

changinglives



Newnham College Newsletter

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Cover photo: Sophie Cookson starring in *Red Joan*. See College News for full story. Photograph taken by Richard Marsham.

1 fromthelodge

ALLUNCALLANDER



My predecessor Dame Patricia Hodgson said to me, just before I became Principal: "Do become involved in University activities, sit on committees, and engage with the central administration and faculties." This, she advised, is particularly important if you are not from within the Cambridge system.

I have tried hard to heed this advice and I sit on numerous committees and am Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Two of the activities that have given me great satisfaction and the opportunity to help shape the University, have been forming the university strategy on harassment, and the programme called WellCAM which is the new Wellbeing Strategy for the Staff of the University. The Harassment policy spells out that there is no place for any form of harassment or sexual misconduct at the University of Cambridge and that any form of harassment or sexual misconduct is contrary to the values and ideals of our shared community.

The WellCAM strategy involves commitment to an integrated approach to staff wellbeing that creates a sense of belonging and an environment and culture based on shared values and trust, that recognises skills and encourages personal development. The priorities for 2017-18 are to increase awareness of Mental Health issues and managing work demands. I was very pleased to give the inaugural lecture for this academic year on Mental Health in the Workplace.

One of my roles as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University is to preside at degree ceremonies. Usually I do a session admitting to degrees members of three or four colleges, but in November I did the whole afternoon session involving some 28 Colleges. My Latin, always in need of practice, was fully tested for almost three hours.

I have been establishing stronger links between Newnham and the Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS), of whose Women's Centre I am a patron. For the past two years we have created a technological challenge for women, working with Microsoft and Amazon, in which students of STEM subjects work together to solve real-life business problems. We are in the process of growing this programme, and this summer Newnham will join CJBS in delivering a week's programme, for the Executive MBA course for the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I look forward to lecturing on this course. We are also planning a summer school for undergraduates from China in 2019. I hope and believe that these activities help to position Newnham well within the University and bring the College to the attention of a wider population.

All this, of course, supplements our ongoing work for Newnham itself – electing new teaching and research Fellows, attracting students to our great College, working with our generous alumnae, and generally supporting the various activities that continue year on year.

Professor Dame Carol Black

Three highly accomplished women formally become Honorary Fellows

Newnham College welcomed three women as Honorary Fellows in just one week after the trio were elected to acknowledge the exceptional contributions they have made in their fields.

Rabbi Julia Baroness Neuberger, DBE, M.A., (NC 1969), Marin Alsop, BMus, MMus, Hon DMus, and Baroness Joan Bakewell, DBE, BA (NC 1951), all separately visited Newnham in November.

An Honorary Fellowship is a highly prestigious award which Newnham bestows upon eminent women who have attained distinction in their area of expertise. All three women – who have had very different careers – gave talks to students before they signed with Dame Carol Black, Principal, to formally become Honorary Fellows.

Neuberger, who was Britain's second female rabbi and the first to have her own synagogue, is now a Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue. She has chaired an NHS Trust, the Patients Association, the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity and the Review of the Liverpool Care Pathway for Dying Patients.

Bakewell became known as one of the strongest broadcasters of her generation at the BBC during the 1960s. She has been recognised by the awards of CBE (1999), DBE (2008), became a Baroness in 2011, has chaired the British Film Institute, and in 2008 was appointed by the Government to be a voice for older people.

Alsop is one of the world's most eminent conductors. Her career was launched in 1989 when she was a prize-winner at the Leopold Stokowski International Conducting Competition. She is now the principal conductor and music director of the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra.

In 2013 she became the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the Proms, which she did again in September 2015.



Dame Joan Bakewell with Dame Carol Black



Baroness Neuberger becoming an Honorary Fellow



Honorary Fellow Marin Alsop with students

First ever Cambridge University Open Day specifically for disadvantaged Year 11 students held at Newnham

Students who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding travelled from all over the UK to attend an all-expenses paid Open Day.

Newnham welcomed 45 students from 14 different schools to the event after it was suggested by Flora Wilson (NC 1995), Director of Learning at Acland Burghley and a Newnham Associate. Pupil Premium is extra funding provided by the Government to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities. The Open Day, believed to be the first of its kind, offered attendees from as far afield as Yorkshire and Grimsby an introduction to University of Cambridge and its courses, a Q&A with current undergraduates, a taster lecture, and detailed information about the financial aid on offer.

All public transport travel costs were reimbursed for the girls who attended, and lunch was also provided. The event was sponsored by the Newnham Associates. Further generous financial support from our alumnae means that we are already organising the second Open Day.



Attendees at Cambridge's first Pupil Premium Open Day

Scenes for KGB spy film shot in College

Actor Sophie Cookson and a crew led by director Sir Trevor Nunn headed to Cambridge to film *Red Joan*.

The film adaptation of Jennie Rooney's eponymous 2014 novel took its inspiration from the true story of Melita Norwood, a woman unmasked at age 87 as the KGB's longest-serving British spy. The story follows Dame Judi Dench as Joan, a retired physicist whose tranquil life is interrupted in 2000 by a visit from British secret service MI5. Cookson plays Joan in her younger days as a student at Newnham (although she did not in fact study here) who falls in love with a committed communist and, later, finds her loyalty to her country tested while employed in the UK's secret nuclear programme.

Scenes were shot in Newnham's gardens and inside Kennedy. The film is expected to be released in autumn 2018.

Academic still breaking ground at 98 as she is awarded Kenyon Medal for her research

Classicist Joyce Reynolds has been honoured by the British Academy for her services to academia.

The Newnham academic was awarded the prestigious Kenyon Medal 2017 for her lifetime's contribution to the research and study of Roman epigraphy.

The award was endowed by Sir Frederic Kenyon and was awarded for the first time in 1957 – Joyce is the first woman to receive the award. The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences – the study of peoples, cultures and societies, past, present and future. It awards the Kenyon Medal biennially in recognition of work in the fields of classical studies and archaeology.



(Left to right) Professor Mary Beard, Joyce Reynolds and Professor Pat Easterling

Joyce is one of the leading ancient historians in the world and is still active in her late 90s. Her work has centred largely on the study of Roman texts inscribed on stone. Her work on texts discovered at the ancient town of Aphrodisias produced some of the most important new evidence for the Roman civil wars. She is currently working on what people scribbled on the walls at Pompeii. She directed studies at Newnham from 1951-1979, was Lecturer in Classics from 1957-1983 and Reader in the Epigraphy of the Roman World at Cambridge from 1983-1984.

Students flock to find out how to get a career in the arts

A fully booked audience turned out for one of our popular career seminars which was chaired by Sue Owen CB (NC 1973).

The Permanent Secretary in the Department of Culture, Media & Sport led the 'Careers in the Arts' panel discussion at Newnham which featured Dr Maria Balshaw, Dr Alixe Bovey and Clara Drummond (NC 1997).

Dr Maria Balshaw succeeded Sir Nicholas Serota as Director of Tate on 1 June 2017. Dr Alixe Bovey is Head of Research at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and a specialist in medieval art history. Clara Drummond read Modern and Medieval Languages at Newnham. Her work has been exhibited five times in the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery and in 2016 was awarded first prize for the BP Portrait Award. The lively event covered their career paths, advice and anecdotes from their working lives.



The panel discussion in the Principal's Lodge

3 studentnews

High-flying students get hands-on experience of issues facing Amazon during special interactive event

Graduate students competed against each other to be named the winner of a competition to find innovative solutions to real life business challenges.

The Amazon Think Big Challenge for women was run in partnership with Newnham College and the Wo+Men's Leadership Centre at the University of Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS). Graduate students from Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) disciplines from across the University of Cambridge applied to take part in the interactive session at Newnham in October.



Graduates at the interactive workshop

Senior Amazon executives flew to Cambridge from all over the world to coach the graduates. The students had to come up with an innovative idea which combined technological and business solutions to a problem. Each team had to present their recommended solution to the Amazon representatives and field questions from the other workshop participants. The interactive session was followed by a networking reception and dinner.

Dame Carol Black said: "Women are underrepresented in the STEM industries and we have worked since Newnham's foundation in 1871 to address this. We are delighted to collaborate with CJBS on this annual initiative to highlight potential STEM careers for women and the Amazon Think Big Challenge was an inspirational activity for everyone who took part." Dame Carol presented all of the attendees with a Certificate of Attendance and every member of the winning team took home an Echo Dot – the latest smart home technology gadget from Amazon. The students will all have ongoing mentoring support from the Amazon executives who all volunteered their time to take part in the initiative.

Professor Sucheta Nadkarni, Fellow of Newnham College and Director of the Wo+Men's Leadership Centre at CJBS, said: "This was a great opportunity for our students from diverse fields including basic sciences, engineering and business interested in careers in technology industries to work on real cases, get close mentoring from experienced executives from Amazon and equally importantly, to learn from each other."

Class of 2017 graduate – 90.6 per cent achieved 1st or 2:1

Finalists celebrated their final Cambridge results and proud families of the graduands gathered at Newnham on June 30 to watch them process to the Senate House.

Some individual stories of success include Darshini Ramiah who won the Norton Rose Fulbright Prize for Commercial Law from the Law Faculty for being awarded the top mark in Commercial Law.

Andreea Pirvan also excelled, winning the David Roberts Memorial Prize from the Department of Architecture for best dissertation. A garden party was held back at College after the graduation ceremony for everyone to celebrate together.

4 roll&development

Travel fund launched to support AMES students in Asia

Studying languages in their cultural contexts lies at the heart of the Cambridge courses of Modern and Medieval Languages (MML) and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES). Their students study one or two languages, whether by deepening existing knowledge or by learning new – and often complex – languages from scratch (“ab initio”).

Newnham has long been able to support its MML students, through travel awards made from the Ann Duncan fund, set up in honour of our former Director of Studies. However, AMES students currently have no specialised fund to draw on, and though their numbers are smaller (typically two or three students a year), their need is often greater, as the countries they have to visit are further away and expensive.

Shadia Nasralla (NC 2006) said: “As an undergraduate Arabist I dreamt of working as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. In June 2013, I sat on a plane to Cairo to start my stint as Egypt correspondent for Reuters. I arrived just in time to cover the ousting of the country’s first democratically elected president and to witness the unspeakable acts of violence that followed.

I would not have made in this industry if it hadn’t been for my travels during my undergraduate years. The fact that spoken Arabic dialects are not written down and often have little to do with Modern Standard Arabic means it is critical to live in the relevant countries and absorb the language naturally. I needed this experience to convince my employer I could do the job. Every bit of financial help will make a big difference in students’ academic, personal and professional advancement. It did for me.”

All gifts, no matter the size, will help us achieve our goal of supporting our AMES students. If you would like to contribute to the fund and have any proposals for its name please contact:
penny.hubbard@newn.cam.ac.uk

Internship in the World Health Organisation



Zsófia Szlamka
(NC 2016)

As a Psychologist, I have always been dedicated to the idea of improving mental health on a population level. As an MPhil student, I was studying Social and Developmental Psychology and conducting research on the female experience of living on the autistic spectrum. Having developed a strong interest in global mental health during my MPhil programme, I applied to the Cambridge Global Health Scheme run by the Careers Service. Through the Scheme, I could work as an intern for six weeks in the headquarters of the World Health Organisation in Geneva, in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

My internship was a great learning experience, giving me opportunities to grow both professionally and personally. I was mainly involved in projects related to alcohol consumption and suicide prevention. I worked on the Global Alcohol Survey, the Non-Communicable Diseases Progress Monitor and the training material of the Mental Health GAP Action Programme’s Intervention Guide. Out of working hours, life in Geneva was always active which allowed me to get to know future leaders from all across the globe. I am grateful to the Newnham Associates and the Guild of Friends for their generous grants that allowed me to take on this internship opportunity – without them this experience would not have been possible.

TEDxNewnham

Embracing Challenge: Saturday 17 February 2018

We are delighted to announce that Julie Etchingam (NC 1988) will be the host for **TEDxNewnham**.

Julie is one of Britain's foremost journalists and broadcasters: she won the prestigious *Presenter of the Year* Royal Television Society journalism award in 2010 – the first woman to do so. She won it again in 2016. In the same year she was also named *Broadcast Journalist of the Year* by the London Press Club. She has presented *Tonight* on ITV since 2010 and has chaired some of the most high profile news coverage of the past decade, including *The ITV Leaders' Debate* ahead of the 2015 and 2017 General Elections.

Programme

- 9.15am – 10.15am: Registration & Coffee
- 10.15am – 11.10am: Embracing Learning
- 11.10am – 11.40am: Coffee & Chat
- 11.40am – 1.10pm: Embracing My Life
- 1.10pm – 2.10pm: Lunch
- 2.10pm – 3.40pm: Embracing Our Communities
- 3.40pm – 4.10pm: Tea & Chat
- 4.10pm – 5.30pm: Embracing My World
- 5.30pm: Celebratory Drinks

Speakers

Professor Dame Carol Black Principal of Newnham College

Monica Buckland (NC 1983) Conductor, musician & teacher

Rod Cantrill Councillor & community leader

Clara Drummond (NC 1997) Artist & writer

Angala Heeley (NC 1997) Masters' student in Veterinary Epidemiology

Bella Heesom (NC 2003) Actor, writer & theatremaker

Anne Miller Climate change campaigner

Professor Jenny Morton Professor of Neurobiology & Director of Studies in Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Professor Sucheta Nadkarni Director of the Wo+Men's Leadership Centre & Professorial Fellow

Clare Pooley (NC 1988) Writer & blogger

Sakthy Selvakumaran (NC 2015) Graduate Engineer & volunteer for Engineers Without Borders

Sarah Weiler (NC 2004) Founder of 'Power of Uke' & Multi-Entrepreneur

Jo Withers (NC 1984) GP, fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners & volunteer with Virtual Doctors



You can watch a livestream of the event on Saturday 17 February at

www.tedxnewnham.com/livestream. If you would like to get together with other Newnhamites in your area, visit www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/tedxnewnham and check the interactive map to see what local **TEDxNewnham** events are happening near you.



Professor Claire Hughes

Sibling relationships can often be our most enduring close relationship – so why do we know so little about them?

Siblings have a powerful influence on each other's development – influencing wellbeing, achievement in school and resilience according to a pioneering 10-year study.

The results of the psychological research project led by Professor Claire Hughes, Fellow and Director of Studies at Newnham College, have been published in a new book, *Why Siblings Matter: The Role of Brother and Sister Relationships in Development and Wellbeing*.

The children of 140 families were regularly observed at home, nursery and school over a ten year period – the first longitudinal study of its kind. The study started when some children were just two-years-old. A wide range of tests were carried out including observations and assessments to test the children's aptitude with language, planning skills, memory and control. The new book covers the way that siblings affect well-being, achievement in school and the repercussions of having a sibling who is ill or disabled. Alongside the new study, the book also covers wider research and explores how positive sibling interactions can be promoted. Professor Hughes and Dr Naomi White analysed sibling relationships in varied populations such as siblings with disabilities, siblings in different cultures and siblings in non-traditional families.

Professor Hughes, who is also a Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Cambridge's Centre For Family Research, said: "Although parents are usually the main focus of family influences on children's wellbeing, sibling relationships play a significant role in adjustment, above and beyond the contribution of parent-child relationships, and may be particularly important for children facing adversity."

But why have there been so few studies looking at siblings? Professor Hughes explained: "Sibling relationships are typically an individual's most enduring close relationship, but have been much less studied than parent-child relationships, despite the frequent use of siblings in twin studies, case-control studies and widespread interest in birth order effects.

"Sibling research is not as mainstream as parenting studies. This is possibly because of the belief that the parental relationship with a child is of paramount importance, but this research shows that siblings act as role models, partners in crime and allies. The 'no-holds-barred' relationship provides an important context for children to hone fledging social skills and develop the awareness of other people's thoughts and feelings which is necessary for successful interactions outside the home."

Why Siblings Matter: The Role of Brother and Sister Relationships in Development and Wellbeing is a Psychology Press Book for Routledge and it is on sale now.



6 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives



Victoria Kimonides (NC 1993)

I arrived in Cambridge with a bucket full of dreams and pride, ready to handle everything. As a postgraduate student living in College, I felt privileged in that I could benefit from all the great experiences that the University and Newnham had to offer.

The proximity to distinguished scholars and scientists, as well as the simplicity of interactions with great minds in general was unique. As my supervisor always said: "the greatest conversations and ideas develop around the coffee machine!"

I did my PhD at the newly established Brain Repair Centre that brought together several disciplines around neuroscience. I was trying to understand what I feared most - the human brain. Here I lived and breathed science, from anatomy and surgery to tissue culture and gene activation. We used microscopes, software and statistics, and learnt that the design and approach was as important as the outcome.

I learnt to balance my hectic schedule of laboratory work, supervisions and sports. I was lucky enough to be part of a University team for women's basketball as well as a member of the Newnham College Boat Club. I also loved the value and respect for students at Cambridge. It was quite a surprise at first to see that there was student representation on the College's Governing Body. I truly valued being a member of the GB as we did great things that we can look back on and say: "I was involved in that!"

I never had a fixed idea about the career path I wanted to take. After a short Post Doc, I took the bold decision to make a turn to financial services, where I could continue my learning and be able to see an immediate impact of my work in the market.



Victoria, far right, rowing with NCBC in 2016

Cambridge did not teach me theory or the contents of a textbook but rather enabled me to identify the right theory and have the confidence to embrace the challenge of life and to dare to step out of the box. I have put into practice the learnings and experience from Cambridge by applying my discipline knowledge in different situations, especially with regards to the evolution of technology.

Today I am a director for technology strategy at Microsoft, helping organisations be successful in their business using technology. In my spare time, I am involved in applied neuroscience and predictive analytics research, coming almost full circle to where I began, but with additional knowledge and skills.

As a member of the University's Alumni Advisory Board, I want to enable alumni to give back and take the light of Cambridge to wherever they are in the world. It is not about looking back but rather looking forward, and about how the collective knowledge and expertise of alumni, together with the University's research, can help solve the world's challenges.

Victoria has a PhD in Neuroscience and she is a member of the University's Alumni Advisory Board.

6 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

From an abusive marriage in Pakistan to a PhD in Cambridge – one Newnhamite’s inspiring story

Aliya Khalid (NC 2015) is from Peshawar in North West Pakistan where she says ‘a girl is supposed to be voiceless and faceless’. The area has been affected by suicide bombings and terrorist attacks. She escaped from an abusive marriage after her husband banned her from seeing her family and threatened to take her two children away.

Aliya is now a PhD Education student at Newnham and a Gates Cambridge Scholar after she was recognised for her outstanding academic ability and her potential to be a transformative leader.

Her research focuses on the experience of Pakistani mothers and how they use their influence to impact their daughters' education.

Aliya was brought up in a non-traditional family and her parents encouraged her and her four sisters to embrace education. Aliya was sent to a girls' school and won a scholarship to college at 15. At 18 she got married to a man whose brother was married to one of her sisters.



Aliya, far right, with Adnan and Amna

As a condition of her marriage her parents insisted she continue her studies. Her husband's family agreed, but when she was married they reneged on the arrangement and would not let her go to university.

So Aliya's mother enrolled her in an English Literature degree at a private college. She taught herself at home from books and only went to college at the end of her course to sit her exams. She passed, but her husband said that was the end of her studies.

Aliya said: "It was a difficult and abusive marriage that nearly broke my spirit." Aliya had always wanted to go to university and loved science, especially physics. She said: "I love to learn, if I am put in a situation where I can't learn, it kills me."

She spent the next eight years more or less confined at home, bringing up her two children. She said: "I needed permission to leave home. I was not allowed to express my views. It was as if I was disappearing from existence."

Things were about to get worse. Her sister was banished from her home in Islamabad and she was forbidden from seeing her four children. The family began to treat Aliya as if she was invisible. She said: "It was as if I was transparent." Her husband threatened to take her children away too. In the end, she and her children were rescued by her parents and the police. Extensive litigation over custody followed and it is still ongoing, although her daughter Amna Akbar, 12, and her son Muhammad Adnan, 10, currently live in Cambridge with Aliya.

Aliya took a job as a blogger to earn some money, but her father told her she needed to return to her education. Although she had lost all confidence after so many years out of academic studies, she passed the entrance exam to do a master's in Public Administration at the Institute of Management Sciences in Peshawar. She

graduated with top honours and a gold medal. She began working with female prisoners, conflict victims, displaced people and joined the Institute for Policy Reforms, a Pakistani Think Tank. Aliya was keen to continue her academic studies and wanted her children to have the experience of living abroad so she looked at possibilities in the UK, having visited her sister there when she was studying in Lancaster. She applied to Cambridge and says she wouldn't have been able to take up the course without both the Gates Cambridge scholarship and her family's support, especially her mother's.

Her PhD focuses on how women's sense of agency functions when they negotiate for their daughters' education. She has adopted a two-pronged theoretical approach which encompasses not only the mother's education, but the influence of other family members, the local community and broader society.

Using the capability approach she is focusing on women's opportunities to be autonomous and the impact of this on their daughters. She has combined this with cooperative conflict theory which covers mind-set and social setting, including a woman's sense of her own value. She says the two theories have not been brought together before to explain maternal influence as a process. With the help of her research she seeks to create knowledge about issues that dominate the lives of mothers from certain populations. She hopes it will help policymakers know more about the facets of disadvantage that women as mothers face every day.

Aliya has already done her fieldwork in Pakistan. She believes that social support programmes could provide immediate assistance but sustainable solutions may be sought in legislative reform. She said: "You need to know what is wrong if you want to empower women. Policies and projects must be tailored to women's individual circumstances."

As both a mother and a daughter, she is very aware of the strong influence of mothers on their daughters' education choices and is clear that



understanding what limits mothers is a vital part of the jigsaw. She explained: "Mothers are so important and you can also reach men when you talk about their mother's influence. When I think back the strongest influence on me has been my mother. For me, a mother is more than someone who gives birth. It is a feeling that there is someone who puts you before themselves. When I was struggling with my marriage, I would often close my eyes and my mother would be there."

Life is busy for Aliya as she raises her children as a single parent, squeezing in as many hours studying as she can. She added: "This morning my daughter said something that really fell into my PhD like a piece of the puzzle. She said 'Mama, it's better to play and lose, than not have the opportunity to play and win'.

"In that moment I realised that the key was to be an agent in one's own life, and that I held the reins in my hands. Many things started happening the way I wished them to, not because new opportunities started raining down on me all of a sudden but because I started to seek them actively.

My PhD seeks to understand this exactly, what makes women 'play' regardless of the fact that they could lose? To many women it is the core strength that makes them feel like 'super humans', who are in control of their destinies.

"This 'play' is what I understand agency to be. I am an agent, are you?"

7 spotlight

Newnham to name new building after first ever woman Professor at Cambridge



A state-of-the-art building at Newnham College will be named after Dorothy Garrod in honour of the pioneering archaeologist.

Dorothy Garrod was born in 1892, she read History at Newnham from 1913-16, trained as an archaeologist in France after the First World War and became a Fellow of Newnham College in 1929. She famously discovered a rare skull of a Neanderthal child in Gibraltar, but she carried out most of her archaeological field work in France and the Middle East.

She focused on the early prehistory of Eurasia, especially the arrival of early humans in Europe and their relationship to Neanderthals. One of her early publications was the 1926 pioneering study, *The Upper Palaeolithic Age in Britain*. Her best known excavations

were at Mount Carmel, pictured below, in what was then Palestine. She led joint British and American efforts there from 1929 to 1934 and the team of archaeologists discovered the first evidence of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age,

cultures in Palestine. During 1931-32 a dozen skeletal remains were found in a cave and rock shelter including a complete female skeleton now known to be about 41,000 years old.

Other British women archaeologists worked with her at Mount Carmel including Jacquetta Hawkes, another Newnham student. She also employed and trained local women as archaeological fieldworkers.

In 1939 Garrod was elected to the Disney Chair of Archaeology at Cambridge University – the first woman to hold a professorial chair in either Cambridge or Oxford. But as a woman she was not a full member of Cambridge University, which meant that she



Dorothy Garrod, centre, in what was Palestine, with Theodore McCown and Francis Turville-Petre in 1931

could not speak or vote on University matters. Women did not become full members of the University until 1948.

Newnham was very proud of Garrod's election and hosted a feast in her honour in which every dish was named after an archaeological item.

Work began at Newnham in September 2016 to build new

en-suite student accommodation, Porters' Lodge, a gym, café, conference facilities and a new suite of offices and supervision rooms.

Dame Carol Black, Principal, said: "We are delighted to announce that Newnham College's new building will be named after Professor Dorothy Garrod.

"A Newnham student and Fellow, her election to the Disney Chair in Archaeology was remarkable. We hope this building, named in her honour, will be a reminder of her pioneering work and an inspiration for future generations."

The new building is expected to open in autumn 2018.

Building project reaches Topping Out milestone

Work to create new student and conference facilities at Newnham College has reached an important milestone – the new building now stands at its full height of 14 metres.

A traditional 'topping-out' ceremony was held on Friday, October 6 2017 to mark the occasion as Newnham celebrated the halfway point of the project. The event was held on the roof of the new structure which now stands at 14 metres/45ft tall.

All of the guests had a chance to sign part of the new building for posterity and the section of wall that people signed will now be hidden and potentially rediscovered at some point in the future.

The ceremony was led by Dame Carol Black. She thanked everyone at the College who had been instrumental in developing the plans, Walters & Cohen Architects, Gleeds property and construction consultancy, and SDC Builders Ltd, the construction company tasked with building the new facilities.

She added: "This ceremony marks a new milestone for the College. This project is the most significant Newnham has undertaken for a generation and we have the end product in sight thanks to the support and hard work of everyone involved."



Members of the College, Walters & Cohen Architects, Gleeds and SDC at the Topping Out ceremony

8 feature

Emma Thompson tells students 'Newnham taught me how to think'

Newnhamite Emma Thompson returned to College to talk to students about her life and career and advised them that 'failure is your best friend'. The Newnham alumna studied English when she came to Cambridge in 1978. She joined the Cambridge Footlights, the world-famous student comedy troupe, at the same time as fellow students Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie.

She won her first Oscar in 1992 for Best Actress for her role in *Howards End* and in 1995 she scooped another Academy Award for Best Screenplay for her adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* – making her the only person in history to have won an Oscar for writing and for acting. She has been nominated for countless awards for her writing and acting since.

After a reunion with Jean Gooder, her Director of Studies at Newnham, the down-to-earth star spent an hour taking questions from students and covered everything from her Cambridge interview, her role in the Harry Potter films, to why she admires Emma Watson.

Talking about her interview with Gooder after she applied to Cambridge, Thompson said: "I was asked by the most animated woman with the most powerful intellect what I thought and it changed my life. My whole life was different from then on. I left



on cloud nine because I had never had an experience like it – Newnham gave me permission to have ideas.

"I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to write screenplays or musicals or sketches if it hadn't been for my time here. It was so rich and it really toughened up my mind. Newnham was a safe place where I learnt how to think."

Thompson, who starred in and adapted Christianna Brand's *Nurse Matilda* books for the silver screen and renamed the main character as *Nanny McPhee*, revealed that she is

currently writing a musical version of the hit movies.

She said: "I'm so enjoying it because it lends itself to music and my favourite song I have written so far is called 'Is it wrong to eat a baby?' It will be coming to a theatre in London probably in 2020 because it takes so long to develop."

Thompson fielded questions about being a female comic and said it is still a male domain and explained her gender-based comedic theory to the audience: "The joke is a patriarchal form of humour which basically requires you to pay attention, prepare to



Thompson with Jean Gooder, her former Director of Studies

laugh and then laugh whether you are amused or not! It is quite a tough form – there is no spontaneity.

“I think female comedy is much more organic, where you get a laugh and then another one, there is no need to go to all this ejaculation where the joke is the male orgasm really. And female comedy is the female orgasm where you simply don’t know when it is going to happen and it can go on and on and on or be over terribly quickly!”

The Oscar-winner advised Newnham students to embrace their failures and explained how her successful career was born out of her biggest setback.

She said: “I wrote a comedy series which was absolutely the

biggest failure you can possibly imagine, and it was shown in the middle of the night in America and a producer saw it and said ‘that’s the woman I want to write *Sense and Sensibility!*’

“So things come in the weirdest ways, failure is your best friend. Obviously not all the time, but if you have got your energy don’t ever be frightened. I attribute my *Sense and Sensibility* offer to the biggest failure I ever had, there’s a balance in that. Newnham is the beginning for you, don’t worry about falling over.”

When she was asked about her roles in the Harry Potter film franchise and as Mrs Potts in

Beauty and the Beast she explained that she wasn’t on set on either film for very long. She added: “I was only on *Beauty and the Beast* for five days because I was only *not* crockery for a couple of days. Em’s great [*Emma Watson who played Belle*] because she made a very good decision and refused to wear a wedding dress at the end because she said, ‘it is not a marriage, we are just going to be together like normal people’ and they bought that so she did us all a big favour.”

Thompson posed for photographs with students before she headed off the Cambridge Union to give a talk. She visited Newnham on Friday, June 9 2017.

Desert Island Discs host Kirsty Young spoke at Newnham about her career trajectory

The presenter of the iconic Radio 4 programme talked about interviewing everyone from Theresa May to Bill Gates, and what she learnt from Newnham's Professor Dame Carol Black as she recounted her 10 years as the host of *Desert Island Discs*.

Young is best known as one of the original news anchors of *5 News* on Channel 5 which she presented from its launch in 1997 until 2007, only leaving briefly in 2000 for *ITV News* before returning in 2002. Since 2006 she has been the main presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. Dame Carol was a castaway on *Desert Island Discs* in 2016 and invited Young to Cambridge. Young was in conversation with Srishti Krishnamoorthy-Cavell, a final year PhD student in English at Newnham, at one of the many career seminars run by the College.

When asked about her career progression, Young said: "I never had the nerve to have a plan, but I found that if you work hard, you get the breaks. I have always been gung-ho and that has been my friend." *Desert Island Discs*, has brought Young together with internationally high-profile people from every conceivable background.



From left, Srishti Krishnamoorthy-Cavell, Dame Carol and Kirsty Young

She added: "We have a high bar and we feature everyone from James Corden to Professor Dame Carol Black – that is the beauty of the programme. Some people turn us down because their parents are still alive, people undoubtedly feel more comfortable talking about their inner landscape – their truth – if their parents have died. Dame Carol said something that has stayed with me, she said 'I really found my feet when I was 50' – that struck a chord."

newnhamassociates

Having graduated from Newnham with a degree in modern languages, I started my career in PR with former Newnham Associate, Rosemary Brook. I have, however, always been interested in the law and ultimately that's the path I decided to take. I am a solicitor-advocate and have a mixed commercial litigation practice at Clyde & Co handling commercial and professional liability disputes.

Claire Curtis (2001)

I am particularly passionate about pro bono and for the past five years have been involved with Together for Short Lives (TFSL), which supports families of children with life-limiting medical conditions. I act as a support advocate drawing on my legal experience to help families with a range of issues involving care and housing. No two cases are the same and each has its own challenges.

I have also helped set up a monthly legal clinic at Richard House Children's Hospice (London), which is run in partnership with Clyde & Co, TFSL, and LawWorks. The clinic is very popular and the model is being rolled out across the UK by LawWorks so more families can benefit. I was very fortunate to receive the LawWorks' national award for Best Contribution by an Individual 2016 for my pro bono work. More information and contact details are available at www.newnhamassociates.org.uk. Anyone who would like to get in touch with me directly can email: clairecurtis@cantab.net

Dr Rachael Padman, Director of Studies in Physical Natural Sciences, was awarded the Barbara Burford prize by the *Gay Times* for having a profound impact on the Lives of LGBT+ people. Dr Padman, a Fellow at Newnham, was named the winner of the Barbara Burford category at a ceremony at the National Portrait Gallery in London in November. **Professor Mary Beard**, alumna and Fellow, met American presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in London to discuss women, democracy and power, and their conversation was publicised by *The Guardian*. **Baroness Onora O'Neill** was named the winner of the 2017 Berggruen Prize, which is awarded annually to a thinker whose ideas 'have profoundly shaped human self-understanding'. The Philosophy Professor, a former Principal of Newnham and now an Honorary Fellow of the College and a crossbench member of the House of Lords, was awarded the \$1 million prize at a ceremony in New York City in December. **Newnham** held a Wikipedia edit-a-thon for 45 school pupils on *International Day of the Girl* in October to help make the internet less sexist. Students travelled to Newnham from all over the country to learn how to edit Wikipedia and create more profiles about women. **Three Newnham Fellows** were promoted by the University of Cambridge. **Dr Laura Itzhaki**, Director of Studies in Natural Sciences was awarded a Professorship; **Dr Alex da Costa**, Director of Studies in English at Newnham, received a promotion to a Senior Lectureship in the Faculty of English and **Dr Helen Bao**, College Lecturer in Land Economy, received a promotion to a Senior Lectureship in the Department of Land Economy. **A Newnham Postdoctoral Affiliate** won a prestigious research prize for her 'highly original' PhD. **Dr Lucy van de Wiel** was awarded the Erasmus Research Prize for her PhD thesis which focused on the socio-cultural dimensions of new reproductive technologies. **Dame Carol Black** received two top awards from two universities in less than a week. She was presented with an Honorary Doctorate from King's College London and an Honorary Doctor of Health and Social Care from London South Bank University. **A Newnham sportswoman** who juggled her PhD studies with playing goalball around the world was given the 'most committed' trophy at the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme Star Awards 2017. **Sarah Leiter**, of the Cambridge Dons Goalball Club, was named as the winner during a ceremony at the IAAF World Championships. Sarah also won a *Women of the Future Award for Sport* in November. **Dr Zuzanna Brzosko**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Cambridge and former PhD student at Newnham, was also shortlisted in the Science category of the *Women of the Future* awards. **Jess Gurney** (NC 2011), sixth year medic, scored the first try in the women's Varsity Rugby Match at Twickenham in December. And finally, **Dame Carol** completed the Chariots of Fire Relay Race as part of 'The Great Dames' team – even with a broken foot!



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10 events

Forthcoming events

TEDxNewnham 17 February

TEDxNewnham will be livestreamed. See main feature on page 9 for full details.

Commemoration Weekend 24 March

Alumnae who matriculated in 1948, 1958, 1968, 1993 and 2008 will be invited back to Newnham for a weekend of celebration. It will include a reunion lunch, lecture, afternoon tea and dinner.

Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture 27 April

Professor Mona Siddiqui, OBE, FRSE, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh will give the Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture.

Law Networking Lunch 12 May

A tradition begun by Dr Catherine Seville to further the connections of Newnham lawyers continues. If you haven't already told us that you now have a career in Law, or would like to come to the lunch, please email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk

100th Anniversary of the Roll Celebration Open Day 7 July

Come along to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Roll with a fascinating day in College. There will be 'singing from scratch', a 'Newnham talks to Newnham' event and a Living Library.

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



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the latest news



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

calendar

2018

- 24 January** Formal Hall (Computer Science, Land Economy, Mathematics)
- 25 January** Formal Hall (Economics, History of Art, Law, Management Studies, Music)
- 1 February** Formal Hall (Architecture, Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering)
- 15 February** Formal Hall (AMES, History of Modern Languages, Linguistics, MML)
- 17 February** TEDxNewnham: Apply to be in the audience or watch with a local host.
- 21 February** Formal Hall (Chemical Engineering, HPS, NSP)
- 1 March** Formal Hall (ASNC, Education, English, Media/Screen/Visual Arts)
- 7 March** Formal Hall (Fair Trade)
- 24 – 25 March** Commemoration Weekend: Alumnae who matriculated in 1948, 1958, 1968, 1993 and 2008 will be invited back to Newnham.
- 27 April** Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture: Professor Mona Siddiqui, OBE, FRSE, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh.
- 12 May** Law Networking Lunch
- 7 July** 100th Anniversary of the Roll Celebration Open Day
- 21 – 23 September** University Alumni Festival: Special Reunion Dinner for alumnae who matriculated in 1963, 1978, 1988, 1998.

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

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