions but to society as a whole. Importantly such effects are detrimental to both men and women.

It is notable that the recorded insights and observations are not at all confined to the academic world of Cambridge. They come from people of diverse backgrounds and personalities, people who have taken quite different paths to achievement and influence. Indeed they mirror views of our wider society with different histories, shaped partly, it is true, by their lives in this University but whose experience comes from lives lived in a myriad of ways.

The book comes out of an attempt to explore the concept of success as currently recognised. The experiences and views recorded here do not, perhaps, satisfy hopes of a new definition, but by adding to our understanding they do bring out the narrowness and want of balance in the current paradigm, its shortcomings, and above all its relative neglect of values that still guide the lives and work of countless people, women and men.

2 collegenews

Newnham bikes

The Principal, Dame Carol, is Expert Adviser on Health and Work to the Department of Health and so has a particular interest in the health and wellbeing of Newnham's staff. Under her guidance a survey was carried out to identify how Newnham's staff felt their health could be improved, and one wonderful suggestion was that we should have some traditional bicycles which staff could borrow to get into Cambridge at lunch time. Thanks to a super anonymous donation, four bikes are already being put to good use!



Refurbishment of the Porters' Lodge

The Porters' Lodge is having a facelift. Next time you return to College, look out for our fabulous new pigeon holes. Don't be shocked – they are horizontal, which works better for larger envelopes!

The Meaning of Success: Insights from Women at Cambridge

Dame Carol talks about the new book celebrating the life stories of women across the University. Seven Newnhamites are featured in depth: Principal Dame Carol Black; Professor Mary Beard (NC 1973); Joanna Cheffins (NC 1983), Joint Head of the Legal Services Office; Emma Wilson (NC 1985), Professor of French Literature and the Visual Arts; Professor Ottoline Leyser (NC 1983), Director of the Sainsbury Laboratory; Development Director Penny Hubbard (NC 1979); and Laurie Friday, a former Newnham Fellow and now Degree Committee Senior Administrator in the School of Physical Sciences. Many other Senior Members are also quoted.

For more information visit www.cam.ac.uk/womenatcambridge. The book can be bought through the CUP website and Amazon (£9.99).

The Meaning of Success



Insights from
Women at Cambridge

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

By Jo Boalook
for the University of Cambridge

Pat Easterling's 80th birthday

Professor Pat Easterling, the first and only female Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, was joined by 130 of her former pupils in celebrating her 80th birthday. Pat's 95-year-old teacher, Joyce Reynolds, reduced her audience to peals of laughter as she read out her notes made during Pat's Newnham interview. Pat's student, Mary Beard, praised the pair's teaching: 'Pat Easterling and Joyce Reynolds are two of the greatest classicists and classical teachers in the world. I was unbelievably privileged to be taught by them. They taught me what it is to learn. There's nothing more important than that.'

Pat cut her cake to a rousing chorus of *Happy Birthday* and Professor Dame Carol Black said 'The expertise and devotion to the subject by these three women established Newnham as a world-class place to study Classics. Between them they have 235 years of classical knowledge which we all celebrated – it was a great party.'



New College Communications Officer

We are delighted that Jo Tynan, formerly with the *Cambridge Evening News*, has joined us as the College Communications Officer. She works closely with all departments, including Admissions, Tutorial and Roll and Development. If you have any news you think may help Newnham celebrate its alumnae and raise its profile, please send it to her at jo.tynan@newn.cam.ac.uk. We will not be able to publish everything but we are looking for a wide range of stories and Jo would love to hear from you.

Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture

Professor Lin Foxhall, Professor of Greek Archaeology and History, University of Leicester and History Expert to the Richard III Greyfriars Project, delivered this year's public lecture, *The past ahead: academic expertise and public understandings of the past*. Lin drew on examples ranging from classical antiquity to the discovery of King Richard III, to explore what roles, if any, academic expertise and authority play (or should play) in public interpretations of the past. How does global dissemination via the internet affect their acceptance? Does it matter that some interpretations ignore the evidence altogether? Where does this leave expert knowledge? And what kinds of pasts lie ahead of us in the future?

3 spotlight

Joanna Zakrzewska (NC 1977) – The Art of Pain

As a medical student at Newnham in the 1970s, little did I think that the Art History lectures I attended with fellow Newnhamite Kori Garner (NC 1977) would have such an impact on my future career.



More than 30 years on, still friends with fellow Newnhamite Kori Garner

I knew that I wanted to be a doctor, but the road to my becoming a Professor of Pain in relation to Oral Medicine was a serendipitous one. I had no idea that I would end up working with distinguished professors of history, linguistics and anthropology, as well as talented artists, in order to improve our understanding of chronic pain.

After obtaining a degree in dentistry at King's College London, I decided that general dental practice wasn't for me and found myself at Newnham reading Medicine.

Newnham quite literally changed my life. The College found me extra funding, and engaged me as a supervisor for undergraduates, which fuelled my passion for teaching. Newnham also fostered lifelong friendships and a network of contacts that I still enjoy today.

On leaving Cambridge I became an oral physician, and then one of my mentors suggested I do an MD

on trigeminal neuralgia, a rare form of very severe facial pain, which launched me into the field of pain medicine.

After spending the 1980s working with oral cancer patients and HIV/AIDS sufferers, and ten years as an academic at Queen Mary's, London, I moved to University College London Hospitals in 2007. I set up the first and largest UK multidisciplinary research-led unit for patients with facial pain. Patients and staff now come from across the globe to learn how we assist our patients in dealing with their chronic pain, when everybody else seems to have given up on them.

Working with these patients, many of whom could not adequately verbalise their pain, I began to realise that those Art History lectures might help me communicate better with them by using visual images to illustrate their symptoms. What resulted was patient-created graphic imagery that tells a powerful story of how pain is experienced by each individual. These images are so powerful that they were recently given a public exhibition at the Menier Gallery in London. The ground-breaking



Winning a prize at a Pain Conference for one of our visuals with Deborah Padfield, our artist, and Amanda Williams, our psychologist

4 infocus

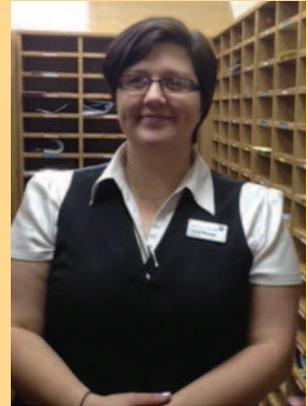
face2face art project has shown how much mainstream medicine can benefit from input from the arts and humanities. Patients with chronic pain need to have time to tell their stories and to be listened to. The project is a key component of our holistic approach, working with experts in a range of fields using medical and psychological methods to find the right approach for each individual. Face2face aims to give visual form to the experiences of those with invisible facial pain. One of our patients, Elizabeth, explains:

'I was invited to capture images which represented the horrendous pain I was feeling. The images were of decay, destruction and despair ... It was upsetting but in a strange way it helped me manage my pain ... The pain hasn't gone completely but I am noticing that I have more days when the pain is less severe.'

It's been a long, fulfilling adventure for me since leaving Newnham. There have been many challenges, and many accomplishments. One makes many sacrifices along the way, but I have a fascinating family who have enriched my life. I love to travel and I'm lucky enough to receive invitations to speak at conferences around the world.

Art and pain: as my younger self cycled down Sidgwick Avenue to those Art History lectures, who would have guessed how far they would take me?

Before I became Newnham's Head Porter in November 2013, I was a senior prison officer. I had made the decision to leave, but was keen to carry on doing something similar. My brother is a Porter at Trinity so I had an insider's perspective on what it entailed. I thought there was quite an overlap, so I decided to give it a go!



In my previous job, I managed a unit of about 120 individuals aged 18–21. It was an induction unit so our role was assessment and making the prisoners aware of the rules before they were allocated to other units for long-term stay. It was a high-stress environment – we had to be on our guard, particularly to mitigate prisoner-on-prisoner conflict. The prison is a very misunderstood environment, though. My role was not just about being strict. It was also about helping young people deal with issues they often had very little control over, learning how to speak to them and building relationships, all of which are skills I value at Newnham.

The highlight so far has been the people – the students, Fellows and staff. My colleagues have been incredibly supportive in helping me settle in and teaching me a lot. It is also fantastic that I am beginning to know the girls really well and they will often pop by for a chat, to ask for advice, or sometimes just to say hello.

Newnham has changed even since I've been here – the Porters' Lodge has been refurbished and we have new pigeon holes. I think it's amazing that the College respects its history whilst looking forward to and preparing for the future – it's wonderful to be part of such an honoured tradition.

Something that my colleagues may not know is that I love brass instruments and have grown up playing in bands, particularly the cornet (which I've played since I was 8). I've been in talks to play at Newnham some time soon...!



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

Letter-writing in ancient Greek culture

Professor Paola Ceccarelli, Fellow in Classics

I am a historian of ancient Greece, and my research in the past decade has focused on a specific mode of communication in ancient Greek culture: letter-writing. In my recently published book, *Ancient Greek Letter Writing: A Cultural History*, I offer a history of the development of letter writing in ancient Greece, from the archaic to the early Hellenistic period (c. 6th–3rd century BCE), which highlights the specificity of epistolography (the art of letter writing) as compared to other forms of communication and writing. Our earliest surviving letters are often indistinguishable from oral messages, and use formal hallmarks typical of other genres such as funerary inscriptions and curses. I show how letter-writing evolved into a formally distinct mode of communication and established itself as normative within different communities of discourse. At issue here are also broader questions to do with the influence of the medium on the content of a message, and above all, the relationship of a society with the text-forms it uses.

My account is based on both documentary evidence (inscriptions, from the earliest ones, written on lead and recording private exchanges, to the official correspondence of the Hellenistic period, monumentalised on steel or on the walls of temples) and literary sources (historiography, drama, oratory); I give special attention to official forms of communication, in particular the contrast between city decrees and royal letters.

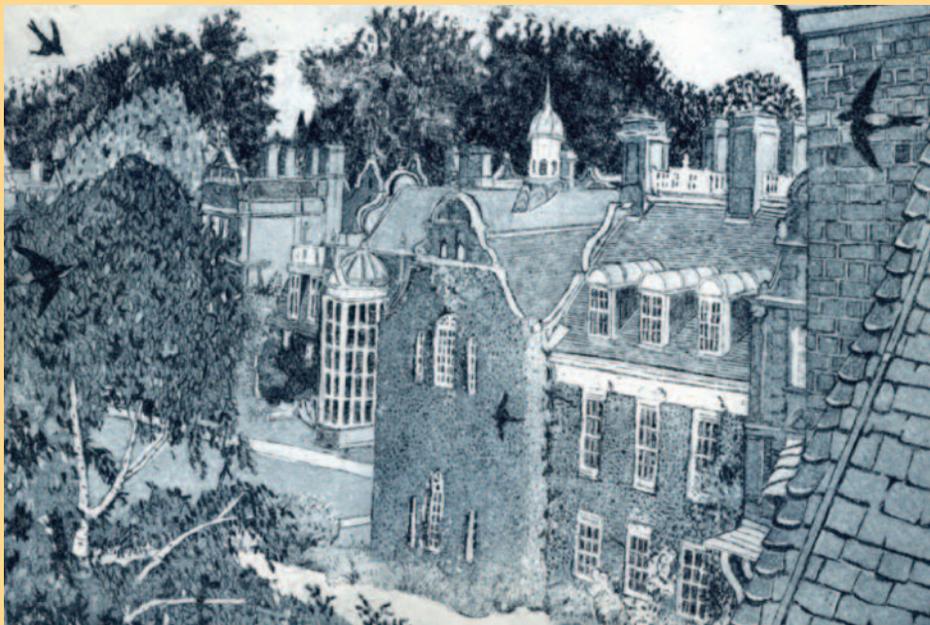
Building on this history of Greek letter-writing, I am now at work on the royal correspondence that has survived from the Seleucid chanceries. Part of my project is a full critical edition of the letters addressed by the Seleucid kings and their administrators to cities, *ethnê*, sanctuaries and individuals, in the third and second centuries BCE. The geographical regions involved are Anatolia (in particular the Troas, Ionia and Caria) and the Near East. Within these chronological and geographical reimits, the coverage aims to be comprehensive. The edition will comprise some 95 letters, in contrast to the 28 Seleucid letters included in C. B. Welles, *Royal Correspondence in the Hellenistic Period*, which is still the standard work of reference. The difference in numbers is due mostly to the epigraphical discoveries of recent decades. Excavations and chance finds have contributed some very important texts, at times of substantial length, such as the dossiers from Labraunda, Sardis, and Skythopolis (modern Hepzibah in Israel), and the letters from Teos, Iasos, and the island of Failaka in the Arabic gulf. All of these documents are inscribed on stone, and thus present the usual technical problems of epigraphical publications, but also raise much wider issues to do with imperial administration and cross-cultural communication, which I would like to explore separately. There is no better place to pursue this work than Newnham, with its distinguished tradition of scholarship on ancient epigraphy!



6 roll&development

Return to Newnham etching

We are very grateful that printmaker Janis Goodman (NC 1975) has produced a wonderful and different aspect of the College. After some discussion as to where she might find an interesting view, we came up with the idea of 'putting her up on the roof'. Some months later Janis found



herself signing a risk assessment form to go and work on the heights of Old Hall. A safer and more commodious bit of roof would have been hard to find, except for the unexpected wasps exiting from their nearby nest! A full article will be included in the Roll Letter but we have reproduced Janis's fabulous etching above. The etchings are for sale for £110 plus £10 post and packaging directly from Janis (janisgoodman@talktalk.net) and £55 will be donated to Newnham for every print sold through the College.

Thank you to all alumnae who completed the emailed alumnae communications survey. We will circulate a summary in the next few months.

Call for Newnham memories 1950–70

Starched petticoats, wearing slacks, swing, getting a beehive, the beat generation, urban jazz, mini skirts, Mary Quant, 'op-art,' rock'n'roll, swinging London, foreign films ... Varsity News, Women take Degrees, Newnham has a Fencing Champion, Still Banned from the Union, WUSS, College life and College Dues, Rag Day, Building Churchill College, The Dorothy, bicycles, Heffers Second Hand Books, May Ball Breakfasts in Grantchester ... if you remember any of these at Newnham 1950–70, then we need you!

The team that put together the Wartime Memories Social History Collection is on the trail. If you came up to Newnham in the 50s and 60s, please get in touch. We would like to hear your recollections, great or small, and we would love to see your photos and memorabilia. Please contact Anna Wakerley (tel. 01223 356356, email sec.nccag@ntlworld.com), Rosalind Willatts (tel. 01536 770875, email rmwillatts@uwclub.net) or Anne Thomson, College Archivist (email ab280@cam.ac.uk) – we need your help to fill in our social history.

7 feature

Role models are key to women's equality, but should they carry a health warning?

Senior Tutor Terri Apter

The discrepancy between women's intelligence and talents on the one hand, and their career achievements on the other, remains a puzzle for the people who teach them as well as for their professional mentors. In March the University of Cambridge launched the book *The Meaning of Success: Insights from Women at Cambridge*. Its aim is to embed and, potentially, reward different kinds of achievement, by focusing on the range of unexpected routes to success. What has yet to be considered is the uneasy puzzle over many women's resistance to the direct pursuit of success.

This puzzle is not new. Forty-five years ago, the psychologist Matina Horner set a task to two different groups: one male, one female. The men were asked to complete a story with the opening sentence, 'At the end of first term finals, John finds himself at the top of his medical school class,' while the women were asked to complete the same story, but describing Ann's success. The men foresaw life happiness and career success for John; 65% of the women participants foresaw loneliness and social rejection for Ann. A new concept – fear of success – was born.

Since that study was conducted, more and more women have become top of their class in the broadest sense. Culture has changed to accommodate and even encourage women's success, but has that internal demon – the fear that, if a woman is successful she will be despised and derided – been exorcised?

If anyone is in any doubt as to the unease women continue to feel about success, then consider responses to Hillary Clinton in her bid for the 2008 presidential nomination. Clinton exhibits no fear of success; her ambition is indefatigable, her confidence ruthless. Yet her failure to capture women's support is often construed as a sign of other women's policing of female norms whereby defiant ambition is ostracised. But in fact, what disturbs many women is that Clinton expects support from women because she is a woman; she piggybacks on a discourse of commonality – as a working mother, as a woman whose ambitions aroused suspicion – to which she has no genuine claim.

As economist Alison Wolf notes, in most professions, for the top 5% of women there are now no gender specific impediments. When a woman stands on a playing field levelled by education, personal connections, personality and luck, yet seeks support from women via the pretence that she is clinging to a slippery pole, then women whose lives remain slick and uncertain – in the context of competing interpersonal demands, financial constraints, marginal networks and female norms – are likely to feel irritated and resentful. They see this as an arrogant and manipulative presumption of sisterhood by someone whose experience is substantially different from theirs.

Women's careers often stall at distinctive turning points or joints in what is often called the 'leaky pipeline': the first is in adolescence, when social pressures – from friends, from parents, from ads, films, television, magazines – to have designer looks, to be liked and admired, to be a nice girl, put self-confidence at risk. Though today more and more adolescent girls are encouraged to succeed by teachers and parents, many find that entry to the workforce – the second turning point – is less welcoming; the support their ambition may have enjoyed during formal education disappears in the messier, more public workplace. A third juncture comes with experiences of motherhood, its surrounding social institutions and its profound emotional pull.



A woman who may at one point in her life feel stuck or stranded on the path to success may have many opportunities to construct new routes forward, or she may compensate for lost time with a delayed push forward; for her, success remains something magical, tentative, not quite real. The experience of women who flow easily through the pipeline – perhaps because they enjoy a bias-free youth, perhaps because they avoid motherhood, or perhaps because wealth or social connection protects them from compromise – is exceptional; these women’s lives are very much like those of privileged men, in regard to opportunities and constraints. Their success may be well-deserved, built upon hard work and ability; but there is little distinctive to being a woman in their success. So when women in this highly privileged 5% group present themselves as role models, or claim to represent the other 95% of women, the hostility with which they are greeted registers a fraudulent and opportunistic claim to commonality, not envy. Presenting this group as an ideal template may increase general unease among many women about their suitability for success.

The health warnings that now accompany fashion models should also be attached to other role models of success. Whether we are looking at a perfect figure or a perfect career, models set an ideal standard that, like the wrong size shoe, is painful and disfiguring. Other people, however admirable, can at best provide a toolkit from which we make selections on an as needed basis. The diversity of women’s lives – some (and why not?) very much like those of men – signals a kind of progress; but a broader view of value, outcomes and human contributions would provide more meaningful inspiration to more women and men.

When are role models helpful?

- When they introduce new possibilities
- When they display possible routes to reaching your goals
- When they are broad and flexible, part of a very large and varied toolkit

When are role models unhelpful?

- When they construct ideals – either an ideal person or an ideal goal
- When they present fixed solutions for solving personal problems
- When they set standards for what is valuable and what is not
- When they present a blueprint for challenges and achievements

Remember: human life as we know it presents us with conflicting values, needs and responsibilities. Personal development is learning how to negotiate our own solutions, in light of our own very private needs, preferences and experience.

8 studentnews

Newnham students fly the flag for women's rugby

Newnham's Clare Donaldson (NC 2011), Emma Clement (NC 2011), and Ant Sahota (NC 2013) have all represented CUWRFC this season, ably captained by Jess Gurney (NC 2011), with Clare also on the committee as tour secretary. The club has had a fabulous season, coming second in both its BUCS and RFUW leagues, as well as getting to the semi-finals of the BUCS trophy. It has been an exciting year as the women have joined the men, becoming an official part of CURUFC. Jess says, 'We have received fantastic support from the men and, looking forward, have many goals that are striving towards equality. Rugby is a great sport and I would fully encourage any women who are considering taking it up. There is no such thing as the wrong size for rugby – to quash the stereotypes, take a look at the team from our Varsity match this season!'



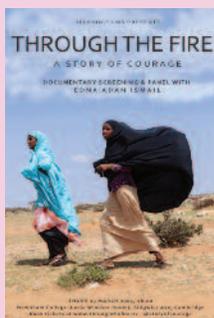
Newnham scientists on BBC Woman's Hour

Four Newnham students chatted to Jane Garvey for Radio 4 in December as part of the Woman's Hour Power List series. You can hear them discussing their research and what it's like to be a woman studying science at Cambridge at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01n6vxh.

Through the Fire

In September 2012, producer Sarah Winfield (NC 2007) and a small production crew embarked on an epic journey across the Horn of Africa in pursuit of a story about three iconic Somali women: Edna Adan Ismail (pictured right at Newnham), Dr Hawa Abdi and Ilwad Elman. The goal of the project was to try to change the script on the all-too-familiar news reports by showing a side of Somalia and Somaliland that mainstream media rarely capture. *Through the Fire*, the resulting film, is now screening internationally. Venues have included the Sydney Opera House, the Library of Congress and Newnham College.

At an EU-hosted screening in Nairobi several NGO partnerships were formed. In New York, a 'Women in the World' benefit raised much needed funding. And, in the UK, a charity is being launched to provide more support. Award nominations include a Student Oscar, Humanitarian Reporting Award and Social Impact Media Award.



For further information please visit www.throughthefire.tv and follow @storyofcourage on Twitter.



9 internationalnews

Hong Kong and Singapore

The Principal and the Development Director had a whirlwind trip to the Far East before Easter. Starting in Hong Kong alongside the Vice Chancellor, they were delighted to meet up with 21 members of the Hong Kong chapter (and a few husbands!) at a superb dinner generously hosted by Joy Shan Lam Kung (NC 1989).

They returned to the UK via Singapore, where Cheong Choy Mei (NC 1981) kindly held a delicious buffet for the Singaporean alumnae.

It was wonderful to meet three students who have offers to join Newnham in October 2014 and to meet five others who had applied to Cambridge after hearing Dame Carol speak in their schools in 2013. Our alumnae community in the Far East is very special and we are very grateful indeed to Joy Shan, Charlotte Wong (NC 1991), Choy Mei, Sharon Chin (NC 1996) and all others who have so generously helped strengthen our network there.



USA

Penny Hubbard gave short talks emphasising some of the highlights of the Roll Committee's Wartime Memories project to alumnae on both the West Coast and East Coast of America on her trip in February. Jane Perera (NC 1982) hosted a lovely dinner in Saratoga and Audrey Richards (NC 1959) put on a splendid English high tea in Berkeley. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the copies of diaries, letters and photos from the Wartime Memories project which Penny had carried in her hand luggage. She returned to the UK via New York where her sister Sarah (who was sadly at the 'other place') kindly hosted a cocktail party for the New York Newnhamites and Caians.

New York alumnae brunch

For the fourth year in a row, our New York alumnae held a brunch before CAM day. Jennifer Delaney (NC 2000) reports; 'We had a delightful lunch at Artisanal bistro, famed for its French cuisine. We were from a range of Newnham years – from the early 1960s to 2005. One particularly memorable conversation focused on our best and worst moments at Newnham. Getting to grips with the English weather and food were unsurprisingly top of the worst lists! I recounted Newnham I winning head of the river with Anna Bebington (now Watkins, Olympic gold medallist NC 2001), Sarah Shevchik (NC 2001) remembered waking up on her fourth day in College to a loud crash and covered in plaster as her roof fell in, and Maja Vukovic (NC 2002) told us of a graduate party in which one had to turn up "dressed as your thesis"!

We are thrilled that for the first time Newnhamites in New Zealand got together, hosting Professor Jenny Morton in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

10 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Mary Hoffman (NC 1964) – Author



'Inspiring Women' can be taken two ways. I've just had an anthology published called *Daughters of Time* (Templar Books), which is all about women who inspire me, some of them not so well known. It is the first publication to grow out of a blog I started in 2011 called The History Girls (<http://the-history-girls.blogspot.com>). We are all writers of historical fiction, whether for adults, teenagers or children, and this book is intended to inspire younger readers. Great contributors like Celia Rees and Adèle Geras have written about extraordinary women and girls in English history from Boudica's daughter to the women of Greenham Common. I edited it and my own story is about Lady Jane Grey.

And then there is the business of trying to inspire other women oneself. I missed my own Commem. this spring because I was in Florence preparing to teach a group of American women to write fiction. The course was called Writers' Renaissance and I was on the Faculty last year too. So many of my books are set in Florence, thanks to the bursary Newnham gave me in the summer of 1965 to go there and learn Italian for a month at The British Institute. I have now lost count of the times I have been in that glorious city and feel confident that it will inspire my students to use a sense of place in their own fiction writing.

Mary Hoffman (www.maryhoffman.co.uk) is the published author of over a hundred books.

At the age of 63, Shelagh Noden (NC 1969) has just successfully defended her PhD thesis at Aberdeen University. She works part-time at the university as a visiting instrumental tutor and occasional lecturer.

Anne Haward (NC 1946) – An active retirement



Anne was Head of Classics for 25 years at New Hall School in Boreham, Essex. Retirement for Anne in 1987 did not mean that she put her feet up; showing tremendous 'can do' spirit, she learned Italian from scratch, became a lecturer for the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) and other groups such as the U3A, guided parties on NADFAS trips to Italy, wrote a book on Roman Art and became a Church Recorder. Charmingly she says that 'none of them were full-time so I could fit them all in!' Anne particularly enjoys her work as part of the NADFAS Church Recording team which focuses on recording everything in a church, from the beautiful paintings, to the cross on the altar to

the doormats. This detailed record is then stored by the Church, the National Monument Record, the V&A Library, the County record office and at Westminster. Anne also believes passionately that more retirees should consider doing postgraduate work; 'This is the time when perhaps more of us could afford to study than when we were starting out and we can bring life experience to the challenge'. We will introduce her to Shelagh who has done exactly that! Finally Anne points out that what she 'really does is garden'. It would be lovely to hear from more retired Newnhamites as to what you are busy doing – please do tell us.



Lauren Francis (NC 2008) – Musician

When I got to Cambridge, my Law degree was my first priority, but, having achieved a very good 2:1, I wanted to explore what I could accomplish in music – performing with different bands in different styles and developing my song-writing skills.

As we all know, a Cambridge degree is of considerable worth in the work place, and unlikely to lose its value quickly. This gave me the confidence to spend some time focusing my energy on my passion for music. In making this decision, I was also very positively supported by my family and my Director of Studies, Dr Catherine Seville, who has followed my music throughout the years. This is a relationship I will always value enormously.

Life for me so far has been rich and full of such a great range of opportunities, with plenty more just around the corner. Being around so many driven, ambitious and independent women at Newnham inspired me to stretch myself too, and to explore different avenues with confidence and enthusiasm.

You can listen to my music here: www.vardoandtheboss.co.uk
My covers band also performs at weddings, corporate functions and private parties: www.groovetails.co.uk



Senior Members

Rae Langton came to Cambridge and joined Newnham in September 2013. She works in moral and political philosophy, history of philosophy, metaphysics, and feminist philosophy, with a focus on issues of free speech: how voices can be silenced in formal and informal ways, and what might provide the best conditions for authoritative speaking. She was born and raised in India, as a daughter of Australian lay missionaries, and has held appointments at MIT, the University of Edinburgh, the Australian National University, and Monash University. She testified to the Leveson Inquiry in 2012, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in October 2013, and in March 2013 was honoured and amused to find herself in Mary Beard's company on Prospect Magazine's list of the world's current 'leading thinkers'. She is proud to join Newnham, and finds its history particularly inspiring, from its earliest foundation by philosopher Henry Sidgwick, to the luminaries like Rosalind Franklin, Judith Jarvis Thomson, and Emma Thompson who came later. She enjoys being an active participant in the Newnham community.

11 legacies

Investing in the Future

We are asking those closest to us to help us to plan for Newnham's future – after you have provided for your family and friends in your Will, please consider a gift to Newnham.

This simple yet most generous act costs nothing today but will secure a strong future for the College and make a lasting impression on the lives of generations of Newnham students to come. Having a Will is the way to ensure that your wishes are respected and the rights of your chosen beneficiaries are protected.

A legacy can be made for a specific capital amount, for all or a percentage of your estate (what you leave) or for a share of what is called 'the residue' of your estate (i.e. the portion of what is left after specific bequests have been made to other beneficiaries). If you have already made a Will, you don't need to rewrite it – you can simply add a *codicil* to make a gift to Newnham. A legacy gift will enrich Newnham's academic and creative environment. It was thanks to Lucia Windsor's wonderful legacy that we were able to build the new Buttery, which has given Newnham's students some of the best catering and eating facilities across the University of Cambridge. Another recent legacy pledge will provide a fund to support our students in science, and a third will endow two new Junior Research Fellowships.

Whilst we are very grateful indeed for these specific gifts, it is not just the larger legacies that make a difference to Newnham. Legacies of all sizes form the foundation of our endowment. For example, each year the College has to subsidise the cost of providing supervision teaching by approximately 50%. This comes to over £2m each year. Legacies which are not linked with a specific purpose (what we call 'unrestricted') are placed in the endowment to help generate the income needed to provide this subsidy. If twenty alumnae each left Newnham a legacy of £5,000, enough income would be generated to support 53 supervisions a year; by pooling our gifts we can achieve great things. Your legacy gift could help us to continue the supervision system which is so special to the education Newnham provides.

Inheritance tax may be due if your whole estate is worth over £325,000 when you die. Newnham is a charity so not only is any gift to the College in your Will completely free of inheritance tax, but it may reduce the inheritance tax liabilities on your estate and the amount of tax your family and friends would have to pay. Furthermore, a relatively recent change in legislation means that if you leave 10% of your estate to charities, the inheritance tax due may be paid at a reduced rate of 36% instead of 40%.

We would like to thank you now for your generosity, ensure that your gift is used in the way you would wish and recognise you as a member of Newnham's Sidgwick Society. A legacy gift is a gift of opportunity which endures beyond a lifetime. Remembering Newnham in your Will has the potential to create extraordinary results and enable generations of talented women to change the world as well as themselves. Thank you for thinking of Newnham.

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 Jo Ryan on 01223 335710 or email Jo on jo.ryan@newn.cam.ac.uk

Nothing has so enriched my life as my time at Newnham. Even after 45 years I acknowledge with gratitude what I owe to my old College. So I urge all of you who must feel as I do, that others must have the same opportunities and range of experience that we did, to add a codicil to your Wills immediately, remembering Newnham, so that your bequest will allow Newnham to continue nourishing succeeding generations.

Miriam Margolyes OBE (NC 1960), Patron of the Sidgwick Society



Helping Newnham to change lives



No one likes writing their Will. I suspect that I put it off for far longer than was advisable, but, once done, it was reassuring to know that decisions around dependents and bequests would be clear. The decision to leave a legacy to Newnham was in part to make the process more personal and to reflect the life I will have lived, and in part because it is so easy to do. Newnham really does change lives and it feels right, therefore, that I should now be able to contribute in some way to the future of a College that was instrumental in shaping my future.

Saskia Jordan (NC 1987)

My legacy

My days at Newnham passed in an exciting whirl, ever trying to fit a quart into a pint pot. The breadth of experiences equipped me for my life ahead and I gained enduring friendships.

If one believes in the importance of education for women, Newnham is the place to be. To help others benefit from similar opportunities to develop academically and personally amid its gracious buildings and gardens, I have given a legacy, easily done and tax efficient. No need for the expense of a new Will – this can be done by Codicil – and the legacy will be taken from my gross estate before 40% Inheritance Tax cuts in. I informed the College and my children, who endorse my intentions.



The legacy binds me closer to the College, acknowledges in a small way my debt to it, and gives me a warm feeling.

Meg Weston Smith (née Milne) (NC 1952, Natural Sciences)

The impact of a legacy gift



Before I came to Newnham I had not understood what a huge part the supervision system would play in my education and in my development as a lawyer and as a person. Supervisions compel you to develop your intellectual confidence and to consolidate knowledge. Within their supportive environment you learn to take constructive criticism on the chin and work on your weaknesses, thereby becoming confident and fluent in expressing your ideas. I have found it hugely motivating to forge close intellectual relationships with passionate teachers and my supervisions have given me skills to build connections with those in authority. Alumnae who have generously left

Newnham legacy gifts have given me a unique opportunity to be coached, supervised and guided in this special way and I hope generations of students to come will be as fortunate.

Amira Prayag (third-year Law undergraduate)

12 didyouknow

newnhamassociates

I combine a career in headhunting at a senior level in the Higher Education

space with research working on age and identity at King's College London. As well as a book that looked at age in the past, I have written a report on diversity, career paths and the life cycle, which will go to policy-makers and be published in the *Financial Times*. For this I have interviewed senior figures across business

and the public sector, which has been fascinating and reflects a wide professional network. In January, I took part in the Inspiring Women event at Basildon Academy School, a national campaign featured in the last newsletter that aims to give girls, whatever their background, the chance to gain first-hand insights into different careers. The event took the form of 'career speed dating' with Miriam Gonzalez Durantez, Tessa Jowell, Clare Balding, Samantha Cameron, and others representing a vast array of professions and careers from space science to banking, the RAF and retail.



Helen Emmott (Yallop, NC 1997),
Research Fellow and Head of the
Education and Not For Profit Practice

I would be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in age and identity or who simply would like some advice about sustaining a plural career (helenyallop@hotmail.com).

Newnham harpist, **Anne Denholm** (NC 2010) is a founding member of an exciting contemporary quartet, The Hermes Experiment. We were delighted that Anne won the Royal Academy of Music's Skaila Kanga harp prize.

Harpist **Georgia Ruth Williams** (NC 2006) won the third Welsh Music Prize for her debut album *Week of Pines*. The singer-songwriter beat a shortlist of 11 other albums to the prize, which celebrates the best new music from Wales. Georgia was also nominated for the Horizon Award at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, which were held in February at London's Albert Hall.

Martha Grekos (NC 2000) was voted third top planning lawyer in the UK in a recent 'Trusted Advisor' Poll conducted by Planning Resource. **Nathalie Buscombe** (NC 2005) has been awarded the first ever MA in Acting from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. **Professor Mary Beard** (NC 1973) and **Professor Rae Langton** were both included in *Prospect* magazine's list of the world's most influential thinkers. Former Principal **Baroness Onora O'Neill of Bengarve** was awarded the Order of the Companion of Honour (CH) for services to Philosophy and Public Policy. **Baroness Jean Coussins** (NC 1970) was awarded the President's Medal by the British Academy for her work in promoting Modern Languages. Honorary Fellow **Professor Uta Frith** was named by the Science Council as one of the 100 leading UK practising scientists. **Katharine Whitehorn** (NC 1947) was awarded a CBE for services to Journalism, **Rita Clifton** (NC 1976) a CBE for services to the Advertising Industry, and **Helen Tse** (NC 1996) an MBE for services to the Food and Drink Sector. **Dr Nathalie Vriend** has been awarded a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship. Our new Valerie Eliot Fellow **Dr Alex Da Costa** has been awarded a Teaching Excellence Award after being nominated by her students for her innovative and engaging teaching style, her support for students, and her ability to inspire critical and imaginative thinking.

13 recent events

Commemoration

April saw a wonderful Commemoration; the weather was kind, the gardens looked splendid and the corridor was the 'shiniest' we had seen it for some time. Among the 150 former students returning, eleven ladies who matriculated in 1944 came to lunch – including Gertrude Weiler and her granddaughter Sarah (NC 2004). 'Hats off' to Hazel Otton's charming husband, Geoffrey, who in spite of being a Johnian was allowed to attend as the solitary male to help Hazel. Lots of our younger alumnae came too and 46 from 1964 celebrated their 50th reunion by re-creating their matric photo. Visitors came from as far afield as India, USA and Italy. Our new Valerie Eliot Fellow, Dr Alex Da Costa, delivered a provocative and inspiring talk on censorship, and conductor Monica Buckland (NC 1983) led a packed open workshop in the Old Labs. Musical students delighted the audience and three alumnae had a go at conducting. On Sunday the Library was open with interesting exhibits and our Head Gardener hosted a tour of the gardens. A reminder that we invite those celebrating their 10th, 25th, 50th, 60th and 70th anniversaries of arriving at Newnham to Commem so make a note for your diary now!



Law networking lunch

The bi-annual law networking lunch established by our Director of Studies in Law, Dr Catherine Seville (NC 1984) broke all records with 92 legal alumnae returning to Newnham to meet each other and to talk to students about their careers. Dame Vivien Rose (NC 1979) gave a fascinating speech about her path to the Bench – recognising that her career had involved not only a lot of hard work but also some luck; 'As you climb the ladder to success, make sure that ladder is leaning against the right wall'. At the event we were delighted to launch our new challenge to raise a law fund of £300,000 to help support Catherine by providing law supervisions in additional law subjects to be held at Newnham (as opposed to other Colleges) with leadership gifts totalling £55,000. If you have not received our Law Fund brochure and would like to make a donation please contact the Development Office and we will send you more information.

Medical networking lunch

In February we held a medical networking lunch for 74 medical alumnae and students. The Principal gave an inspiring talk about medical leadership and the challenges and opportunities offered for women within the medical profession. Spirited discussions continued over lunch.



Changing Lives is produced by the Roll and Development Office
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The paper used for *Changing Lives* is an environmentally responsible alternative to traditional virgin fibre. The paper, LumiSilk, is Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) fibre from well managed forests where internationally agreed strict environmental, social and economic standards are adhered to as independently evidenced by its FSC® Chain of Custody Certification.



14 events

Forthcoming events

Alumni Festival 27–28 September

The special reunion years for the Newnham Reunion Dinner on Saturday 27th will be 1959, 1974, 1984 and 1994. Invitations will be sent in early summer.

NewnhamRoll Mums Forum 8 November

'Career Woman or Stay at Home Mum? Or something in-between?' We investigate real life 'in-between' with the help of writer Gill Hornby and a panel of guests.

Literary Archive Event 28 February

This year poetry will be the focus of our event. Invitations will be emailed in January.

Commemoration Weekend 20–22 March

The special reunion years invited for dinner will be 1945, 1955, 1965, 1990 and 2005. If you have not received your invitation by early February 2015 please contact the Development Office.

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

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

Now on twitter

Follow the tweets @NewnhamRoll for the latest news

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

calendar

2014–2015

2014

5 July

Roll Family picnic – please email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk if you would like an invitation University Alumni Festival with Newnham reunion for special years 1959, 1974, 1984 and 1994

27–28 September

22 October

29 October

6 November

8 November

19 November

26 November

Formal Hall – MVST
Formal Hall – Classics, Philosophy, Theology
Formal Hall – NSP, HPS, Chemical Engineering
NewnhamRoll Mums Forum
Formal Hall – History and Geography
Formal Hall – ASNC, English, Media/Screen/Visual Arts and Education
Music for the Festive Season

30 November

2015

21 January

28 January

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

5 February

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

7 February

Veterinary Medicine Networking Lunch – invitations will be sent in December. Please email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk if you would like an invitation.

18 February

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

28 February

Our Third Literary Archive Event. Invitations will be emailed in January.

20–22 March

Commemoration Weekend for matriculation years 1945, 1955, 1965, 1990 and 2005

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



Call for email addresses

The Roll & Development Office is keen to send out more mailings via email where this would be welcome to 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