

changinglives



Newnham College Newsletter

Get in touch

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We really want to reach out to our alumnae –

please send us your news and views

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Among the many encounters I have learned from and enjoyed, during my first year as Principal, those with people who look to Cambridge and to Newnham from outside have been extremely interesting. They provide rich sources of advice, influence and goodwill. They have reinforced my own conviction that in the academic environment of today it is not enough simply to hold to our principles of encouraging scholarly, creative and social excellence, nurturing individuality and opportunity, and providing pastoral support to those who come here; we must make these principles and qualities better and more widely known and acknowledged.

This is a necessary part of our aims to widen access to the College and to promote wider recognition among the brightest young women, both in this country and abroad, that the special qualities of Newnham, within Cambridge University, are made for them.

The different ways we weave and strengthen the networks of communication are crucial to these objectives. During the past year colleagues have given careful thought and candid opinion on further developing our website. I am extremely grateful to all who have given their time and commitment to this now essential element of public communication. It complements and reinforces long-established ways of keeping in touch. Among these are the networks of alumnae, which are as lively as ever, in the UK and around the world, as I have seen in visits to Asia and the United States. Simply by talking enthusiastically about their time here, alumnae can be powerful advocates and promoters of Newnham.

Newnham is an integral part of the Cambridge academic social community, whose influences reach deep into national political, public service, professional and economic life. I am conscious of the gender imbalance among senior leaders across these domains, and alert to the familiar challenges that women face in competitive environments. Here at Newnham, through seminars on career women and the impending re-introduction to Cambridge of the Sprint programme to develop self-confidence, aspiration and resilience, I am endeavouring to assist and encourage our young women to achieve their full potential in leading career positions.

Our recent celebration of the life of the late Jean Floud, Principal for 11 years from 1972, reminded me vividly of the importance of nurturing personal resilience alongside unwavering personal support and inspirational mentorship. At Newnham these are high among our goals for everyone who comes here, both while in residence and thereafter.

Professor Dame Carol Black

Valerie Eliot – Life Celebration



Newnham hosted a celebration of the life of Newnham benefactor, Valerie Eliot, widow of TS Eliot and Honorary Fellow of Newnham for 20 years. Valerie first met her husband when working at his publishers, Faber and Faber. For 47 years after his death she guided his literary estate and it was her decision to allow Andrew Lloyd Webber to create the musical *Cats*, which generated the substantial sums now administered by Old Possum's Practical Trust. The Celebration included music and readings by, amongst others, the current cohort of Newnham English students, Valerie Eliot, Fellow Dr Alexandra da Costa, poet Craig Raine, Jean Gooder, Fellow and Director of Studies in English, 1960-1999 and Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll DBE, FRSA. In 2011 Newnham received £1.125m from Old Possum's Practical Trust to endow the Valerie Eliot Fellowship.

Tripas Results

MML excelled this year with five finalists being awarded Firsts and the remaining students 2.1s. Those studying English and History also shone. In Mathematics, for the first time, all our third years are going on to do the competitive and demanding Part 3 Mathematics course. There were also excellent results in Archaeology and Anthropology, ASNC, Land Economy, AMES, Linguistics, Music and Philosophy. There were 56.5 Firsts overall in the College and starred Firsts in Geography and Linguistics.



Generous Newnhamites – The British Heart Foundation

Last summer, Newnham's British Heart Foundation Bin received 223 bags, beating every other Cambridge College, generating a donation of £4,460 – enough to fund 28 days of specialist help for 170 heart failure sufferers.

How do we rebuild trust?



The Houses of Parliament hosted a TEDx broadcast featuring our former Principal, House of Lords cross bencher Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve (Chair of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission). She spoke about our search for trust in individuals and institutions suggesting we should focus on being better at gauging *trustworthiness*, with its three essential building blocks: competence, honesty and reliability. These criteria help assess whether some institutional processes created for building trust, instead, undermine it. For example administration tasks which distract NHS practitioners from clinical work.

You can see Onora's talk online: http://www.ted.com/talks/onora_o_neill_what_we_don_t_understand_about_trust.html

Newnham Literary Archive talks go on-line

Watch this year's Literary Archive talks at www.newn.cam.ac.uk/aboutnewnham/archives/content/literary-archive-event

Cambridge Alumni Festival

In September Newnham opened its doors to the alumni of Cambridge for the annual University-wide festival. Our contribution was the hugely over-subscribed Newnham Conversation, this year, between the Principal and Dame Joan Bakewell (NC 1951) entitled *Influencing Government: the Challenges and Opportunities*. A reunion dinner was held at Newnham for over a hundred alumnae who had matriculated in 1958, 1973, 1983 & 1993. Conversations lingered long into the night at the JCR bar...



Cambridge Turn Off

Switch off Week last February was a challenge to reduce energy use within the University. Newnham's Pledge Tree carried pledges from those in College prepared to do something to save energy. On Thermal Thursday we turned down the heating and we wore more! The most outrageous jumper won a prize. That week the University reduced consumption by 2.1%.



Katie Ruthven, winner of the *Outrageous Sweater Award*

Commemoration

Our annual commemoration celebrations took place in April. At the 50th year gathering, a copy of the original 1963 matriculation photo precipitated animated conversations and news of alumnae with whom we



had lost contact. Discussions continued over lunch where 50th, 60th and 70th anniversary alumnae gathered. Generous contributions from our alumnae made for an absorbing weekend: Suzy Menkes-Spanier OBE (NC 1963) is Fashion Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*. She spoke on the universe of style, on talent spotting, the business of fashion and of changes of style in a social context. Dr Terri Apter (NC 1969), Fellow and Senior Tutor, talked on "Difficult Mothers" exploring why the mother/child relationship has such powerful impact on us and why children continue to care about a mother's responses long after we have outgrown our dependence. Music was made by our students under the leadership of Monica Buckland Hofstetter (NC 1983), Artistic Director of Orchestras at the TU Dresden. Newnham's Literary Collections and Connections were the subject of an exhibition in the library and guests were able to revisit garden haunts on a specially arranged tour.

Joyce Reynolds Classics Conference



A one-day conference took place at Newnham in September to celebrate the on going work of Newnham Honorary Fellow Joyce Reynolds: *The contribution of epigraphy to big questions of ancient history*. Mary Beard and Charlotte Roueché moderated and William Harris, Silvia Orlandi, Paola Ceccarelli and Peter Thonemann spoke.

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Could an hour of your time change a young person's future?



Clare Jones (NC 2010) is looking for Newnham alumnae volunteers with one hour to spare. She is working with Inspiring The Future, a volunteering charity, aiming to encourage school leavers to look

beyond their traditional horizons after leaving school. Newnham alumnae have always given in this way and are the role models they need. Could you be Changing Lives too? Clare has sent us this call to arms:

Inspiring the Future is a free service for state schools and colleges, run by a charity, where volunteers from all sectors and professions offer one hour of their time a year to go in and speak to students about their careers. These insight talks support state school pupils – and those from disadvantaged backgrounds – to better understand the jobs market. With over 2,000 schools signed up to the service, the demand for high-quality volunteers is growing.

I had worked in various roles in charities, from working as a Senior Support Worker for women who had been trafficked, to doing marketing for an Ethiopian organisation. I then got involved in setting up a charity, 2nd Chance, trialling a new model of education to employment for unemployed 16-24s



Pinsent Masons associate Ian Deakin helps pupil with reading

in London. Once this project was up and running, I was ready for a new challenge.

I had come across the brilliant research done by the Education and Employers Taskforce: Their Inspiring the Future service is an innovative approach aimed at helping state schools access the kind of employer and alumni networks that are so effective and freely available to the independent sector but which they cannot always reach so easily. I now work with them, looking particularly at how the service can be used to help young women raise their aspirations and broaden horizons; with so much gender segregation in occupations, we are hoping to inspire girls (and boys) to take risks in career choices so that they are not limited by stereotypes about the kind of jobs men and women do. This is particularly important for girls from less supported backgrounds; contact with inspiring role models can make a huge difference to their



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aspirations for the future.

For Newnham alumnae, this is a chance to volunteer in your local area to inspire young women. This can be through showing them the benefits that a university degree can bring or demonstrating your own personal career journey. For girls without positive role models, our career insight talks, CV workshops, mock interviews or primary reading partner schemes can broaden their horizons and raise their aspirations through exposure to successful professional women. The time commitment of just one hour, once a year, makes it possible to fit around busy work schedules, and over 250 large employers have already signed up to the scheme.

To register simply click on the homepage of www.inspiringthefuture.org locate "Are you an Employer or a Volunteer" then, choose the areas in which you'd be happy to volunteer and local schools will be able to see that you have volunteered one hour of your time and can message you at any time during the school year. Please note in your profile that you heard about this through Newnham and during your schools talks tell your audience that you studied at **Newnham College Cambridge**. Inspiring the Future is looking forward to a partnership with Newnham to inspire the next generation of professionals.

You can read the Inspiring Women blog at www.itfinspiringwomen.wordpress.com

www.inspiringwomen.org/



Dr Sam Lucy (NC 1991) Admissions Tutor and Financial Tutor

I have been Admissions Tutor since 2009 and Financial Tutor since 2011, after undertaking a PhD in Archaeology at Newnham and holding a lectureship at Durham for nine years. As well as my roles at Newnham, which include being a Tutor, I am still active in archaeological research.

My admissions responsibilities are all geared to reaching the widest possible audience for Cambridge in general as well as attracting the best and the brightest young women to Newnham. I work with our Schools Liaison Officer, not only to introduce Newnham to girls already considering Oxbridge, but increasingly to encourage others to see Oxbridge as a realisable option. We offer a range of Open Days and Taster Days at the College and carry out many school visits; I also represent the University, regularly speaking at major recruitment conferences. We hold Teacher Open Days and send out regular email updates, so do let us know if you would like to be added to our email list. It would always be my hope that our alumnae take every opportunity to mention their time at Newnham, particularly if given a high profile platform of any kind!

Being able to draw on a wider community of talent for the college is intimately linked with the availability of financial support. I am responsible for allocating all Newnham's undergraduate financial support, from hardship bursaries to travel grants, and I help our students gain access to University and external grants. In this I work closely with our tutors and we run information sessions for parents at open days. Our students are enormously grateful for the resources that Newnham is able to provide.

Almost all of our student support is funded through alumnae donations; I never cease to be deeply moved by their generosity and loyalty, without which none of what I do would be possible. The College works very hard to ensure that women of talent and ability are not denied opportunity because of lack of means and it is the continuing support of our alumnae that enables us to do this.

India perspectives

Junior Research Fellow Emma Pomeroy writes about a Newnham-supported trip to India as part of the next stage of her research.

My research investigates the nature and pattern of human *growth trade-offs* by comparing the physical characteristics of infants and children in the multi-stress environment of high altitude with their lowland counterparts. Following my PhD research with children in the Peruvian Andes, I went to India to prepare the next phase of my research – with the Tibetan and Ladakhi communities.

We know that growth is sensitive to environmental stressors such as poor nutrition. Environmental factors also affect the relative sizes of different parts of the body and it is thought that environmental stressors cause the body to trade-off growth in some tissues to protect key organs like the brain. Changes in body proportions also correlate with chronic disease risk in adulthood. Children experiencing reduced early growth who are then exposed to westernised diets and sedentary lifestyles, as in many developing countries, have a higher risk of developing such chronic diseases in adulthood. If we could understand better the relationships between early environment, growth, and adult disease susceptibility, this could help us to design measures to improve early growth and alleviate the increasing burden of chronic diseases worldwide.

Ladakh, in the Himalaya of northern India, is a remarkable region of dramatic mountain peaks, intense sunshine and freezing winter temperatures. During my visit I met so many inspirational people striving to improve people's lives in this challenging, remote but stunningly beautiful place: Part of my project will look at newborn and maternal characteristics in conjunction with a local hospital in Leh and with collaborators at UCL. I met many committed hospital staff there who work hard to care for mothers and children amid intermittent electricity supplies and overflowing clinics. Despite this, they are willing to give me their time to collect data. The Ladakh Women's Alliance is another remarkable force. Led by local women, it promotes health, women's status, environmental conservation and Ladakhi traditions in the face of a burgeoning tourist industry and global market forces. Their successes include the banning of plastic bags decades before we began to discuss it in the UK. This group, along with the Leh Nutrition Project, generously offered helpful advice about setting up my research, and I hope we will work productively together in the future.



When planning research that will study people one always has to take time in the preparation; quite rightly, the research proposal undergoes thorough review to protect the participants. But with the support of a Junior Research Fellowship, the Senior Members Research Support fund, and a Gibbs Travelling Research Fellowship at Newnham, I am excited at the prospect of my India project.

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Telephone Campaign raises over £275,000 – Newnham beats its own record

Once again our alumnae proved why Newnham is regarded by so many of the Cambridge Colleges as having one of the most engaged alumni bodies of the University. For two weeks a hardworking and dedicated team of Newnham students gave up evenings and weekends to make over 850 calls to talk to you, tell you our news and ask if you would contribute towards the annual fund. Your response was magnificent. Thank you.

Geography in a glass

The Friends of Newnham (those who have given £500+ a year to the College) gathered in October for a talk and wine tasting led by Master of Wine, Julia Harding (NC 1978), the colleague and co-palette of international wine expert, writer, author and broadcaster Jancis Robinson. Julia (who has edited several editions of the *Oxford Companion to Wine* and is co-author of *Wine Grapes*) described the fascinating path her life took after graduating in modern languages. Her early career was in publishing before she discovered wines and realised that this was her real passion; a fact then borne out by numerous awards gained as she accumulated outstanding wine qualifications. A spell working in wines at Waitrose made her a perfect fit when Jancis Robinson needed an assistant (something that Julia helped her to realise!). The rest, as we say, is history. Julia later talked about the world of wine, in reassuringly accessible terms, along with an account of its production and how to approach tasting. She left us realising that the study and enjoyment of wine is truly polythematic from botany to chemistry to geology to geography and, of course, almost all of the senses...



Julia Harding, Dame Carol Black, Jenny Hall

NewnhamRoll Mums Forum – the teenage years

The third NewnhamRoll Mums Forum saw three fascinating lectures given by three experts in the teenage years. Dr Jane Morris (NC 1971) Psychiatrist and Lead Clinician on a Clinical Network for eating disorders (and Roll President) spoke eloquently about the causes and triggers for anorexia in both girls and boys; Dr Carlo Acerini, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Paediatrician at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge gave us a clear explanation of the hormonal changes that take place during puberty and Bruce Kinsey, pastoral Tutor at the Perse School spoke movingly, yet at times hilariously, about problem parents and other issues.

Work and internship ideas – new website page created by The Newnham Associates

Newnham Associates have launched a new page on their website to help Newnham students after graduation. JOBFINDER carries news of internship and work opportunities arising either from their own careers or elsewhere. Please let us know if you have any opportunities to add. www.newnhamassociates.org.uk/current-students/job-finder/

7 international news

Korea

At the beginning of 2013 Newnham welcomed a Korean delegation from Ewha Woman's University in Seoul. The University is preparing to establish a residential college system and the trip was part of a fact-finding mission organised by Associate Dean, Seung-Ah Lee (NC 1999). Ewha, which has 25,000 students, is one of Korea's oldest and most prestigious universities; it hosts the Harvard College in Asia programme's Asia Conference and The Queen included it in her itinerary when there. In 2009 Ewha conferred an honorary doctoral degree to Professor Dame Alison Richard (NC 1966), former Cambridge VC. The delegation had meetings with the Principal and other senior members of the college, the JCR and MCR.



Korean visitors outside Newnham main entrance

Singapore and Hong Kong

In April, Professor Dame Carol Black visited Hong Kong and Singapore accompanied for part of the journey by Development Director Penny Hubbard. During her trip she visited a number of schools to talk about Cambridge and applying to Newnham. In both cities she received a warm welcome and generous hospitality from the Newnham alumnae.

In Singapore, the Principal visited 5 schools, the Raffles Institution, the Hwa Chong Institution, the National Junior College, Nanyang Junior College and the Anglo-Chinese Junior College. Newnham alumna Choy Mei Cheong (NC 1981) kindly hosted a cocktail reception for alumnae and their guests. This was the largest gathering of Singapore alumnae held to date, and a very happy and lively event.

In Hong Kong Dame Carol visited the King George V School, St Stephens Girls College, the German Swiss International School, St Paul's Co Ed and the Diocesan Girls School. Sir David Li (founder of The Friends of Cambridge University in Hong Kong) hosted a lunch in honour of the Principal and Joy Shan Kung (NC 1989) generously hosted a dinner for Dame Carol and Penny Hubbard to meet local alumnae. Dame Carol was also the dinner guest of Professor Lap Chee Tsui, Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.



Singaporean students being hosted for tea at Raffles before coming to Newnham



King George V school visit Hong Kong



USA

The US Committee welcomed this year's US travel grant awardee Urte Laukaityte (NC 2011) who joined a linguistics research team at Stanford, California. Urte's delightful account of her stay can be seen on the US alumnae website www.newnhaminamerica.org

Margaret Campbell (right) with Urte Laukaityte

Newnham builds links with Wellesley and Smith

Over the summer the Principal was delighted to visit Wellesley and Smith, both fine institutions for the higher education of women. Founded about the same time as Newnham, both aspire to educate women to become leaders, nationally and globally. Unlike Newnham both offer their own degrees and provide education for undergraduates only.

Wellesley, only 30 minutes train ride from Boston and Harvard, offers a cross registration programme with MIT in subjects such as physics and engineering. According to the Wall Street Journal it ranks fifth among the top liberal arts colleges for the number of students who go on to the 15 elite US graduate school programmes in medicine, law and business, a most impressive achievement.

The Principal met Professor Andrew Shennan, equivalent to our Vice-Principal, an ex undergraduate, graduate and research fellow at Corpus Christi College Cambridge. She was deeply impressed by Wellesley, which among other things gives a clear message that it plays a decisive role in preparing women for leadership. Wellesley states in its *Envisioning the Future* document (2006): "We are comfortable, confident and united in our belief that to provide a great liberal education for women is to advance, directly and indirectly, the cause of justice at home and around the globe."

The Principal is to have further discussion with Kim Bottomly the President of Wellesley on how we might develop relations between the two Colleges, exploring whether a joint alumnae event might be held in London.

At Smith, Dame Carol met one of the Associate Deans, Professor Danielle Carr Ramdath and found it also to be an impressive institution with some excellent programmes and strong community spirit. It, too, has a very strong relationship with its alumnae and invests substantially in communications and publicity.

In August alumnae welcomed the Principal to the United States in Boston, New York and California



Dame Carol with East Coast alumnae

8 feature

International Women's Day 8th March

IWD grew out of the emerging socialist women's movements in the USA and Europe of the early 20th Century. Arguably the most dramatic moment of its history was in 1917, when, as a demonstration in St Petersburg for "Bread and Peace", it sparked the Russian Revolution, a completely unplanned trigger, as Leon Trotsky was later to record. Since the first *National Woman's Day*, held in the USA in 1908, a host of themes for IWD have joined its initial call for women's suffrage and equal rights at work to which, since 1996, the UN also contributes its own. In 2013 this was "A promise is a promise – time for action to end violence against women".

The Newnham Associates decided to record what they did on IWD 2013. Here are some contributions.

- o Commented on draft response to Competition Commission's investigation into audit market.
- o Husband sent link to new research: "Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News: Women think more efficiently than men."
- o My grannyng day.
- o Conversation from my A2 History lesson. What's the point of IWD? All the history we study is about men...."Then perhaps you should consider how lucky you are to be able to study at all. 'Wasn't that what that girl Malala was all about?...' Cue long debate about girl's education.
- o Humbled that busy NHS breast scan unit was so efficient and pleasant. Day with Girl Guiding UK: strap line – "Girls in the lead! The Worldwide Association theme is 'girls worldwide say 'together we can change our world'".
- o Breakfast meeting about how stereotypes can lead to unconscious bias.
- o Rejoicing that the journal *Nature* has a big section on women in science.
- o Interviewed people about career and life choices, including teenagers simply trying to get a job, and a home. Doesn't seem too much to ask for, but so hard for some to achieve
- o Sexism is still rife in healthcare. Most NHS staff are women, but most of their bosses are men.
- o In my new study in Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Thrilled to have been elected the first female Master.
- o Farm meeting 7.0 a.m. Lambs must come in as cold forecast. Order new filters for tractor. Chase up sludge spreaders so we can get on with ploughing. Grandchildren for the night. Send message about my charity on IWD which helps very poor women farmers.



Bethan Cobley (right)



Suzanne Coles



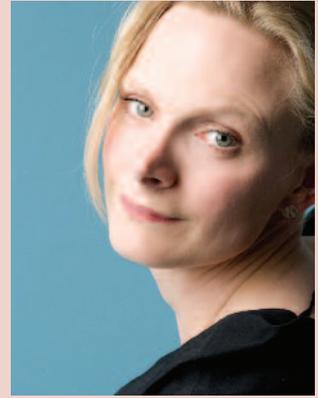
Wendy Hirsh



Jean Coussins



Emma Wagner



Annie Warburton

- o Preparations for upcoming bioethics discussions. Stem cells and possible virus pandemics are hot topics.
- o A working day in media law. Home to see family for first time since Tuesday.
- o Use laptop in rare peace whilst husband gently snores. It is like being the mother of a difficult young child, but without hope of maturation. One in three of those over 65 are likely to suffer from some form of dementia, a horrifying statistic since there is so little preparation.
- o Celebrating successful close of project in Frankfurt for one of the world's largest chemicals companies.
- o Reviewed our competitor's year end results, these are challenging times for the construction industry.
- o Time on phone for campaign to block the deportation of a Nigerian woman and her 3 small daughters.
- o As Grannie off to CentreParcs Longleat with 16 of the family; agree an employees' share incentive scheme, comment on an architects shortlist; plan the promotion of Design Council, Cabe and Covent Garden Market Authority at Cannes' property conference.
- o At Marie Stopes International following up Afghanistan visit where we are working with Ministry of Public Health.
- o Breakfast with young widower struggling alone with two small children.
- o Writing overdue paper on papal authority. Interview with frustrated & angry Anglican woman priest. The stained glass ceiling was only broken through so far. Clericalism and chauvinism still flourish where there is little accountability.
- o In Italy gathering interviews for BBC Radio 3 documentary on history of syphilis.
- o In Austin, Texas for SXSW, digital technology conference. Learned how 3D printing is making prosthetics for children affordable in South Africa.
- o In Johannesburg. Spent a lot of time pondering a rather horrifying fact that a woman in South Africa has more chance of being raped than getting any kind of meaningful education.
- o Lego models with my boys and boy #2 was up and down pool for 30 mins.



Sidney Syson



Gemma Simmonds (centre)



Jackie Leach Scully

9 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Sarah Shevchik (NC 2001) – Cambridge in America



After graduating I spent four years in Chartered Surveying in Central London before making the life-altering decision to marry an American and up sticks to New York. There, I changed direction to work in the non-profit sphere. Waiting for my visa, I volunteered for a Nature Conservation Centre then secured a researchers' post at Cambridge in America, the organisation for American-based alumni and friends of Cambridge. I learned about the industry, the US philanthropic landscape and the alumni base and am now Assistant Director of Planned and Leadership Giving, managing Cambridge in America's legacy society and planned giving program as well as fundraising more broadly. I travel the country to meet Cambridge alums and learn about their experiences at Cambridge and subsequent careers. It gives me great satisfaction to be able to help alumni stay connected to Cambridge and have the opportunity to promote the philanthropic aims of the University and Colleges. I would be delighted to be contacted by Newnhamites at sarah@cantab.org.

Helen Tse (NC 1996) – Lawyer turned entrepreneur

Helen Tse has used skills and business acumen gained at a major City law firm to run her award winning family business Sweet Mandarin, making mouths water from Manchester to Mainland China.

Running a restaurant is a lot like being a lawyer: As a lawyer, you're only as good as your last deal; when you're feeding people, you're only as good as your last meal. 10 years ago I left Clifford Chance to run an award-winning Chinese restaurant with my sisters in Manchester. We manage the restaurant, a cooking school and a business that supplies 20,000 bottles of sauce a month to Sainsburys, Tesco and Ocado; they even buy our sauces in China. On the way I have met Gordon Ramsay, the Prime Minister and landed £50,000 from the BBC's *Dragons' Den*. My cookbook, co-authored with my sister, will be published this year.

I loved legal life, but my mother fell unwell in 2003. I left the Firm for a job in Manchester with Pricewaterhouse Cooper to be closer to my family, who originally settled in England in the 50's from China. My grandmother was a maid and cook for a UK family and then, in 1959, she opened one of the UK's first Chinese restaurants, where she created the sauces we market today. I wrote her story as the memoir Sweet Mandarin, the name of our restaurant. In 2006 I left PwC to work full time on Sweet Mandarin. In 2009 we won Gordon Ramsay's award for best local Chinese in the UK and we became the first Chinese eatery to earn the UK Automobile Association's '1 Rosette'.

Although day-to-day work is dramatically different from doing deals at Clifford Chance, the basic ingredients, from client-handling skills to the confidence to tackle tough tasks, go back to my experiences at the Firm. Clifford Chance not only made me as a lawyer; it made me as a person. It honed my organisational skills, helped me develop discipline and taught me about teamwork all of which are absolutely essential if you're running a family business. The long hours at Clifford Chance also prepared me for setting up on my own and the pitching I did at *Dragons' Den* was learned pitching to clients at Clifford Chance. At its heart, serving meals is much like serving clients. Legal clients want to be looked after, to be treated as though they're special: you're not just case number 233 – you're a person. People still buy from people, whether the deal is worth £1,000 or £10 million. It's true in a restaurant too; if you take care of your customers, give them the best quality and the best service, they'll come back. Tips for Newnhamites: Follow your passion and network. Remember that a journey of a thousand miles starts with one step – so take that first step boldly. www.sweetmandarin.com.



Scientific Women Academic Network

The Athena SWAN Charter recognises commitment to advancing the careers of women in academia for the STEMM subjects (science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine). Catherine Reavey is PhD representative on the Athena SWAN Committee at Queen's University Belfast which last year won an Athena SWAN Gold award.

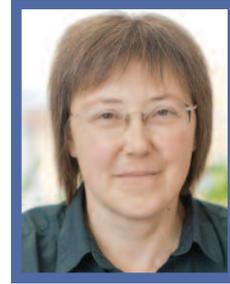
I am in my final year of PhD research at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) after reading

Natural Sciences at Newnham. Activities 'outside of the lab' have been very rewarding. I have no doubt that the positive gender ethos and the college environment at Newnham encouraged me to join the Athena SWAN committee in a role as conduit for putting forward views and ideas from the other PhD students. I have also initiated a Mentoring Scheme for new PhD students, as I believe that the setting up of immediate communication links leads to a positive working environment, in what can sometimes be a rather isolated working situation. Again, I credit the 'college parents' system at Newnham for helping me with the foundation of this scheme. Overall, it was stimulating to participate in a



well-researched report which outlines strategies to help alleviate the pressures of juggling working and family life and encourages women to remain and progress in the STEMM professions. The Athena SWAN award ceremony was held at the Royal Society in Edinburgh where we shared ideas, both scientific and Athena SWAN-related, with many UK academics. I am proud to think that proper implementation of these strategies should have far reaching and long term results for the increasing number of women who choose academic life.

Catherine Reavey (NC 2006) Athena SWAN



Senior Members

Senior Lecturer, Claire Barlow, leads a STEM subject at Cambridge as the Director of Undergraduate Education for the Engineering Department which received an Athena SWAN Bronze Award. The Engineering Department is a huge organization: 10% of the university on just about every metric. Claire is part of the team which maintains the smooth running of engineering teaching. Alongside this responsibility she is researching sustainability, particularly, recycling materials. Too many products are used once and thrown away and our efforts to return the materials to useful service are half-hearted. Her work embraces finding better recycling technologies and ways to increase rates of recycling and materials re-use. Engineering is still male-dominated, but the Department's action plan for improving the recruitment, retention and promotion of female academic and research staff, led to the Bronze Award. Within Newnham, Claire has been Director of Studies to engineers for many years and has felt privileged to interact with students in this way. She is one of the Praelectors, presenting students for their degrees when they graduate.



Engineering award

Harriet Eldred (NC 2005) has been awarded the prestigious Young Structural Engineer of the Year Award 2013 by the Institution of Structural Engineers for her work on this year's Serpentine Pavilion.

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Siberian DNA

Graduate Student Alexia Cordona (NC 2011) writes of her work on a Siberian population genetics study.

For millions of years the first Hominins evolved in Africa in low latitude and warm environments but through dispersal our species later colonised other zones. As part of Toomas Kivisild's Cambridge genetics group, Alexia has been working on research to identify genes which have evolved to be beneficial for survival in different populations such as the extreme cold environment of Siberia. Alexia studied DNA samples from ten indigenous Siberian populations, to genotype them across the genome. This has helped to identify those involved in energy regulation and body metabolism illustrating their vital role for survival in extreme cold environments.



First Newnham cross-disciplinary graduate conference

Graduate students Zara Zainuddin (NC 2011) and Keri Wong (NC 2010) conceived the idea for this one-day conference to give Newnham graduate students the chance to learn from each other's research and practise the art of presenting. Attendance was open to all parts of the Newnham academic community. The Master of Trinity, Sir Gregory Winter, launched the day and an astonishingly impressive variety of topics were presented from soil to NATO legal obligations to Plato to human trafficking. Delegates reported it was a fascinating introduction to new subjects and the collaborative nature of the question and answer sessions had provided constructive new ideas for their research and a valuable opportunity to share best practice in presentational skills.

The conference was possible through the generosity of the Newnham Associates, the Hereward Fund, the Graduate Awards and Research Studentships Committee and prizes were given in the form of book vouchers from Cambridge University Press. The graduates would like to make this an annual event: if you would like to offer funding, other support or to participate in this initiative contact roll@newn.cam.ac.uk.



Keri Wong and Zara Zainuddin (left and centre) present prizes



The Louvre with Mary Beard

The Classics Pre-Tripods group fits in some revision across the channel.

For weeks, we had barely left the *library* — let alone Cambridge — so to find ourselves on the Eurostar with Mary Beard at 7.30am, was quite surreal. Mary was a fantastic guide, although she certainly didn't do all the work for us! It was like being in a supervision.... No future visit to the Louvre will ever will match up to it. It was an incredible privilege to be shown around by Mary, whose wisdom and enthusiasm is limitless.



11 didyouknow

newnhamassociates

Sue Owen took up her new post last October. Before joining the DCMS Sue was Director General at the Department of Work and Pensions. Prior to that she had held senior posts at the Treasury, the Department for International Development, the No10 Policy Unit and the British Embassy in Washington after being an academic labour market economist for 10 years. At the time of her appointment, she took the total of women at Permanent Secretary grade to six compared with thirty-three men. She has been a strong supporter of moves to increase the number of senior women in the civil service and is part of a network of senior Whitehall women introducing programmes aimed at achieving this. Sue's speech on Women in Whitehall was one of the highlights of 2012's International Women's Day civil service event. In her talk she said that while women were progressing towards the top jobs in Whitehall, more men were being brought in from outside to fill director and director-general level positions than internally promoted women. Sue also runs the Newnham Women in Whitehall group.

Sue Owen (NC 1973) – Permanent Secretary,
Department for Culture Media and Sport



Sarah Leiter (NC 2008) has been selected for the National Paralympic Goalball Team.



Lewis Stainer

Newnham Roll Tweets

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twitter @NewnhamRoll

Hester Abrams (NC 1982) is Director of the literary festival Jewish Book Week. Held annually since 1952 in London it is one of the oldest in Britain. Radio Four Women's Hour voted Newnham Principal, **Professor Dame Carol Black**, one of Britain's 100 most powerful women. **Dr D'Maris Coffman**, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in History and Director at the Centre for Financial History at Newnham spoke at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City conference "International Consultation on The Debt Crisis, Financial Reform and the Common Good". **Olivia Williams** (NC 1986) and **Eleanor Bron** (NC 1957) appeared in *Hyde Park on the Hudson*, a film directed by Roger Michell based on the private journals of Margaret "Daisy" Suckely about her love affair with President Roosevelt. *The Independent* newspaper included **Yvonne Craig Inskip** (NC 1955) in an article on campaigning women "The women who changed Britain forever". She became a campaigner after an experience in 1968, refusing to obey hospital rules that limited parents' visits to children to just two hours a week. She stayed by her daughter's bedside for 11 days. The British Academy awarded its Presidents Medal to **Jean Coussins** (NC 1970) for signal services to humanities through her work supporting Modern Languages. **Genevieve Gaunt** (NC 2010) will appear in *The Face of An Angel*, a film directed by Michael Winterbottom based on the murder trial in Italy of Amanda Knox.



Changing Lives is produced by the
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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.



12 events

Forthcoming events

Medicine Networking Lunch

8 February

Postponed from 2013. Open to all who read Medicine. If you have not received your invitation please contact the Development Office.

Law Networking Lunch

1 March

Open to all who read Law or with legal interests.

Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture

25 April

Newnham's major biennial lecture this year will be delivered by Professor Lin Foxhall, Professor of Greek Archaeology and History, University of Leicester. The event is open to the public and guests are welcome.

Commemoration Reunion

Weekend 5-6 April

The special reunion years invited for dinner on 5 April will be 1944, 1954, 1964, 1989 and 2004. If you have not received your invitation by early February please contact the Development Office.

Recent Graduates London

Reception 8 May

Networking drinks reception for alumnae in the London area who graduated 2007-2012. Further details follow.

University Alumni Weekend 2014

27-28 September

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

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

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

calendar

2014

6 February

Formal Hall – ASNC, English, Media/Screen/Visual Arts and Education

8 February

Medicine Networking Lunch – please contact the Roll and Development Office if you have not received your invitation

19 February

Formal Hall – NSP, HPS, Chemical Engineering

26 February

Formal Hall – AMES, MML, Linguistics

1 March

Law Networking Lunch – invitations to follow – please contact the Roll and Development Office if you would like to come

5 March

Formal Hall – Classics, Philosophy, Theology

29 March

MA Congregation and Dinner

5 April

Commemoration for matriculation years 1944, 1954, 1964, 1989 & 2004

25 April

Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture with Professor Lin Foxhall – further details to follow on the website

7 May

Fairtrade Formal Hall

27-28 September

University Alumni Weekend with Newnham Reunion for special years 1959, 1974, 1984, 1994

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

Paper or e-Version of *Changing Lives*?

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey on preferences. Your feedback has been that a large majority still prefer to receive *Changing Lives* in printed form and so this will continue. For those who do prefer to read it electronically it will be uploaded to our website within a month of publication.

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