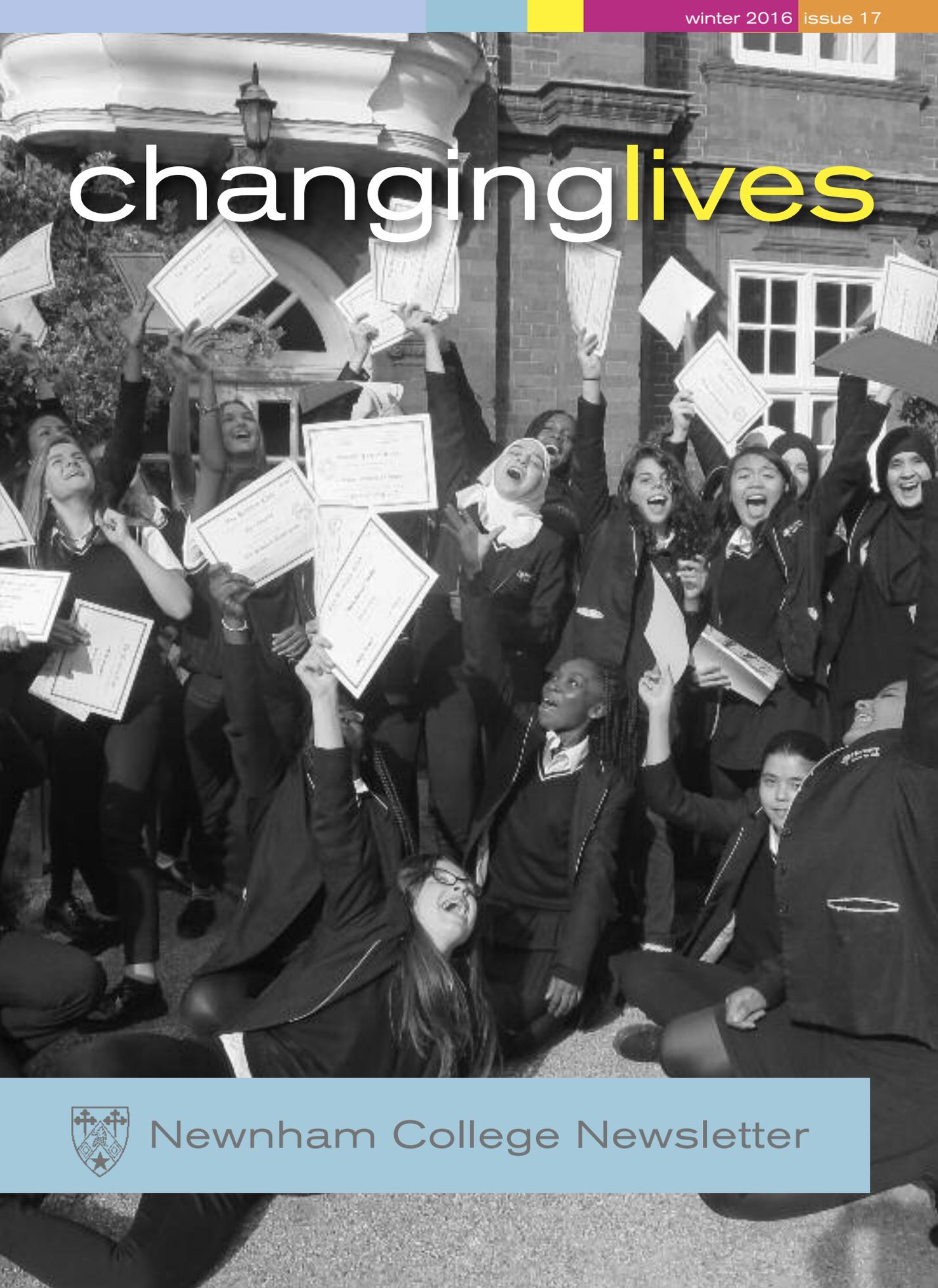


changing lives



Newnham College Newsletter

Get in touch

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



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

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

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

1 fromthelodge

4 studentnews

7 infocus

10 inspiringwomen

13 didyouknow

2 collegenews

5 roll&development

8 feature

11 youngalumnae

14 events/calendar

3 researchnews

6 spotlight

9 internationalnews

12 legacies

1 fromthelodge



Professor Dame Carol Black

In Michaelmas 2015 we started a Life Skills course for our students, following my reflecting on how we might meet the current needs of our students that fall outside their academic pursuits. I first built upon a programme of Seminars in the Lodge introduced by my predecessor Dame Patricia Hodgson. We then added the Sprint programme, a two-and-a-half day vacation course about understanding yourself and developing self-confidence, resilience and appropriate risk-taking. The introduction of a College Counsellor has also helped our women to deal with worries and anxieties.

Our new Life Skills course, constructed in consultation with our JCR and MCR, consists of one-hour sessions on Monday evenings, wonderfully supported by alumnae coming forward as speakers. The topics, chosen by students, are interesting and revealing – some one would expect, such as *How to manage time, or make a presentation* – but also included are *Dealing with criticism and staying motivated, Developing negotiating skills, Managing money, and Self-defence*.

On the latter topic I wish to comment on domestic abuse and sexual assault in higher education. The NUS *Hidden Marks* research (2010) found that one in seven female students had experienced sexual assault. According to the charity Safe Lives, 30% of victims are in a relationship with the perpetrator and therefore also victims of domestic abuse. The rise of 'lad culture' and sexual harassment at university has received much press attention, to be understood in the context of complex intimate relationships and long-term abuse as well as one-off 'unknown perpetrator' incidents. The Cambridge University Student Union's report *Cambridge Speaks Out (2014)* found that 75% of those stalked or harassed knew the perpetrator, as did 61% of women who experienced physical violence.

Domestic abuse and sexual assault can happen to anyone. We must help victims, their friends and peers, to respond safely, know where to get advice, and be aware of the range of choices available. We must also define the role of University and College staff in responding to and supporting those experiencing such abuse or who are concerned about a friend. I want Newnham, as a women's College, to play its full part in this agenda.

New appointments and farewells



Catherine Seville



Christine Watson

Vice Principal

After 11 years of fantastic service as Vice Principal, Dr Catherine Seville (NC 1984) stepped down at the beginning of this academic year. She has given her wise advice sitting on 16 College Committees and bodies ranging from the Academic Planning Committee to the Research Fellowship Committee to the Investments Committee to College Council and the Roll Committee. You will remember her diary contribution to *The Newnham Year* publication which showed how incredibly busy her role was. Catherine will continue teaching Law in the College and the wider University, will Direct Studies for our Law Students, and carry on her invaluable work on a number of committees, including the High Table Committee in her capacity as High Table Steward. She will also have more time for her research in her speciality of intellectual property law. From 1 October 2015 Professor Christine Watson took up the post of Vice Principal. Christine has been a Fellow for 15 years, a Tutor and Assistant Graduate Tutor. She holds a personal Chair in Cell and Cancer Biology in the Department of Pathology.



WHATISEPROJECT

Terri Apter



Liba Taub

Senior Tutor

After 15 years as Senior Tutor, Psychologist Dr Terri Apter has retired. Terri has been awarded a Leverhulme Emeritus Research Fellowship and we look forward to reading her next publication! Professor Taub has been appointed as our new Senior Tutor, effective from 1 October 2015. The Senior Tutor plays a vital role in College academic life: she is responsible for setting the academic agenda, liaises with those members of the Fellowship who have teaching duties, and looks after individual students – in particular those who have academic or mental health issues. Both the Graduate Tutor and the Admissions Tutor report to her. We are delighted that Liba has taken on the role. She has shown great compassion and support for students in her work as Graduate Tutor. She has an outstanding academic record as an internationally-recognised expert on ancient Greco-Roman science and has been Director and Curator of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science since 1995. She is also Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge, and is a Professorial Fellow at Newnham and our Director of Studies in History and Philosophy of Science.



Kate Fleet

Graduate Tutor

Dr Kate Fleet, Director of the Skilliter Centre, steps into Liba's role as Graduate Tutor. Newnham offers a social and academic community for graduate students that gives moral support, companionship and enrichment through intellectual diversity. The Graduate Tutor and Assistant Graduate Tutors are responsible for horizontal integration across the graduate community and for the postgraduates as a whole. They also deal with Departments and Faculties about such issues as may from time to time arise between the student and her supervisor, or more generally with the Department or Faculty. We pride ourselves on the support at College level that we offer our graduates as the University seeks to expand its graduate numbers.

Students urged to 'leave a legacy'

Julie Etchingam (NC 1988) and Sandi Toksvig (Girton College) told Newnham students to 'leave a legacy to be proud of' when they spoke at Newnham. You can watch the very frank discussion here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9dFsY0qb3k



Julie Etchingam



Sandi Toksvig

Exam results

We congratulate the 63 students who were awarded Firsts this year, but we are also delighted to report that 205 of our students achieved a 2.1 result – 15 more than last year – an improved overall result for our students which is important for their job prospects.. As subject groups, Archaeology and Anthropology, Architecture, Economics, History, Linguistics, Modern and Medieval Languages, Psychology and Behavioural Science, and the Natural Science finalists and Philosophy all performed with distinction.

Promotions

Congratulations to Lisa Saksida, who has been promoted to Professor in the Department of Psychology; Judy Quinn, who has been promoted to Reader in Anglo Saxon Norse & Celtic and Laura Itzhaki, who has been promoted to Reader in the Department of Pharmacology.

Rae Langton on free speech vs hate speech and blasphemy

As part of David Runciman's 'Election' series, our Professorial Fellow in Philosophy, Professor Rae Langton, was interviewed for a podcast on the topic of 'Charlie Hebdo, free speech vs hate speech and blasphemy'. Listen to the podcast at www.sms.cam.ac.uk/media/1929919.

Honorary Degrees

We were delighted this year to match a previous record of two out of eight Honorary Degrees given by the University of Cambridge being awarded to Newnhamites. Professor Judith Thomson (NC 1950) and Baroness Rabbi Julia Neuberger (NC 1969) were recognised for the distinction they have attained within their area of expertise. Their achievement was celebrated in College.

Left to right: Principal, Dame Carol Black and former Principal Onora O'Neill at the Honorary Degree celebration dinner for Professor Judith Jarvis Thomson (NC 1950)



3 researchnews

The material life of slaves in the early modern French empire

Mélanie Lamotte, Newton Trust/Moody Stuart Research Fellow

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the French had deported approximately one million enslaved Africans to their colonies across the Atlantic. Despite the large number of Africans who were subjected to enforced exile and enslavement during this period, the everyday life of these captives has rarely been investigated. This paucity might be explained by the fact that, because the enslaved populations were rarely literate, they left few direct testimonies. Over the last few decades, however, the study of material life (which can be defined as the ways in which people experience their physical environments through their minds and senses) has proven to be a particularly efficient way of reconstructing the everyday lives of people who had little textual 'voice' in history. Drawing upon the various methodologies used by the historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists who were involved in this academic movement, my postdoctoral research will provide the first comprehensive study of the material lives of the enslaved labourers of the early modern French empire. My postdoctoral project will consist of a comparative study of Guadeloupe, Louisiana, and Île Bourbon (now called La Réunion), from the seventeenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries.

Specifically, my work will reconstruct the everyday life of enslaved people by examining what they saw and touched; ate, drank, and wore; worked on, in, and with; carried, used, made, built, cultivated; and more. It will determine the ways in which enslaved people used, made, or lived with their material environment to voluntarily or involuntarily shape the meanings of objects, and in this way form their own cultural and socio-economic identities. My work will also examine the material culture of the enslaved; 'material culture' can be defined as the manifestation of culture of a particular group of people through objects. Finally, my research will examine the economic life of the enslaved: the organisation of the slave communities in terms of both production (for the benefit of their masters and for their own use) and consumption.

My work will draw upon a large variety of documentary accounts, including notarial and tax records, plantation papers, and private and governmental correspondence, as well as travel accounts, legislation, and court proceedings. In addition, I will use evidence collected and analysed by archaeologists, items in museum/gallery collections, and the relevant iconography.



Slavery has become an important subject of interest across the globe during the last few decades. In France, for example, this was demonstrated by the heated reactions that were aroused after the cancellation in May 2014 of the commemoration of the abolition of slavery in Villers-Cotterêts by a mayor who belonged to a well-established political party. The French government has recently been working to raise the profile of Atlantic slavery in the collective French consciousness. In 2001, it officially declared slavery and the slave trade of Africans to be 'crimes against humanity'.

I am very grateful to Newnham College and to Judy and Mark Moody Stuart for their generous support, which, matched by funding from the Newton Trust will allow me to complete my research project and to contribute to this ongoing debate.

4 studentnews

Health and well-being in College and beyond

As the Principal reports, **Life Skills** is a new initiative for Newnham undergraduates and graduates. Life is more than education, more than work – and these bite-size sessions aim to help our students develop the skills to balance all aspects of their lives. We are very grateful to the numerous alumnae who are giving their time and expertise to help with this project.

We are pleased that two **Mindfulness** sessions organised by the Principal in the exam term were greatly appreciated by the students. Mindfulness, a form of attention and emotional regulation training, is a non-religious, effective means of alleviating stress, anxiety and depression as well as promoting well-being.

Following a request by the students, the College is now providing an **in-house Counsellor** to help address issues of anxiety and other worries. The JCR and the MCR are each contributing a third of the costs with the College paying the remaining third.

Women's Varsity rugby

The three women's Colleges combined forces to support the Cambridge Women's Varsity Rugby team at their first match at Twickenham. We are delighted that Newnham alumnae were by far the most enthusiastic with 30 turning out to support the students. It was thrilling to see them beat Oxford 52:0!



A runaway success!

Congratulations to Liz Mooney (NC 2013), second-year historian, who is excelling in cross country at College, University and International levels. Liz represented the University in Varsity, winning her full Blue. She also came 15th in the BUCS cross country competition. She was then selected to run for England in the U20 Antrim Home Countries International and came third. She led Newnham to victory in the Hare and Hounds College league and has been elected as the Ladies' Captain for Cambridge University Hare and Hounds running club for the next three terms.

Debating champ

Second-year PhD student Srishti Krishnamoorthy (NC 2013) was selected to represent Cambridge as part of the University's A team at this year's European Universities Debating Championships in Vienna. She and her partner qualified to the semi-finals of the competition. They were ranked 8th out of 212 teams (5th highest combined speaker points) and Srishti herself was 14th out of 424 speakers.



5 roll&development

The Mary Rogers Postgraduate Studentship

Newnham is delighted to announce a new studentship for postgraduates taking Literary, Historical or Art Historical studies (including Architecture). Classical, medieval and contemporary periods will not be excluded but preference will be given to research incorporating the early modern period (*circa* 1400–1700).

The first award will be made for the 2016–17 academic year.

The studentship has been generously funded by Newnham alumna Mary Rogers (NC 1963), who says: 'I wish to advance studies on the early modern period on which I have spent my working career as a lecturer and researcher, and, knowing the financial pressures on today's students, feel that money should be made available now, rather than after my death. So much public discussion on university education concentrates on undergraduates and promotes a purely utilitarian view of education, making me all the keener to stress the mind-expanding value of the study of the humanities at an advanced level. The seminal importance and fascination of the period around 1400–1700 should need no underlining. The studentship gives priority to historical or literary topics focused on this time, but does not exclude projects which move towards later dates.'

As I know from my professional experience, postgraduate students not working in teams can feel isolated, however able and dedicated they might be. This is where an environment like Newnham can give so much, as contacts with non-specialist College associates can not only give valuable support and perspective, but provoke the sharp questions which clarify ideas.'

Please spread the word of this wonderful new studentship. If you would like more information, please contact the Tutorial Office (01223 335791; graduate.admissions@newnham.cam.ac.uk).

How your donations make a difference

On graduating from Newnham in 2012, I was fortunate to be awarded a generous travel grant from the Jean Mitchell Fund to take up an internship at UNAIDS in Geneva. I recently found out that the fund was set up in Jean Mitchell's memory by a group of her former students for whom she was the Director of Studies in Geography. I would like to say a big thank you to these generous alumnae and to let them know how I am doing now.

When I applied to the grant, I hoped that the experience in Geneva might help me decide where to go with my career and give me an understanding of work in an international policy-making environment. Well, it gave me that and much more! Immediately after my internship, I was lucky enough to secure a temporary staff position at UNAIDS and I have spent the last few years working in Geneva at UNAIDS and then the European Commission in Brussels. By the start of this year, I had amassed enough experience to apply for a full staff position which I took up in January at the UNAIDS New York office, where I have been involved in negotiations between the 193 UN Member States on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (a global policy framework for sustainable development and eradicating poverty by 2030). The support Newnham gave me really did enable me to get a 'foot in the door'! Thank you!



Ruth Blackshaw (NC 2009)

Honorary Associates

The Honorary Associates (known as the 'Hons'!) are a group of former Newnham Associates who, after completing their ten-year term as Associates, have opted to continue their active support of the College. We founded the Hons in 2011 and they have become a recognised resource for the College.



There are now 53 of us, who have continued to support the College in a number of ways in addition to activities with the Associates via the website and workshops. Hons are to be found on the Roll Committee and the Audit Committee, as well as supporting networking lunches and initiatives such as the Sidgwick Society, the Newnham joint events with Wellesley, and NewnhamRoll Mums. Six Hons were on the Board of the successful Changing Lives Campaign (including the Chair, Julia Cleverdon (NC 1969)). Most recently a number of us were invited to offer views on the developing architectural design for the new College buildings. It is a rewarding and varied way to keep in touch and support the College.

We are also giving some thought to the Hons group (whose ages range from 50s to 70s) as the first cohort of women to have lived our lives with equal education and opportunities. At an event in June, Hons shared thoughts on how our lives and careers have taken new and often unexpected directions. The Principal, Dame Carol Black, Pam Alexander (NC 1972) and Sue Delafons (NC 1977) shared moments from their own richly varied experience. A fascinating discussion began, which was taken forward at an overnight event at Newnham; this has produced more ideas on how we develop as a supportive network and share knowledge about resilience and overcoming setbacks.

Becoming an Hon is a commitment to keep your details up to date on the Newnham Associates' website, as a source of support to students and alumnae, to be actively involved in events, workshops and Associate activity, or to use your skills and experience to benefit the College in other ways.

Anyone who has completed their ten years as an Associate and is interested can become an Honorary Associate at any time. Some of us did not choose to do so immediately after stepping down as Associates, but have decided to join later on. If you were an Associate and are interested in the Hons, do get in touch with me: honorary@newnhamassociates.org.uk

Rolande Anderson (NC 1973)

Telephone Campaign

We are very grateful indeed to all 872 of you who spoke to our 15 student callers in the 2015 Telephone Campaign. Our energetic team raised a total of £202,801. Newnham is very lucky to be supported by so many of its alumnae – and your generous gifts regularly place us in the top three of all Cambridge Colleges for the number of its former students who make a gift. As always the Campaign was a mixture of fun and hard work but all our callers learned an enormous amount from the experience and really enjoyed their conversations. They have improved their CVs too!

6 spotlight

Sadia Khan (NC 1985) – Corporate governance and gender diversity in the boardroom



Growing up in Pakistan in a society where I had to fight for my rights from a young age instilled in me a strong work ethos that relied on initiative and determination. My career since reading Economics at Newnham in the 1980s has been incredibly varied, taking in investment banking, financial regulation, family businesses and entrepreneurship, and spanning five countries across three continents. My current focus is corporate governance, which is inextricably linked to the issue of gender diversity in the boardroom, a cause that is close to my heart. Women in senior positions are good for business, and I'm committed to tackling the challenges and constraints faced by working women in general, and particularly at board level.

I've spent the past eighteen years engaged in corporate governance as a policy maker, an educator and a practitioner. While working with the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines, I was responsible for designing a number of financial sector reform packages in our member countries in the aftermath of the Asian financial crises of 1997. Corporate governance reform was an integral part of these initiatives, in recognition of its importance in averting widespread crises in confidence in the financial markets.

When I returned to Pakistan in 2000 to work for the corporate sector regulator, one of my first tasks was to finalise and implement the first ever Code of Corporate Governance in Pakistan. Given that most of the corporate sector in Pakistan consists of tightly held family businesses, it was an uphill task to convince the corporate leaders of the merits of enhanced transparency and accountability for the long-term sustainability of their businesses. Inducting independent directors onto their boards was a notion completely alien to the local business



Patricia Hon, Rosalind Furlong, Rachel Weir, Sadia and friends at the Secret Gardens Ball

7 infocus

community. However, through persistence and a number of awareness campaigns, we not only managed to implement the first level of reforms but carried out a more stringent revision to the Code a decade later.

No discourse on corporate governance is complete without tackling the issue of gender diversity in the boardroom. Globally, despite a 40 per cent representation in the workforce, women occupy only 12 per cent of positions at board level. There is a strong business case for the induction of more women on corporate boards. Diversity results in innovative thinking, more objective discussion, improved governance, greater ethical consciousness, more appropriate allocation of budget and better decisions, which lead to better financial performance. As an ardent proponent of female empowerment in this part of the world, I have been advocating greater induction of women into decision-making bodies. Quotas for female participation in corporate boards, introduced in some countries, have increased the need for women to have the appropriate set of corporate skills and relevant experience. The onus is on women to get the appropriate certifications, build up their portfolios, and to make a senior leadership position or a place on a corporate board a career aspiration. Once in a position to effect change, women must cherish their diversity as an asset on any board, and most importantly continue to advocate the cause for the next generation.

I start the day by checking my emails from home. I rarely need to deal with things at 7am, but it gives me an idea of what's in store, and I can plan accordingly. Sometimes, Carol is in several different countries in a week – delivering lectures, attending meetings, talking to students – and it's vital that her schedule is highly organised. I spend a lot of time managing her diary.



The days can be intensely busy and long when Carol is at Newnham. Meetings often start at 8am and she regularly hosts evening events such as the popular Lodge Seminars. I manage everything from organising meetings, notifying other departments about what is needed, from equipment to catering, and welcoming visitors. Lodge visitors range from a graduate student seeking advice on how to organise a conference, to alumna Clare Balding arriving to take part in an Honorary Fellows' Signing Ceremony. I like the fact that it isn't 9–5; it makes for a varied working life.

I attend an annual lunch with the other Heads of Houses' PAs, informally known as 'The Heads of House Secretaries' Mafia'. We joke that we know where all the bodies are buried in Cambridge, who put 'em there, and why! Our informal, confidential support network is invaluable.

The relationship between a PA and his or her boss is based on trust. I see everything that crosses Carol's desk or lands in her inbox, so confidentiality is key.

There are two other members of staff in the Principal's Lodge – Housekeeper Jane and Domestic Assistant Helen. Together we ensure that Carol's life runs smoothly. We are also conscious that the Lodge is our working environment, but that it's Carol and her husband Chris's home. Fortunately as a Fellow of Trinity, Chris is already well versed in life at a Cambridge College!

When I've finished haunting the Debrett's website and I'm satisfied that I've used the correct title in a formal letter, I head home to Pete, my partner of thirty years. I'm an active member of the Cambridge branch of Soroptimist International and a Life Member of the City of Cambridge Rowing Club – which is why, when Carol wanted to borrow a rowing machine recently, she knew who to ask!

Claire was interviewed by Communications Officer Jo Tynan

8 feature

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Newnham Roll

In 2018 the Newnham Roll celebrates its 100th anniversary. The College, Roll Committee and Associates have been making plans to celebrate this special event in an exciting way which can be accessible to as many alumnae as possible.

Of course we plan a party, so please hold the date of Saturday 7 July 2018 in your diaries. Before then we intend to strengthen the network of Newnham alumnae around the world through a special celebration of inspiring ideas. So please let us know if you would be interested in helping to host a small event for alumnae, either in your home or at a local venue, based around the event we plan in College on Saturday 17 February 2018.

The Roll Committee was keen to develop a 21st Century perspective on the Summer Schools that Newnham used to run in the early 20th century and which inspired many young women to see how education could change their lives.

On 17 February 2018 we aim to hold the first ever NewnhamTEDx on the theme of **'Embracing Challenge'**. A TEDx is an event to inspire a community, conducted under licence from the organisers of the TED talks, which are freely available on the web. It comprises a series of short talks on ideas that are new in ways that are surprising. The aim is to encourage action through inspiration. Each talk or performance can last no longer than 18 minutes and discussion takes place in the refreshment breaks.

Whilst the audience in College is a maximum of 100, the event will be filmed and 'live streamed' through the internet around the UK and the world. Musical, theatrical and other intriguing performances will be interspersed during the day and form part of the record and legacy. Full details of the competition for performers and the ballot for tickets will be sent out in September 2016. In the meantime we are building a network of alumnae across the globe who would be prepared to host a small get-together to watch some or all of the day.

Tracy Smith (NC 1979), a former Roll Committee member once said;
'Each woman who comes to Newnham forms a stitch in the fabric of Newnham. Imagine that fabric spread around the world as a network and that each time we connect with the College in any way our individual stitch lights up'.

On 17 February 2018 we aim to have the Newnham community lit up across the globe for the first part of our big celebration.

We are in the process of creating an interactive Google Map which will show the email address of each prospective host. We will provide simple instructions on how to access the talks and all you will need is access to the internet – perhaps in your home or at a local school. If you would have six alumnae or twenty for a cup of tea and a biscuit or more and would like to help us with this initiative – which will be another first for a Cambridge College – please get in touch at roll@newn.cam.ac.uk.

The February celebration will be followed by a special Open Day on 7 July 2018. This will include viewing and discussion of some of the best of the NewnhamTEDx ideas, exhibitions, workshops, singing from scratch and much more for as many alumnae as we can host at Newnham.

We look forward very much to planning and sharing this special anniversary with you.

9 internationalnews

Mina meets Cambridge



Mina meets Cambridge is a whimsical story of an imaginative girl's adventure when she comes to visit her sister who is studying at Newnham, written by our former graduate from Singapore, Hidayah Amin (NC 2010). In Cambridge Mina learns that in order to be successful, one needs to work hard, persevere, and have the courage to dream big. The book contains charming drawings and is aimed at those aged 9+ or 'young at heart'. You can purchase it online at <http://archipelago-consultancy.com/shop/>, and Hidayah is generously donating £1 for every book sold towards a bursary for Newnham students – so by supporting her you will also be supporting us! We are very grateful indeed to Hidayah for this lovely gesture.

Eco Racing in Australia

In September, Amy Livingstone (NC 2013), a member of student society Cambridge University Eco Racing (CUER), boarded a plane to Australia to help CUER prepare for the 2015 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, a 3000km-long endurance challenge for solar-powered vehicles with a route from Darwin to Adelaide.



As head of the electrical team, Amy was in charge of designing and making all the electrical systems in the car, which was shipped to Adelaide in August, after more than a year of preparations. The plan was to test the car by driving the competition route in reverse. The twenty-person team drove in convoy for eight hours a day, camping at night and setting up temporary workshops so that they could continue to work on the car.

Amy sadly missed the challenge itself, which began on 18 October, as she had to return to Cambridge for the start of term, but Aurelia Hibbert (NC 2013) continues to represent Newnham as CUER's Programme Director. The team finished 22nd after six exciting days of racing, and are now looking ahead to the next challenge in 2017. You can read more at www.cuer.co.uk.

US launch of 'Dear World ... Yours, Cambridge'

Dame Carol represented the Colleges at Carnegie Hall in New York at the USA Launch of the University's £2bn campaign: *Dear World... Yours Cambridge*. Her *Letter to America* spoke of Cambridge's long connection with the USA and of the importance of the Colleges as the cauldron of creativity. We combined her visit with a Newnham alumnae reception at the lovely home of Karen Lim (NC 1983). It was good to see so many of our alumnae and many thanks to our US Chair, Margaret Campbell (NC 1966) for her support.

10 inspiring women

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Kate Dyer (NC 1981)



What really fascinated me in the History Tripos were the Indian and African options. They seemed strange study choices even as I made them – I'd never travelled outside Europe, and at the time never really thought I would. Even so, I spent much of my last year working with others to establish the South African Bursary in the College – a practical response to Apartheid, by providing higher education to a South African woman who would otherwise never access it. This bursary continues today. I left Newnham to train as a teacher and work in London. Fast forward thirty years, and I've spent 25 of them living and working in Africa: in Botswana, Lesotho and, for the last 18 years, in Tanzania. I've taught in schools, worked with trade unions, campaigned for better education, set up a Non-Government Organisation, a women's group, and a consultancy business. For the past four years, I've been with KPMG as director of a UK government programme to 'increase the responsiveness of government to citizens'. It's been a wonderful and demanding time, blessed also by a stimulating home life bringing up two wonderful daughters.

Recently, life came full circle for me, when my elder daughter, Fran Brandon (NC 2011), encouraged fellow historian Pippa Smith (NC 2011) to contact me in Dar es Salaam. Pippa is one of the founders of Cambridge Development Initiative (cdi.soc.srcf.net), a bold student effort to change how student volunteering is done. The group was starting to find its feet in Tanzania, and was looking for pointers. I've since met them often and joined their Advisory Board. It has been a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with the restlessness and ambition of the next generation keen to play their part in making the world a better place.

Jenna Dittmar (NC 2012)



Originally from Wisconsin, USA, I came to Newnham to begin my PhD in Biological Anthropology in 2012. My interdisciplinary doctoral research analyses surgical tool marks on archaeological human skeletal remains to further understand the history of anatomical training from 1600 to 1900 in Britain. My thesis, entitled '*An archaeological examination of human dissection and its role in anatomical education in England from 1600–1900*', places recently excavated skeletal remains into the historical context of early medical education. This large-scale study has revealed a great deal of new information about both the procedure of human dissection and the individuals dissected in order to advance scientific knowledge. One of the seminal results of this research is the creation of a set of criteria to differentiate the different reasons that bodies would be surgically opened after death, human dissection and autopsy. This research has been presented at many international conferences, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting in San Jose, California in February 2015, and portions of my research were included in a special exhibition at the Museum of London in 2012, titled '*Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men*'.

11 youngalumnae

My first job – Ruth Shin (NC 2007)



After graduating from Newnham, I spent a year studying in Belgium for an MA in European Studies. I was keen to begin my career on a graduate scheme that would build my management skills and was delighted to secure a place on the Marks and Spencer Retail Management scheme. I spent almost two and a half years at M&S, initially as a trainee and subsequently as a commercial manager in a London store. The learning curve was steep and I particularly valued the opportunity to develop my people management and commercial skills. In 2014, I joined the Civil Service Fast Stream, having decided to move to the public sector. Completing a series of rotations across different Government departments, I have worked on everything from bees to free schools to information assurance, and am currently mid-way through a secondment based in the City. The next two years will involve two placements where I will gain a greater depth of policy experience.

I often reflect on how many core skills I developed at Newnham. My History degree taught me analytical skills and how to summarise complex issues succinctly. My time on the JCR gave me an understanding of how to run a successful meeting, work effectively with others and manage change. I remain extremely grateful to Newnham for providing me with these opportunities, which were excellent preparation for working life.

If you would like your first job to be included in a future newsletter, please contact roll@newn.cam.ac.uk

Young Alumnae meet the Freshers

We were delighted to meet 40 Freshers over pizza and wine at the first 'Young Alumnae meet the Freshers' event kindly sponsored by the Guild of Friends. This gave Freshers a chance to ask questions of young alumnae as they embark on their own Newnham adventure. We particularly enjoyed reading the entries for the 'first impressions of Newnham' competition, although judging them was difficult, given how eloquent and moving they were! The event was a great success and we plan to make it bigger and better next year. We hope to continue to build links with the current student body so that, when the time comes, they know there's a Young Alumnae Group dedicated to organising social events and supporting recent graduates. In the meantime, we would love to hear suggestions from current students as to how the Young Alumnae Group could help them.

The Young Alumnae Group was set up in 2014 to connect all young alumnae (aged 35 years and under) and to organise social events. Recent outings include watching the Boat Race and a tour around the old City in London. We have had a trip to the theatre and are planning an evening at the Boat Show Comedy club. If you would like to learn more, please do get in touch via the Newnham Young Alumnae LinkedIn page or e-mail us at: youngalumnae.newnham@gmail.com. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in setting up a regional YA group.



12 legacies

Cecily Mary Falkner Fund

In family history maiden aunts are easily forgotten once those who knew them personally have passed on. I was determined that the name of my remarkable aunt, Cecily Mary Falkner, would live on through the generations.

Cecily Mary Falkner was a very independent lady who never married. Born and brought up in Lincolnshire, despite excellent school results, she started work at eighteen. Joining a bank during World War II, she was quickly promoted to running sub-branches singlehanded. Confident in her own abilities, she was very disillusioned when demoted to enable ex-servicemen to take up all the senior positions. She moved to London and spent most of her career working in the Market Research department at Unilever. At the same time she started investing in stocks and shares (out of her very modest income), studying the workings of the stock market at evening classes and building up a remarkably successful investment portfolio. This was highly unusual for a woman in the 1950s and Cecily Mary recalled attending an AGM where the Chairman opened the meeting addressing 'Lady and Gentlemen'. Ever resourceful, when made redundant at the age of 57 she deducted four years off her age and rewrote her CV – and so kept working until 64. She was still actively and astutely managing her investments and attending AGMs, as well as undertaking occasional paid work, well into her 80s.

I was always very close to my aunt and reading Maths at Newnham I invited her to visit on a number of occasions. She was very impressed by Newnham's facilities and gardens. During the last few years of her life I looked after her and helped her to manage her investment portfolio.

Following her death in 2013, as an executor and beneficiary of her estate, I wished to take advantage of the reduction in the rate of Inheritance Tax (IHT) from 40% to 36% if 10% of the taxable part of an estate is given to charity. As no IHT is paid on gifts to charities, the net cost to the beneficiaries is just 24% of the value of the



gifts, the other 76% is paid for by the reduction in IHT. This is a far more significant tax saving than for charitable donations made with Gift Aid.

As well as legacies to organisations which my aunt supported during her lifetime and those which had helped her in her later years, we wanted to set up a fund in Cecily's name. After consideration and discussion, Newnham was chosen as the recipient – Cecily was always a supporter of women's education and had very much enjoyed her visits to Newnham when I was in residence. The best use of the money to meet our aims and Newnham's needs was a fund to provide bursaries for either undergraduates or graduates. All future recipients of a Cecily Mary Falkner bursary will be given a short biography, so not only her name but details of her life will be remembered.

My aunt had made no provision for gifts to charities in her will, which was made a number of years ago. However, you can change a person's will after their death, as long as any beneficiaries left worse off by the changes agree. To change a will you need to make a 'variation', which doesn't need to be a formal document or deed, it can just be a letter, as long as it meets certain conditions. For example, the variation must be made within two years of the death, and if the variation increases a legacy, or includes a new legacy to charity, the charity must be notified that assets are being redirected to it and evidence of this notification provided to HMRC on request.

In this case, we drew up a simple 'Deed of Variation' using appropriate wording sourced from the internet. This was submitted to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) before probate was obtained, so that the IHT payment could be made at the reduced rate. Once probate was granted and estate assets collected, the gift to Newnham was made earlier this year and the new Fund approved by Council. This was the first legacy to Newnham under the '10% rule'; hopefully others will also take advantage of this in future.

Anne Sharpley (NC 1968)



Further details may be found at www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax/giving-to-charity-to-reduce-an-inheritance-tax-bill.

Penny Hubbard has example wording for a simple 'Deed of Variation' gifting 10% of the taxable estate to Newnham.

Email: penny.hubbard@newn.cam.ac.uk

13 didyouknow

Newnham College Boat Club has named the latest addition to its fleet, Rosalind Frankli. The boat was officially christened by Head Coach Alan Hendrick. Newnham College Boat Club would like to thank Newnham JCR, MCR, and alumna Eleanor Holloway (NC 1983) for their extremely generous donations that made this all possible.



Sarah Leiter (NC 2008)

carried the flag for team GB during the opening ceremony of the Goalball world games in Seoul. **Dr Laurie Friday**, former Graduate Tutor and Senior Member at Newnham, has been appointed Director of the Newton Trust which helps the Colleges provide generous support to students in financial need across Cambridge. **NCBC's W3** had a fantastic bumps campaign, bumping ARU W1, Girton W2, and Selwyn to win their blades. Three Newnhamites were elected as Members of Parliament in the 2015 general election: **Lucy Frazer (NC 1991)**; **Diane Abbott (NC 1973)**; and **Rupa Huq (NC 1990)**. Associates **Vicki Bruce (NC 1971)** and **Laura Cohen (NC 1982)** both received honours in the Birthday List: Vicki, Vice-President for Public Engagement at the British Academy and Professor of Psychology at Newcastle University, has been made a Dame in recognition of her services to Higher Education and Psychology; Laura, Chief Executive, British Ceramic Confederation, received an MBE for her services to the Ceramics Industry. In June, racing cyclist **Hayley Simmonds (NC 2006)** produced a superb ride to take the British women's time-trial title.

newnhamassociates

I lead the Planning and Infrastructure team at Irwin Mitchell, and was recently voted by *Property Week* as one of '40 under 40' rising stars in the property industry. I help developers get planning permission for complex developments and infrastructure projects, and have been privileged to work on some amazing schemes, such as getting planning consent for the 'Walkie Talkie' Tower for Land Securities, Centre Point Tower for Almacantar, and the redevelopment of Elephant & Castle for Lend Lease. I also worked for the Government on the hybrid Bill for High Speed Two, and with Transport for London on the consenting route options for Crossrail 2.

My journey has been rich with adventure: I feel that opportunities are there for the taking! I knew at 11 that I wanted to be a lawyer, and, despite being discouraged by my school teachers, I studied Law at Newnham and was called to the Bar in July 2000. I have worked as a Research Assistant to Lord Justice Carnwath at the Law Commission, as Advisory and Prosecuting Counsel for the Environment Agency, practised as an Independent Barrister in planning and environmental law, and finally moved into private practice, working as an Employed Barrister, eventually attaining partnership at Irwin Mitchell.

If you would like to know more about my work, please get in touch: Martha.Grekos@IrwinMitchell.com

Martha Grekos (NC 2000)

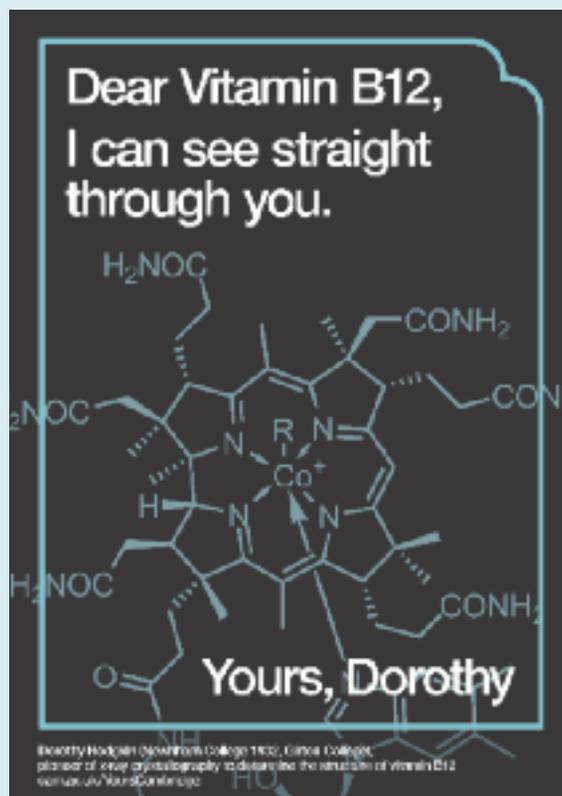
Dear World...

Yours, Cambridge

On 16 October 2015 the University of Cambridge launched its new fundraising campaign to raise £2 billion. Newnham has just successfully completed its Changing Lives Campaign, of course, so we will not be launching into a major new fundraising campaign at this point, but all donations which are made to Newnham during the University's Campaign, while remaining with the College, will count towards the University's £2 billion target. A total of £500m has already been raised since 2011, the end of the previous 800th Campaign.

The University are using an innovative approach – they are focusing on writing a 'letter to the world' – *Dear World ... Yours, Cambridge* – looking at what Cambridge University has achieved and what great things it can go on to achieve in the future with the right financial support. So for example: *'Dear World ... you gave us Isaac Newton ... we gave you gravity ... Yours, Cambridge'*. You can see two of the posters they have devised here to show a further adaptation of the approach, celebrating alumnae Nobel Laureate Dorothy Hodgkin (NC 1932) and Anna Watkins (NC 2001), Olympic Gold Medal Rower.

Newnham alumna and Honorary Fellow Clare Balding (NC 1990) leads the film highlighting what Cambridge means for many of its alumni: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyJebflc-7U



Changing Lives is produced by the
Roll and Development Office
Newnham College, Sidgwick Avenue
Cambridge, CB3 9DF
roll@newn.cam.ac.uk

Editorial: Rachel Hill
Photography: thanks to Ellie Hayes and
Mark Mniszko

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



14 events

Forthcoming events

Law Networking Lunch 20 February

A networking event for those who read Law or work in the legal sector.

Commemoration 9 April

The reunion years invited back for a busy programme of events on 9 April will be 1946, 1956, 1966, 1991 and 2006. Please contact the Development Office if you have not received your invitation by early February.

Geography Networking Lunch 7 May

An opportunity for Geography alumnae to return to College. This year's event is particularly special as we will be celebrating Fellow Emerita and Special Supervisor Lucy Adrian's 81st birthday.

For further information about all the events listed here and in the Calendar please contact the Development Office at:

E: roll@newn.cam.ac.uk
T: 01223 335757

Call for email addresses

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

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



Follow the tweets
@NewnhamRoll for
the latest news



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

calendar

2016

27 January

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

4 February

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

17 February

Formal Hall – Land Economy, Computer Science, Mathematics

20 February

Law Networking Lunch

24 February

Formal Hall – Nat Sci (Bio)

29 February

Raleigh Music Society Concert

2 March

Formal Hall – Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Architecture

9 March

Formal Hall – AMES, MML, Linguistics

9 April

Commemoration – alumnae who matriculated in 1946, 1956, 1966, 1991 and 2006 are invited back to Newnham to celebrate their special anniversary year

22 April

Jane Harrison Memorial Lecture

7 May

Geography Networking Lunch

19 May (TBC)

Oxford Event

2 July

Strachey Event – hold the date for this celebration event. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

23–25 September

Alumni Festival – alumnae who matriculated in 1961, 1976, 1986 and 1996 will be invited back to Newnham for dinner and other events

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



Sunflowers

You may remember that we sent out packets of sunflower seeds as a small thank you to those of you who gave to the Changing Lives campaign. We have received some lovely photos of your beautiful Newnham sunflowers in bloom!

