

changinglives



Newnham College Newsletter

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Cover photo: Students enjoying one of the Christmas Formal Halls during 'Bridgemas' at Newnham. Photograph taken by Stephen Bond.

1 fromthelodge



Professor Dame Carol Black

Challenging the status quo is part of Newnham's identity, and I felt it was important to take action to address something which continues to plague all universities – sexual harassment.

The Universities UK Taskforce examining violence against women, harassment and hate crime affecting university students has issued the following findings from national surveys: 68% of respondents had been subjected to verbal or physical sexual harassment on campus and 14% had experienced a serious physical or sexual assault (NUS 2010).

A poll of new students found that 17% of respondents had experienced sexual harassment during their first week and 29% had witnessed sexual harassment directed at someone else (NUS 2005). Also 54% of 18 to 24 year-old female students experienced sexual harassment on nights out, half of them every time they go out (Drinkaware 2016).

The Cambridge Student Union report *Cambridge Speaks Out* (2014) found that 75% of those who experienced stalking or harassment knew the perpetrator (acquaintance/friend/partner/ex-partner) as did 61% of women who experienced physical violence. Thus many students are victims of domestic abuse.

Two years ago I decided that Newnham must take action. I began with a working dinner, for all Heads of House, some University officials, and student representatives, at which many important issues surfaced. I then joined the University's Working Group informing the development of the University's framework and procedures in this area. These are now complete, as is the new Office of Student Conduct Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA).

Valuable as these formal structures are, I wanted to do something for our own students and those who care for them. With this in mind I ran our first training programme during the Michaelmas Term 2016 in collaboration with Trinity College. Participants (academics, College Staff and student reps) were taught (and online material was available) about:

- the dynamics of sexual violence and its prevalence on university campuses;
- the impact of sexual violence in different contexts, and its implications for the health, safety and wellbeing of the victim;
- the University's Anti-Harassment Policy and how to apply it to their individual role;
- how to respond appropriately to a disclosure of sexual violence;
- how to identify for the student following a disclosure the support and options available within the University and beyond; and
- the impact the training may have on themselves.

This is just a beginning, and there is much more to be done to change culture and behaviour, but I hope that it will change many lives for the better.

2 collegenews

'Sometimes you just have to get on with it and make a decision' – Vogue editor gives inspiring talk to Newnham students

The longest serving editor in the history of British Vogue told students the fashion magazine is 'a bastion of female power' at an exclusive Newnham event.

Alexandra Shulman OBE has been editor-in-chief of Vogue for 25 years and in November she was joined at one of Newnham's popular Career Women Seminars by Felicia Brocklebank (NC 1989), Director of Papouelli.



Felicia Brocklebank and Alexandra Shulman

At a packed event in the Principal's Lodge, Shulman gave an inspiring, frank and witty account of her career. She praised her team for their work and, when asked, she described how few men there were in her team and quipped: "Vogue is a bastion of female power!"

She added: "I make decisions all day long and it can be from how much budget we can allocate to the Mario Testino shoot, to whether someone can move desk in the office because they don't like the person next to them! Sometimes you just have to get on with it and make a decision."

Felicia, who read History, described her love of her role as a director of Papouelli, home of 'beautiful British shoes designed for children' and how the business has grown and embraced challenges. She outlined how the power of having Cambridge University on her CV opened doors so she could begin her banking career after she graduated. The audience heard why she changed direction and why she feels that being assertive can help women get ahead in male dominated industries.

She also described how being a mother-of-three affected her outlook and said: "Sometimes you feel like you are not doing things well but I have learned that it's fine not to do everything perfectly."

Government report by Newnham's Principal says 'fresh approach' needed to help people find work after addiction

An independent review into the impact on employment prospects for people who have battled drug or alcohol addiction has been published by the Government.

Professor Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham College, was commissioned to write the report and to recommend ways people addicted to drugs and alcohol can be helped to find work.

Dame Carol, who has written two previous independent Government reviews, also looked at the role of employers in helping secure good employment opportunities for people who have struggled with addiction. To read the report and more about Dame Carol's findings visit www.newn.cam.ac.uk/about/news-events/news/

First female presenter of mainstream comedy show formally becomes Honorary Fellow

Sandi Toksvig said 'anyone who can cook dinner and look after children can host QI' when she gave a hilarious and thought-provoking talk at Newnham.

The distinguished Girton alumna was at College to sign the Roll of Honorary Fellows. An Honorary Fellowship is a highly prestigious award which Newnham bestows upon eminent women who have made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field. Toksvig wrote and performed in the first, and so far only, all-women Footlights show. After she graduated with a first-class degree in Archaeology and Anthropology and Law, she performed at the famous Comedy Store in London before branching out into acting and presenting.



Sandi Toksvig signing the Roll of Honorary Fellows

Last year she became the first female presenter of a mainstream TV comedy show when she replaced Stephen Fry on *QI*. She gave a sold-out talk in December to students, staff and Fellows titled *Women: Revolution and Knitting* before she formally became an Honorary Fellow at a special ceremony. The discussion took a wry look at women's history and explained why she felt compelled to jointly found The Women's Equality Party.

She said: "It is unbelievable that in 2016 women are still making firsts, it is why we are the only political party that hopes to one day not exist. I'm not sure why it took until 2016 for a woman to present a show like *QI*, it isn't that difficult. They give you the questions beforehand, and the card you hold with the questions on is not as heavy as the boys led me to believe, so I don't know what the reason is."

Principal and student join edit-a-thon to add women to Wikipedia

Newnham's Head of House travelled to London to take part in a BBC project to address the lack of online biographies available about eminent women.

Dame Carol Black was joined by Olivia Hylton-Pennant, JCR Access Officer, at the Wikipedia edit-a-thon event on December 8. Wikipedia is the seventh most visited site in the world – but only 15 per cent of Wikipedia editors are women and fewer than 15 per cent of notable profiles are of women.

The BBC worked in partnership with Wikipedia, the world's largest encyclopedia, to hold 12 hour edit-a-thons in various countries, to create new profiles of women to address the gender gap.



Principal Dame Carol Black with undergraduate Olivia Hylton-Pennant

3 studentnews

High-achieving students graduate with honours

Newnhamite finalists have had another excellent academic year – with 96 per cent of our graduating students achieving a 1st or a 2:1.

Some individual stories of success include Eszter Ronai (NC 2013) who was top of Tripos in Linguistics, and Aleksandra Pedraszewska (NC 2013) who was top of Tripos in Land Economy.

The proud families of the graduands gathered at Newnham on June 24 2016 to watch them process from the College through the streets of Cambridge to the Senate House to graduate. We wish all our students the very best for the future!



Student wins 'best paper' prize at international conference

A graduate Land Economy student scooped a top award at the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA) International Conference.

Charlotte Chunming Meng's paper on 'Loss Aversion and Residential Property Development Decisions in China' was named as the 'best paper' at the event in July 2016.

AREUEA is the leading organization for real estate research in the world, and its conferences are known for being a focal point for presenting, discovering, and discussing the latest research on global real estate issues. Charlotte was one of more than 128 students to present their work at the conference, after a record number of entries.



Newnhamite Wins European Goalball Gold

Newnham PhD student Sarah Leiter was part of the Great Britain Women's Goalball team which powered to victory in the European B Championships in Portugal in October.

Goalball is a sport for athletes with visual impairments. It is played by two teams of three using a ball with bells inside. The ball is the size of a basketball but twice the weight.

The GB squad put in a stunning performance, progressing undefeated to the final with 60 goals scored and only eight conceded. Of their seven games, five of their wins came in the form of a 'mercy stoppage'; when a game is stopped early due to a team being ahead by ten goals. They went on to beat Germany 4-1 in the final, clinching the gold medal as well as securing promotion to the International Blind Sports Federation European A League, the highest level of Elite Goalball.

Undergraduate met Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as part of her role as a young leader

A Newnham student told the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge about her work encouraging world leaders to act to eliminate poverty during the Royal visit to Canada.



Umang, second from left, with the Duchess of Cambridge

Umang Khandelwal, who is about to begin the second year of her Law degree at Newnham, met the couple at a reception organised by Justin Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, for the Duke and Duchess to meet young leaders.

As a member of the Y20, Umang also represented Canadian Youth at the G20 Summit in China this summer.

The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies including Canada and the UK. It was founded in 1999 with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues which promote international financial stability.

The Y20 is an official engagement group of the G20, and the report that Umang was part of negotiating urges G20 members to take action to address the most pressing global problems.

During her trip to Beijing and Shanghai, Umang (NC 2015) had the chance to meet Li Yuanchao, Vice President of China.

On her return she updated Justin Trudeau via Google Hangout and advocated for the policies of the Y20 to be included in the final G20 recommendations.

Umang was then invited to the Prime Minister's reception for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for them to meet young Canadian leaders.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were on a tour of Canada with their two children which started on September 24 and ended on October 1 2016.

Umang also spent time working at legal aid clinics for a pro bono legal aid society called Access Pro Bono during the summer, where she assisted lawyers in providing legal advice to clients from low-income families.

Back in Cambridge she is the Director of Policy for the Wilberforce Society, the largest student-run think tank in the UK which was recently featured in *the Guardian*, and she is also an elected member of the University Council.

4 roll&development

Wall knocked down at celebratory event to mark start of building project to improve facilities

Hundreds of former Newnham students gathered at College to watch the ceremonial demolition of a wall to mark the start of a major building project.

Alumna Philippa Moore (NC 1996) won the raffle prize to operate the digger at the event on Saturday, September 24 and was watched by 400 people who stood on the forecourt of the old Porters' Lodge.

The engineer, who lives in Trumpington and read Natural Sciences, was cheered on by her family and friends as she smashed down the wall.

Strachey, an accommodation block, has now been demolished as has Newnham's old Porters' Lodge and part of Fawcett, another accommodation and office building.

They will be replaced with high quality social areas, a new Porters' Lodge, a gym, a café, conference facilities, supervision rooms and a suite of modern offices.

A total of 86 student bedrooms will be removed and replaced with en-suite bedrooms.

The celebratory family event was part of the Cambridge University Alumni Festival 2016 weekend.

It included interactive science experiments for children, a barbecue, an exhibition of memories from alumnae who were at Newnham during the 1950s and 1960s, a chance to meet the building contractors, and an opportunity to explore Strachey before it was demolished.

Guests also had a chance to write their names and comments on the walls of Strachey in a special graffiti room and visit the roof to enjoy scenic views of the College.

Strachey was named after Pernel Strachey, a former Newnham student, who was Principal of the College from 1923 until 1941. The Strachey building was considered to be state-of-the-art when it was completed in 1968. It cost £300,000 to build – a sharp contrast to the building costs today!

Professor Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham College, said: "Many of our alumnae have happy memories of their time living in Strachey, but the services are now beyond repair. We know that our magnificent new building will create more special memories for future students."

A live stream of the works can be viewed here:
www.newn.cam.ac.uk/about/architecture/new-build/webcam/



Alumnae and their children got the chance to draw on the walls of Strachey

Three Heads of House join forces to share their experiences of life over 50

Three high-profile women shared a glimpse of their lives running Cambridge Colleges at a sold-out Alumni Festival weekend event at Newnham College.

Professor Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham, was joined on stage by Dame Barbara Stocking, President of Murray Edwards College, and Jackie Ashley, President of Lucy Cavendish College, at a hugely popular panel discussion on Friday, September 23 titled *Older and Wiser: How women over 50 are making their mark*.



The Older and Wiser Panel

Expertly chaired by celebrated journalist Eleanor Mills, Editorial Director of the *Sunday Times* and Editor of the *Sunday Times Magazine*, the Heads of House shared personal anecdotes from their careers and personal lives with the 120-strong audience.

They were also joined by three distinguished alumnae including Dorothy Henderson (NC 1979) who shared insights into her life story.

Importance of performing arts discussed at popular Newnham Conversation event

The Alumni Festival also saw the return of the popular Newnham Conversation on Sunday, September 25.

The topic discussed at the 2016 event was: *Discovering Music, Opera and the Importance of the Performing Arts*.

It featured Annabel Arden (NC 1978) in conversation with Sara Mohr-Pietsch (NC 1998).

Annabel is a director of opera, an actor and the founder of Théâtre de Complicité (with Simon McBurney) where she worked exclusively for ten years.

Sara read Music at Newnham where she was the first Newnham choral scholar in Selwyn College Chapel Choir. After a spell in arts administration she became a classical music broadcaster and has been with BBC Radio 3 for over ten years.



Annabel Arden and Sara Mohr-Pietsch

The two exceptional Newnhamites discussed their careers in the performing arts, their experiences at Newnham and how their time at Cambridge influenced their paths after graduation.

4 roll&development

Philosopher Onora O'Neill 'brings sense to difficult subjects' at London Speaker Series event

Everything from American politics to the effect of social media echo chambers was covered in a lively discussion at our second London Speaker Series event.

Philosopher Professor Onora O'Neill, former Principal of Newnham College, was joined in conversation by Caroline Diehl MBE (NC 1975), founder and Chief Executive of Media Trust, the communications charity.

It was the second of our London Speaker Series, a biannual alumnae event, and it was held at the University Women's Club on Wednesday, November 2 2016. O'Neill talked about *Public trust and opinion: the part played by the media*. She was interviewed by Diehl who added highly pertinent contributions from her sphere of expertise. Professor Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham College, thanked Professor O'Neill at the end of the event for 'always bringing some sense to difficult subjects'.



Caroline Diehl chairing the London Speaker Series event featuring Onora O'Neill

Inaugural event aimed at getting more women on public boards is sell-out success

An event at Newnham designed to attract more women into public roles was attended by over 100 people.

The inaugural Women in Public Service event was spearheaded by Lucy Frazer QC MP (NC 1991) to encourage and inform women about how to secure careers in public service. It featured a keynote address by Dame Mary Archer, and 13 other highly experienced presenters from the public sector. Speakers across a variety of sectors addressed the audience – including Jenny Watson, Chair of the Electoral Commission, and Sally Collier, the Chief Regulator at Ofqual.



Dame Mary Archer, Lucy Frazer MP, and Penny Hubbard, Development Director

Delegates, who had travelled from all over the UK to attend the event, then had the opportunity to talk to the speakers on a one-to-one basis to ask questions and gain an insight into the responsibilities of specific posts.

Don't miss our next Literary Archive Event!

Our fourth biennial literary archive event will focus on Writing for Children. The day will be opened by Dr Gill Sutherland and she will be followed by discussions from distinguished writers Christina Hardyment (NC 1964), Caroline Lawrence (NC 1977), Mary Hoffman (NC 1964), Sue Limb (NC 1965) and Griselda Heppel (NC 1975). We hope many other authors will come and contribute to the discussions.

Do women's colleges have a long-standing and uneasy relationship with questions of female sexuality?

Share your views with Dr Alex da Costa, Valerie Eliot Fellow in English, and Director of Studies

Looking at early photos of Newnham women shortly after I arrived as a Fellow in 2013 I had an uncanny sense of recognition. Dressed in my usual butch fashion, I stared into an exhibition case and looked at late Victorian women in blouses and skirts. A few had abandoned pussy bows around their collars for ties. I wondered whether that choice had any significance for them beyond the sartorial, whether it said anything about whom they desired? Having come from St Hilda's College in Oxford – called the 'Virgin Megastore' by some boorish men – it made me think about the ways in which women's colleges have a long-standing and uneasy relationship with questions of female sexuality.

In the earliest days, colleges like Newnham needed to reassure parents that they were not seeking to subvert their daughters' interest in marriage by making incorrigible bluestockings of them or – as greater suspicion fell on female friendship as the 20th century progressed – by fostering overly close relationships between women. The Homerton archivist, Elizabeth Edwards, has argued that 'inside the confines of women's colleges, homoerotic friendship was accepted within certain limits – namely that the friendship remained invisible to

the outside world, and that the women concerned did not violate standards of respectability by indiscreet behaviour.' Perhaps the legacy of those early anxieties is still evident today when prospective Newnham students are given reassurances that they will meet men. There is an unconscious tendency to ignore the fact that some women choose women's colleges for reasons other than, or at least in addition to, the desire for a supportive female community of brilliant scholars. This is in part supported by the ways in which unintentional absences in the college archives obscure the importance that relationships with women have had to the personal and scholarly lives of some Newnham women.

Taking inspiration from Elizabeth Edwards research at Homerton in the 1990s and as part of LGBT history month, I'm launching a project to recover this part of Newnham's history and would like to invite alumnae who identify as LGBT+ to share their memories. The aim of the project is to create an archive of experiences both positive and negative of what it was like to be lesbian, bisexual or trans* while a student. I'm particularly interested in capturing the memories of alumnae who were at Newnham before it became more permissible to be



'out'. I hope to put on an exhibition based on submissions in February 2018 accompanied by a talk.

In Michaelmas, I spoke to current Newnham LGBT+ students about the project and asked them what value they saw in it. One thing that emerged is how transitory their student community can feel. Its members are constantly leaving as they end their degrees and so its vitality depends on the energy of the current JCR LGBT+ rep, who also changes annually. They said that a project like this would help to create a sense of continuity and community that goes beyond their years here. As a couple of students remarked, they are thrilled whenever they encounter LGBT+ alumnae as it inspires them about their own futures.

If you would like to contribute to this project please write to, or email, Dr Alex da Costa (ad666@cam.ac.uk).

6 spotlight

Artist Francesca Simon (NC 1972), tells how she went from her first job on the shop floor at John Lewis to studying at Central St Martins and what it's like to find success later in life.

'I knew I wanted to get to Cambridge, but was less certain what I wanted to do there. It could have been French and German, or Italian, but in fact I chose History, and changed to Law during the course of my first year,' Francesca explains. Despite the Law degree she was not destined to be a lawyer either, although her relationship with the Law endures. She is married to Peregrine, now a judge in the Court of Appeal, whom she met in her first year at Cambridge. 'Lawyers have to be quick witted and rigorously analytical, it makes them good companions as well as perfect critics,' she adds.

To help decide what path to follow after graduation, Francesca went to the University Careers Service who declared that she looked like she 'might like shopping!' Deferring to this wisdom, she took a graduate job on the shop floor at John Lewis, where she discovered she didn't like shopping all that much after all. This was followed by a rewarding stint as a writer/researcher for *Holiday Which?*, a Consumers' Association magazine. This was more to her taste. But she gave it up, with regret, when one child became two. She now has four.

'Bringing up children consumes an enormous amount of mental



Francesca Simon working in her studio

energy and creativity. There must have been at least 10 years when I could hardly imagine doing anything else at all. But, as I emerged from that period, I realised I had this drive to change direction and do something for myself,' Francesca says as she talks about her unconventional journey from Newnham to life as an award-winning artist. 'The ambition I had known when I started at Newnham resurfaced, stronger, shaped by time.'

The art began as an experiment, the odd evening class when the children were little, to see how it would go. But she was soon hooked. Life drawing and portraiture were completely absorbing, mentally refreshing, and she was surprised by her

facility for drawing. She went from evening to day class to a two-year Diploma in Portraiture at the Heatherley School of Fine Art in 2000. Her painting career began in earnest in 2005 after she completed a BA in Fine Art at City and Guilds of London Art School; this was exactly 30 years after she graduated from Cambridge.

By this stage Francesca had started to make abstract paintings, related to the landscape of North Yorkshire where she spends much of her time. Renouncing figuration for abstraction was an important development. For here she had finally found the form of self-expression, both visually arresting and cerebral, that was to be her long-belated life's work.

In 2009 she was accepted onto the MA Fine Art course at Central Saint Martins, the internationally renowned art and design school, which was some achievement, particularly as she was the oldest member of the course by at least 10 years. Her final show at Central Saint Martins was a success. Most of her paintings sold, including two to the collector Mark Cass, who awarded her the Cass Art painting prize. This was a pivotal moment, and led to her being taken on by the Beardsmore Gallery, where she had two solo shows. She describes her paintings today as being 'characterised by an economy of language and form, achieved through processes of reduction'.

Francesca's *Site Lines* exhibition at the Beardsmore Gallery in 2014 garnered even more attention for her striking work. The title of the show was a reference to how her Soho studio overlooked the Crossrail development at Tottenham Court Road. The resulting artwork employs a sublime geometry influenced by the real-world excavation and construction site. Francesca was captivated by the massive chasm that opened up outside her studio window.

She explains, 'When I moved to the studio I had no idea that the Crossrail development would come to form such an important part of my life, but my daily routine came to include watching the movements of the double girder crane up



View of the Crossrail development from Francesca's window

to the very edge of my window and away again. I felt as if I was on the building site myself and in time this turned out to have a transformative effect on my work.'



The finished Tunnel Vision artwork which now hangs in the Principal's dining room

There are two of Francesca's paintings now hanging in the Newnham library, on either side of the librarian's office. One of these was given to Newnham by Francesca; the other was bought by the College's Valuable Possessions Committee.

When Dame Carol Black, Principal of Newnham, was looking for a spectacular piece of artwork for Lloyd Lodge dining room Francesca stepped in and loaned the College a stunning diptych, a painting in two pieces, called *Tunnel Vision*, which was part of the *Site Lines* exhibition.

It is already proving to be a talking point for the many high-profile diners who are welcomed by the Principal during the academic year. The College is hugely grateful to historian-turned-lawyer-turned-artist Francesca for sharing her stunning vision of an urban landscape with us.

7 feature

A letter to my Director of Studies

DAVID LEVINSON



Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, arrived at Newnham in 1976 to study Geography under the supervision of Dr Lucy Adrian.

Despite changing subjects to Land Economy in her third year, Dame Fiona never forgot her inspirational Director of Studies (DoS) and the vital skills that she taught her.

This heartfelt letter about Dr Adrian was written by Dame Fiona when she realised she was unable to attend the Geography Networking Lunch that was held at Newnham in May 2016 to celebrate the work of her former DoS.

There's a risk that this will sound horribly cheesy, but Lucy changed my life. I wish I could be with you to say this to her face, but sadly I'm on a long-ago-booked College fundraising visit to the USA.

I arrived at Newnham as a naïve and immature eighteen-year-old. I was way out of my depth socially, and found the Cambridge atmosphere and the sophisticated girls from public

schools scary and intimidating. I'd attended a girls' grammar school in the Midlands where I'd done well, but mostly by dint of working hard: I didn't believe I had any real academic ability. I was also – even more scarily – allocated the scholar (Penny Collins) as my supervision partner.

Lucy too can be a bit scary, and my memories of early supervisions are of feeling a

mixture of terrified and curious – what on earth was I supposed to do? Then came a moment of revelation: Lucy got out an Ordnance Survey map (with which I was already in love) and said – let's read this together. Her love of historical geography and ability to see in maps the story of the evolution of the landscape suddenly brought everything to life. Even more excitingly, I could see it too; and began to see how I could use my

RAMSEY & MUSPRATT



A group photograph of Newnham Fellows taken in the summer of 1975 with Lucy fifth from right on the back row

knowledge to explore ideas and write interesting essays. I remember looking at her and seeing that glint in her eye – ‘she’s got it’.

After that, things went much better, and I ended my first year with a First in prelims – a surprise to everyone, including me. Lucy had shown me how to think, analyse and produce work, and I’d learned to have faith in myself.

I was also happy: our year group was supportive and friendly – and Penny and I were firm friends by then.

Then of course, Lucy went on leave and she was pretty horrified to come back and find that I’d decided to change to Land Economy. Kathryn Duncan had done the same, and I could see that she wasn’t very happy about our choice. But true to Lucy, she supported us and continued to take a lively interest in us. In fact I never felt that she was other than deeply interested in us all, and she always expected the best of us. In our first year she’d taken us on field trips, invited us round to tea in Adams Road, and always encouraged us to say what we thought, explore ideas and test ourselves. She continued to include Kathryn and me even after our defection.

After Cambridge, I felt my choice of Land Economy Part 2 had been right, because I went to work for charities where I needed to know about farming and land use change. But I’ve never felt anything other than a

geographer, and there have been millions of occasions since when I’ve relished the broad sweep of geography, its preoccupation with lateral connections and context, and in particular the fascination of historical geography, which remains my passion.

Whenever I came back to Cambridge I visited Lucy, initially alone and later with husband and one, two or three children in tow. Always she was the same: enthusiastic, questioning, encouraging – and with that glint in her eye, which has never diminished. I knew her life was very tough for many years yet she always showed great generosity to me, and never complained.

Above all I relish what she taught me. Don’t give in, don’t give up, and face challenges with curiosity as well as determination – you never know where things might lead. I would never have believed my career would shape up as it has, and least of all that I would end up back in Cambridge as a Head of House. But if I ever think about how it happened, I thank Lucy for encouraging me to believe I could do it, and for believing in me.

Please drink a toast to Lucy on my behalf, and give her the biggest hug. I am sure we all owe her a thing or two.

Would you like to share your memories of your Director of Studies? Email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk



Dr Lucy Adrian (NC 1954) Fellow Emerita & Special Supervisor came up to Newnham in 1954. After graduating she spent two years at the University of Wisconsin as a Fulbright scholar and then on a Fellowship. Returning to Cambridge for her PhD, she intermitted for a year to be Assistant Lecturer and Director of Studies at Newnham while Jean Mitchell was on sabbatical. From 1963 she held a lectureship at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (taking a break to revisit Madison, Wisconsin as a visiting Professor) before she returned to Cambridge in 1967. The attraction was election into a Fellowship at Newnham and an offer of marriage – she has been known to quip ‘in which order?!’ She retired in 1992 but she has remained very active in College life, and only recently stepped down as Chair of the College’s Valuable Possessions Committee.

8 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Tamara Rajah (NC 1999)

A City high-flier and former Partner at McKinsey and Company, a global management consultancy firm, Tamara Rajah left her job to start *Live Better With* (livebetterwith.com). The e-commerce site was created after Tamara realised that there are products available to help people living with cancer, but that people don't know about them.



I spent 10 years of my career at McKinsey and frequently worked on how to manage long-term illnesses, such as cancer, in populations. The utterly maddening thing was that there were lots of non-medical products available that help with the symptoms and side effects of cancer, or make day-to-day life easier, but I discovered that people just did not know about them.

Around 50,000 people are being diagnosed with cancer every single day. They'll receive great medical care to treat the progression of their tumour, but there is another side of care. I saw first hand how hard it was for patients to cope at home with the effects on normal everyday life. It wasn't a surprise to anyone at work that I wanted to set up *Live Better With* as I had dabbled in start-ups on the side before. I made sure I spent some time getting the mission and business plan right, and we launched the first version of our platform within a few weeks.

We now have a team of ten people and we run everything in-house from the digital marketing to the technical operations of the business. We ship the products around the world. Every product that we sell is recommended by health professionals, or families and charities so we know it has made someone's life a bit better. We group all the products by how someone might be feeling (e.g., "Feeling sick" or "Can't sleep"), so it's very easy to discover all the relevant and helpful things that have worked for others with the same need.

Cancer treatments – like chemo, radiation, surgery – can cause countless symptoms and side effects – such as itching, a constant metallic taste, a sore mouth, or brain fog, as well as those we more frequently hear about like nausea, hair loss and pain.

When you're living with these, it's hard to have a normal home, family or work life. I wanted to help make the lives of people living with cancer comfortable and give them a bit more independence and confidence. We sell everything from specialist toothpastes for people suffering from mouth sores, to mobility aids.

I get a lot of job satisfaction from our customer feedback. Last Christmas we heard from a woman who said one of our gripping aids had meant she had been able to feed herself Christmas dinner for the first time in years – that is why I founded *Live Better With*, to help people.

9 youngalumnae

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Nabihah Iqbal (NC 2009)

Nabihah Iqbal (NC 2009) is also known by her stage name, Throwing Shade. The DJ and producer presents her own radio show and in 2014 she was commissioned by the Tate to compose a piece of music for the Turner Prize. She is currently working on a film soundtrack.



I couldn't have asked for more from Cambridge in terms of academic resources.

At the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) where I received a BA (Hons) in History and Ethnomusicology, people used to call me 'library girl' because I'd be in there all day every day, from morning till night, and so you can imagine the excitement I felt when I realised just how many libraries Cambridge had to offer. At Cambridge I did an MPhil in History, specialising in South African history. I split my time between the African Studies library, the Social and Political Sciences library, the Newnham library, and of course the monolithic University Library. I balanced out the hours of study with daily morning runs around the Newnham grounds. That is something I really miss!

After graduating from Cambridge, I returned to London to study for the Graduate Diploma in Law, and then I received a full scholarship from Lincoln's Inn to study at the Bar. That was two more years spent pretty much solidly in libraries again – I was called to the Bar in October 2012. The day after, I travelled to South Africa to work with an organisation called the Women's Legal Centre – a group of human rights lawyers in Cape Town who specialised in women's rights. I was there for six months, assisting the lawyers on various cases and research. It was emotionally tough to begin with but I learnt so much from the experience.

I returned to London in April 2013 and things took an unexpected turn. Music has always been my favourite thing, and I dreamt about being able to pursue a music career but I never thought it would actually happen. I'd been writing music and DJing on the side of my studies and legal work, and suddenly people started to take notice. I got offered my own show on the London-based NTS Radio, and in October 2013 I had my first record release, thanks to one of my favourite producers, Kasseem Mosse, who stumbled across my music on SoundCloud. I started getting bookings for gigs, and record labels contacting me for more music. I couldn't really believe what was happening but I felt like I just had to grab the opportunity. I decided to concentrate on music full-time, to see where it would lead me. My parents freaked out a bit but they've finally come round. I've now been focusing on music for three years and things are going well.

I've released five EPs (extended play music recordings) and now I'm working on my debut album. I've appeared on BBC Radio various times, and I was commissioned by the Tate to compose some music for the Turner Prize. This year I've been on 47 flights so far, touring around the world.

As I write this, I'm currently 38,000 feet high, travelling to China from Australia, between shows. It still doesn't feel real to me and I have no idea where I'll be or what I'll be doing this time next year. All I know is that I just have to keep working as hard as I can to get to where I want to be.

10 didyouknow

Inspiring women captured on canvas to mark 25 years of the International Women's Forum

Eminent alumnae were amongst the women featured in a special exhibition held at Newnham titled *Portrayed! 25 Years of Inspiring Women*.

It was organised by the Lots Road Group, an association of artists, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Women's Forum UK (IWF). The exhibition showcased portraits of four of IWF UK's founding members, as well as its first 12 chairs. It featured portraits of Rosalind Gilmore (NC 1958), who was private secretary to five Cabinet Ministers, and veteran Observer columnist Katharine Whitehorn (NC 1947). Gilmore was painted by Mark Stevenson, and Whitehorn was painted by Sarah Richardson.



Artist Sarah Richardson with her portrait of Katharine Whitehorn. She is pictured with Dame Carol Black

The exhibition has been touring the UK since May 2015 and it concluded with a the reception at the Old Labs on November 12 2016, which coincided with the Newnham Associates' AGM. Fellows, students, staff, alumnae, Associates and members of the public all attended – as did many of the sitters and portraitists.

Katharine Whitehorn has kindly donated her portrait to the College, and the Valuable Possessions Committee is considering where best to hang it.

newnhamassociates

I am very excited to be taking on the role as President of Newnham Associates from January 2017.

Brigid Sutcliffe (NC 1977)

Having read Economics at Newnham from 1977 to 1980, I initially went into accountancy – not to become a career accountant, but for the qualification and business training. I then went to London Business School to do a full-time MBA – a great experience, though massively cheaper than it is now. This helped me change career into corporate finance in banking – for a few years I was an Italian M&A specialist. Three children and a husband with a serious health issue led me to shift into management consultancy, where I worked for smaller firms doing strategic change management and leadership development. A year ago I decided to launch the final stage of my career, and shifted into a portfolio of non-executive directorships, where I am using that original accountancy qualification again. I am the only non-scientist on the board of the National Physical Laboratory, and I am Audit Chair for another research-based organisation and Chair of a housing association. Each day is very different from the next – the flexibility of mind of a Cambridge education helps me deal with several simultaneous jobs without getting (too) confused!

The Newnham Associates is a group of alumnae keen to give career advice, mentoring etc. to current and former Newnham students. If you want to find out more, do contact me via the Newnham Associates website: www.newnhamassociates.org.uk/ or via my LinkedIn page: www.linkedin.com/in/brigid-sutcliffe-43048b13.

10 didyouknow

Professor Christine Watson, Newnham's Vice Principal, led a ground-breaking project which tracked the fate of 'daughter cells' to find out how cancer moves around the breast from a single stem cell. The two-year study was carried out in the Cambridge laboratory of Professor Watson by Bethan Lloyd-Lewis, Felicity Davis and Newnham graduate student Olivia Harris. Their work was published in Nature Communications and it is the first time that anyone has marked a single mammary stem cell and followed what happens to the daughter cells. Newnham is known for its strong literary heritage and it is now being celebrated with a series of *NewnhamWrites* interviews. Newnhamite author **Amna Boheim (NC 1995)** has launched a dedicated Q&A section on her blog featuring Newnhamite writers to give readers an insight into their lives.

Professor Jennifer Thomson (NC 1968), a Newnhamite who champions the cause of female scientists around the world, has been named as the president of an organisation which supports and unites women. **Professor Thomson** will lead the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World from 2016 until 2020. **Mary-Grace Browning (NC 1963)**, who brought together the descendants of prisoners of war to help foster relations between Japan and the UK, has been honoured with a prestigious award. Mrs Browning MBE, a Japanese teacher, has had the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, bestowed upon her by the Japanese Government in recognition of her work. **Felicity Macdonald-Smith** who was described as the 'rock' of the Admissions department retired after spending 13 years welcoming hundreds of new students to Cambridge. A retirement party was held at Newnham and was combined with a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan and £125 was donated to the charity. **Hope Mirrlees**, writer and poet, arrived at Newnham College in 1910 to read Classics having already met the great classical scholar Jane Harrison who became her tutor. Her poem, *Paris*, was published in 1920 by Hogarth Press, a publishing house founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf. Mirrlees was once described by Virginia Woolf as 'her own heroine - capricious, exacting and very learned' and she was featured in a BBC Radio 3 programme in November.

Chris Thurgood, a Newnham gardener, has won a Cambridge City Council award for creating the best 'environmentally friendly' garden in a hotly contested competition. He scooped the top prize in the 'Best Environmentally Friendly Garden 2016' category. **Professor Susan Golombok**, a Newnham Fellow, won a prestigious British Psychological Society Award for her book which analyses 'new family forms' within a context of four decades of empirical research. Her most recent book, *Modern Families: Parents and Children in New Family Forms*, won a British Psychological Society Book Award in the Academic Monograph category. An innovative new play co-written by an alumna about the lives of people who have experienced the war in Ukraine premiered in Cambridge. *The Summer Before Everything* was co-written by **Maria Montague (NC 2011)** in partnership with Bohdan Tokarskyi, a Gates Cambridge Scholar.



Changing Lives is produced by the Communications Office and the Roll and Development Office, Newnham College, Sidgwick Avenue Cambridge, CB3 9DF
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11 events

Forthcoming events

Literary Archive Event:

Writing for Children

25 February

Fellow Emerita, Dr Gill Sutherland and Newnham authors, Christina Hardymont, Caroline Lawrence, Mary Hoffman, Sue Limb and Griselda Heppel will explore topics within the theme of *Writing for Children*.

Gillian Vaisey Memorial Lecture

17 March

Dr Eugenia Cheng, Senior Lecturer of Pure Mathematics at the University of Sheffield and former Junior Research Fellow at Newnham will give the Gillian Vaisey Memorial Lecture.

Commemoration Weekend

8 April

Alumnae who matriculated in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1992 and 2007 will be invited back to Newnham for a weekend of celebration. It will include a reunion lunch, lecture, afternoon tea in the Buttery, and dinner in College Hall.

Engineering Networking Lunch

6 May

On Saturday 6 May we will hold an Engineering lunch at which we would be delighted to see all former Engineering students or those who are working in Engineering. If you haven't already told us that you now have a career in Engineering, or would like to come to the lunch please email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk

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



Follow the tweets
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the latest news



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

calendar

2017

25 January

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

26 January

28 January

Eleanor Bron Play Reading. Join writer Eleanor Bron and distinguished colleagues for lunch, to be followed by a reading of Eleanor's play; the *Fight for the Tripod* or, *Someone Else*.

2 February

Formal Hall (Law, History of Art, Music, Management Studies, Economics)

15 February

Formal Hall (Land Economy, Computer Science, Mathematics)

22 February

Formal Hall (Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Architecture)

25 February

Literary Archive Event: Writing for Children Our fourth biennial literary archive event. A day of discussion including lunch.

1 March

Formal Hall, Fairtrade Formal Hall (No Subject)

8 March

Formal Hall (AMES, MML, Linguistics)

17 March

Gillian Vaisey Memorial Lecture - Dr Eugenia Cheng of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

8 April

Commemoration Weekend - Alumnae who matriculated in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1992 and 2007 will be invited back to Newnham.

26 April

Formal Hall (No Subject)

3 May

Formal Hall, Fairtrade Formal Hall (No Subject)

6 May

Networking Lunch: Engineering

7 June

Formal Hall (No Subject)

14 June

Formal Hall (No Subject)

23 – 24 September

Alumni Festival – Alumnae who matriculated in 1962, 1977, 1987 and 1997 will be invited back to Newnham for a weekend of reunion events.

14 October

NewnhamRoll Mums Forum – Mental Health

26 November

Music for the Festive Season Concert and Friends' Reception

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 welcomed by our alumnae, as it helps keep costs down and is more environmentally friendly. Please let us know your preference and check that we have your up-to-date email address.

roll@newn.cam.ac.uk

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