

changing lives

TEDx



Newnham College Newsletter

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Cover photo: The giant 'TEDx' sign on Clough lawn to celebrate the forthcoming TEDxNewnham event, to find out more turn to feature 9. Photograph taken by Alan Davidson.

1 fromthelodge



As I am currently a member of the University of Birmingham's Mental Health Commission, I have chosen mental health as my subject for this issue of *Changing Lives*.

Good mental health and ability to deal with the challenges and misfortunes of life are fundamental to our wellbeing. They shape our relationships, our learning, our work and achievement of our potential, central to the quality of our lives and fulfilment. Mental health is an integral part of how we feel about our work, how well we perform, and how well we interact with colleagues. Mental ill health exacts a high price – on individuals, their families and friends, on those who have a duty of care, and on the institutions of which they are part. The overall costs across society – personally, socially and economically – are heavy, a direct consequence of the high prevalence of mental ill health, especially of the common mental health conditions. Mental ill health is the commonest reason for employees to take sick leave, and for many to leave work altogether.

Professor Dame Carol Black

Mental health problems are probably the most important factors that undermine personal wellbeing, and can do so at almost any age. Fortunately the most serious mental illnesses, revealed through their dire effects on behaviour, are infrequent. But the common, less obviously disruptive, mental illnesses experienced by many more people are often masked, and so unrecognised. The stigma and social barriers that surround mental ill health amplify its direct effects and damage the life chances of people affected. Further, while the problem remains unanswered there are unmet healthcare and pastoral needs. Removing the stigma associated with mental illness presents a major challenge across our society, particularly in the workplace: those who do not feel safe to admit their problems cannot be offered help. From many surveys and clinical experience we know that at any time mental health conditions affect one-fifth of the adult population. About half among us will suffer a period of poor mental health during our lives. These are not just adult problems; more than half of mental illness starts in childhood or adolescence.

Mental health problems can strike seemingly robust, normal and successful individuals. Often they are temporary, brought on by a conjunction of adverse circumstances. There are effective treatments and together with pastoral support and goodwill the problems can be solved or ameliorated and normal social function restored.

Unwarranted opinions overemphasise the social issues that can accompany mental disorders. This contributes to social isolation, distress and difficulties in everyday life, in education, in training and in employment. Removing stigma will need better public understanding of the range, pattern and impact of mental illness. But that will not be enough; it will also need a change of heart.

2 collegenews

Newnham hosts event to make internet less sexist on International Women's Day

A mass Wikipedia edit-a-thon was held at Newnham to address the lack of online biographies available about eminent women.

Fellows, students, alumnae, and staff at the College were joined by members of the public – including local schoolchildren – at the six-hour long event on International Women's Day on March 8. Wikipedia is the seventh most visited website in the world – but only 15 per cent of Wikipedia editors are female and fewer than 17 per cent of notable profiles are of women.



Dame Carol Black said: "We were delighted to welcome so many people to the edit-a-thon to help us create profiles of notable women to mark International Women's Day. The feedback we have received has been hugely positive and it was very encouraging to see so much support in Cambridge for this initiative to highlight the varied achievements of women." The event took place from 12pm-6pm and more than 70 people took part, with others participating from their own offices and homes.

Former Principal with 'extraordinary ability' to be awarded one of the largest international prizes for arts and humanities

Baroness Onora O'Neill has been named as the recipient of the The Holberg Prize – worth around £430,000 – for 'shedding light on pressing and intellectual and ethical questions of our time'.

The Norwegian prize is one of the largest international prizes awarded to an outstanding scholar in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, law or theology. Philosophy Professor Onora O'Neill, former Principal and Honorary Fellow of Newnham College and a crossbench member of the House of Lords, has been named as the 2017 Laureate for the contribution she has made during her career which has spanned nearly half a century. O'Neill has combined writing on political philosophy and ethics with a range of public activities, and her work has influenced generations of scholars, policy makers and practitioners alike.

Dr Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Chair of the Holberg Academic Committee, said: "O'Neill has an extraordinary ability to blend questions of morality, with an account of psychological plausibility and institutional legitimacy that makes her a powerful guide to the most profound ethical questions of our time."

The Holberg Prize was established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2003, and was awarded for the first time in 2004. It is named after the Danish-Norwegian writer Ludvig Holberg, who excelled in all of the sciences covered by the award.

Newnhamite elected as first female master of Gonville & Caius

A Newnhamite will make history as she has been named as the first female Master of Gonville & Caius since its foundation 669 years ago as Gonville Hall.

Dr Pippa Rogerson (NC 1980), the Director of Studies in Law at Caius, will succeed Professor Sir Alan Fersht when he retires from the post at the end of September 2018. Dr Rogerson's appointment will bring the number of female Heads of Houses in Cambridge to 11, meaning just over a third of the 31 colleges will be headed by women - this includes Newnham which has only ever had female principals of course! Emmanuel College also has a Newnhamite Master, Dame Fiona Reynolds (NC 1976).

Dr Rogerson, pictured, arrived at Newnham in 1980 to study Economics, she moved to Law in her second year and graduated in 1983. She has been a Fellow and College Lecturer in Law at Caius since 1989, and Director of Studies in Law at the College since 1990. A University Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Cambridge since 1989, she was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2001.



The mother-of-five said: "I am delighted and daunted in equal parts to have been elected Master of Caius. I am very keen to maintain Caius' excellent academic tradition, but there are so many more opportunities in Cambridge – sporting, social and cultural – that students should use to gain all those skills that make them employable and contribute to society when they leave College."

First woman to conduct the Last Night of the Proms is elected as an Honorary Fellow

Internationally acclaimed conductor and violinist Marin Alsop has been made an Honorary Fellow of Newnham College.

Alsop's conducting career began in 1989 when she was the first woman to be awarded the Koussevitzky Conducting Prize from the Tanglewood Music Center, where she was a pupil of Leonard Bernstein, the renowned composer. Alsop is now the music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and music director of the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra.

In 2007 she was one of eight conductors of UK orchestras to endorse the 10-year classical music manifesto, "Building on Excellence: Orchestras for the 21st century," which gave free entry to a classical music concert to all British schoolchildren. In 2013 she became the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the Proms, repeating this in September 2015.



2 collegenews

Breast cancer scientist elected as Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences for her contribution to medical research

Newnham's Vice-Principal Professor Christine Watson has been named as one of the leading UK researchers to be elected to the prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Watson leads a group of scientists researching how the mammary gland functions and is Professor of Cellular and Molecular Pathology, Deputy Head of the University of Cambridge's School of Biological Sciences as well as being Vice-Principal of Newnham College. Insights gained from her team's work are being used to develop new approaches for the detection and treatment of breast cancer.



Fellows are elected for their contribution to biomedical and health research, the generation of new knowledge in medical sciences and its translation into benefits to society.

College named as finalist for prestigious Employer of the Year award

Newnham was commended for prioritising the health and wellbeing of its employees when it was shortlisted in the Employer of the Year category in the Cambridge News and Media Business Excellence Awards.

A record number of entries were received this year and Bidwells was named as the winner of the employer of the year category at a ceremony at King's College.

Fellow follows in footsteps of Henry Sidgwick and is named as Knightbridge Professor



Professor Rae Langton has been elected to be the Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy – 134 years after the position was held by Professor Henry Sidgwick, one of the founders of Newnham College in 1871.

The Knightbridge chair was created in 1683 by John Knightbridge, Fellow of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. It has been held by many eminent Cambridge philosophers including Sidgwick, Edmund Law and Bernard Williams, but this is the first time the position has been held by a woman. Professor Langton has previously said that she chose to become a Fellow at Newnham because of its inspiring history including 'the heroic figure of Henry Sidgwick'. Professor Langton, pictured, works in moral and political philosophy, metaphysics, philosophy of law, speech act theory, and feminist philosophy.

Triumph on the water for Newnham rowers

A Newnham graduate student was part of the CUWBC crew which stormed to victory and set a new record on the Tideway in the annual Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race clash. Anna Dawson (NC 2016) is studying in Cambridge thanks to an alumnae funded studentship set-up in the name of Anna Watkins (NC 2001), Olympic gold medallist and Newnham alumna, to financially support women who excel in rowing. The MPhil Education student, pictured on the far back right, is from New Zealand. The Cambridge women ended Oxford's four-year winning streak in 18minutes 34seconds – a record in



the three-year history of the women's race on the Thames. The boat was the first to break 19 minutes, and it beat several of the recent winning times in the men's contest too. At the Henley Boat Races, first year Newnhamite Ellie Thompson (NC 2016) and the lightweight crew also beat Oxford giving CUWBC a clean sweep. Thompson is pictured to the left of Dawson. And W2 got their blades in the Lent Bumps on the River Cam.

Finalists get chance to 'pet a pup' to combat exam stress

Students had a special break from revision when trainee guide dogs were brought in to aid relaxation during exam term.

It is the second time Newnham has offered the 'pet a pup' sessions to students and it is so popular that the invitation had to be limited to people in their final year and to graduate students.

Two trainee guide dogs, Teri and Una, were joined by black labrador Frizz, a retired guide dog, at the oversubscribed session. The dogs got a valuable chance to socialise and the number of people allowed in the room was limited. Each slot lasted 15 minutes and around 70 students came to meet the friendly canines over the course of the afternoon.



Niche cancer research by graduate student supported by US alumnae

A PhD student whose research focuses on sexually transmitted cancer in dogs has been granted the competitive \$4,000 Newnham US Travel Award to enable her to collaborate with other experts this summer. Máire Lawlor (NC 2013) is a third-year PhD student in Biological Sciences. She is currently investigating contagious cancer in dogs that is spread by the transfer of living cancer cells. The work of her group focuses on Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease (DFTD) and the canine transmissible venereal tumour (CTVT).

4 alumnae events

Having your Pi and eating it – a round-up of Newnham events

Newnham is known for offering an eclectic programme of events and everything from an exclusive performance of Eleanor Bron's latest play to learning *How to Bake Pi* with mathematician Eugenia Cheng has been hosted by the College in 2017.

Bron (NC 1957) was inspired to write a new play titled *The Fight for the Tripod, or, Someone Else* to create new roles for women over the age of 50 after she became frustrated with how few roles there are on stage, screen and radio for women as they get older. Our Classics alumnae were invited to a special performance of it at College in January.

Our fourth Literary Archive event took place in February when we welcomed alumnae guest speakers to College for our *Writing for Children* discussion.

Dr Gill Sutherland, Fellow Emerita and former Director of Studies in History, opened the day with an account of Newnham's Rogers Collection. Arthur Ransome expert, Christina Hardymont (NC 1964), discussed her research and his work. And distinguished Newnham writers, Caroline Lawrence (NC 1977), Mary Hoffman (NC 1964), Sue Limb (NC 1965) and Griselda Heppel (NC 1975) all shared their wisdom and experience of writing in this genre with our alumnae audience.

Dr Eugenia Cheng aims to rid the world of 'maths phobia' and she brought her innovative campaign to Cambridge in March for our annual Gillian Vaisey Memorial Lecture.

Cheng, a former research Fellow at Newnham, has developed a distinctive explanatory presentation style, often involving cake, to break down barriers and make maths accessible to everyone. The concert pianist whose first book was titled *How to Bake Pi* certainly demolished boundaries at the lecture.



The fiftieth matriculation year catching up at Commemoration 2017



Big hugs for old friends at Commemoration 2017



Penny Hubbard, Development Director, on the far right with a group of Singapore based alumnae



The afternoon discussion panel at our fourth Literary Archive event



Author Caroline Lawrence talks to a guest at the Writing for Children Literary Archive event



Eleanor Bron, third from left, with her fellow actors at Newnham

Around 1,000 students had the chance to meet Dame Carol Black, Principal, and Penny Hubbard, Development Director, during the annual Newnham College visit to see alumnae and visit schools in Hong Kong and Singapore. They also attended two receptions hosted by our alumnae during their five day visit in March.

In April we invited back alumnae who matriculated in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1992 and 2007 to celebrate their special anniversary year for Commemoration 2017. A packed programme of events spanned the weekend and included a reunion lunch, exhibitions from our archives in the library, afternoon tea, a music workshop and performance and an anniversary dinner in College Hall featuring a speech by the Rt. Hon Patricia Hewitt (NC 1967).

These are just a selected few of our events, for further information about our past and forthcoming events visit www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/alumnae-events/



Eugenia Cheng used cake to explain mathematics at our annual Gillian Vaisey Memorial Lecture

5 researchnews

Kiyoko Gotanda

The threat that humans pose to biodiversity can have a major impact on evolutionary processes. The work of Dr Kiyoko Gotanda, one of Newnham's Phyllis and Eileen Gibbs Travelling Research Fellows, seeks to understand how some species of birds are adapting.

"All of [the terrestrial birds] are often approached sufficiently near to be killed with a switch, and sometimes, as I myself tried, with a cap or a hat." – Charles Darwin

Humans pose major threats to biodiversity on the planet. For example, the increase in urbanisation (development of villages, towns, and cities) can have a strong effect on ecological and evolutionary processes. Another example is the introduction of non-native predators, an impact known to be closely correlated with local extinction events. On islands, such threats



are amplified and can have a major impact on evolution and adaptation. The effects of human influences are exacerbated by the evolutionary naïveté of island animals. These strong, human induced pressures could select for behavioural adaptations that allow island species to persist. The Galápagos Islands are renowned for their unique, endemic biodiversity which inspired Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. In particular, Darwin's finches are an iconic example of adaptive radiation due to natural selection, where several species have evolved from a single, common ancestor. These and other Galápagos organisms evolved over millions of years in the absence of humans and other mammalian predators, and thus developed a profound naïveté to humans and their associated animals. Yet humans have started to impose major, direct effects on Darwin's finches. First, urbanisation on the Galápagos Islands has rapidly increased from approximately 1000 permanent residents to around 30,000 in just 40 years. Second, humans have introduced invasive mammalian predators that prey on naïve animals. Most notably, feral house cats and black rats opportunistically prey on many native bird species, including Darwin's finches, Galápagos Mockingbirds, and Dark-rumped Petrels, posing a major threat to the biodiversity on the islands.

My current postdoctoral research objective is to assess how Darwin's finches have adapted behaviourally to human influences within and among islands. To answer this, I study three different types of behaviour, known to vary in response to selective pressures, among the different populations of finches: (a) neophilia: how soon and close an animal will approach a novel object as a measure of exploratory behaviour, (2) flight initiation distance (FID): the distance at which prey will flee an approaching potential predator as a measure of antipredator behaviour, and (3) scanning behaviour: how often an animal will scan the horizon in response to auditory cues as a measure of vigilance. Human impact on natural populations can be both indirect and direct, the sum of which can lead to high extinction rates, especially on islands. These effects can be devastating to both local and global biodiversity because the islands are renowned for their high frequency of unique and endemic species. Quantifying and understanding the evolution of behavioral adaptations to human influences can help us to predict species loss and to refine conservation policies to prevent further extinctions. My research will therefore be important in shaping current and future island conservation strategies and biodiversity policies. My research is primarily field based, and I thank Newnham College for awarding me an Eileen and Phyllis Gibbs Travelling Research Fellowship to allow me to continue to work on the Galápagos Islands.



Sophie Parry, Schools Liaison Officer

I first got involved in outreach at Christ's College, where I studied Education with Music. I knew how close I had come to not applying to Cambridge. I was a state school kid from South Wales who just wanted to get through university and go into teaching – people like me didn't go to Cambridge. I was also incredibly lucky to have had a tutor in my Further Education College who convinced me to go to an open day at Christ's. It was the friendliness of the student volunteers that completely changed my perceptions of Cambridge, and gave me the confidence to apply. And so when I arrived, I wanted to be that friendly student volunteer. I ran for JCR Access Officer, and found that widening participation was becoming increasingly important to

me. At the end of my time in the role, I was determined to work as a Schools Liaison Officer (SLO) after graduating. I applied for the position at Newnham because I wanted to employ the skills and experiences I had gained in a different environment. Now I work with schools to deliver university-focused information and guidance sessions to students. I organise visits to Newnham as well as going into the schools in our link areas (Birmingham, Walsall, Redbridge, Enfield, and Barking and Dagenham). It is incredibly rewarding to be able to work in an environment where so many people are willing to contribute to, and support, outreach work. Student volunteers in particular can add so much to a session – I may only have graduated in June, but to young people I'm already out of the student life loop! Whilst it is still my aim to go into teaching in the future, for now I am very much looking forward to continuing my work in outreach at Newnham.

Young alumnae

My life and career after graduation – Francesca Di Nuzzo (NC 2012)

Studying at Newnham marked a turning point in my life. As an international graduate student, I was not familiar with the Oxbridge world, or the college system. But the friendly atmosphere in my graduate house quickly won me over. I set out to make the most of Cambridge, spinning around between classes, conferences and formal halls. In the year following graduation I collaborated with my Cambridge supervisor on academic publications in the field of behavioural economics and econometrics. I decided that an academic career felt too uncertain and started working for a private consulting firm which specialises in pricing for the cultural sector. This role allows me to apply the research skills I have acquired as a student and researcher to make arts organisations more sustainable and accessible. In a similar spirit of accessibility I recently co-founded GenPol (Gender & Policy Insights), a Cambridge-based think tank conducting research on matters of gender. Through my work at GenPol I can contribute to making society more equal by embedding gender dynamics in the mainstream discourse. I wouldn't have even started reflecting on these topics, had it not been for the amazingly supportive network of Newnhamites. If I had to pick one lesson I carried with me since leaving my room in Whitstead, it would be that solidarity among women from all walks of life is a powerful force. Compassion and hard work can bring about the biggest changes, and in the end, it will all be worth it.



7 'A Room of One's Own with a View at Newnham'

What are your memories of your room at Newnham? Did you have the lovely smell of wisteria or lilacs outside your window? Was it the special place where you studied on antique bureaux, made close friends, shared wine or (in the earlier days), cocoa, where you eked out the weekly allowance of a bucket of coal or where you set fire to your skirt on the gas fire (a true memory given in the Telephone Campaign)? Or was it a bit austere, cold and bare (and we know that some of you recall an army of ants in Strachey or being woken by water dripping from the ceiling)? My room in Kennedy was so big it had a pillar in the middle and together with my closest Newnham friend we managed to hold a cocktail party for 30 there – presumably without the 'authorities' being aware.

Whatever your memories, we suspect your room played an important part in your experience of being here, of learning how to think and of growing up through your student years. Looking out of your window onto the historic gardens, onto the beautiful Champneys buildings, onto the busy Sidgwick Avenue or even onto the Fawcett car park, will have played a part in that Newnham experience.

As you can see from photos posted on Instagram (the social media site for photographs) some of which we have reproduced on the right, the current generation cherish the view from their windows. Admiring comments posted from friends at other universities show how unique these rooms and spectacular views are. We are proud that Newnham provides that individual place where a young woman can think – can write – can explore how to be her own person – as Virginia Woolf, who lectured at Newnham in the talk which then became *A Room of One's Own* said: *A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction* (or indeed make scientific discoveries!)

The building to replace old Strachey will provide 86 new en-suite student rooms. Each cluster of 10-12 will be served by a kitchen – just as Champneys designed the historic bedrooms all those years ago. A full feature was included in the *Roll Letter 2016* (page 61) but a key point to highlight about the student rooms is that in the design the architect has ensured the best use of views of the gardens and of surrounding College buildings. Each room has either a large and generous window seat or a Juliet balcony opening onto the new garden court.

For those who remember running down the famous long corridor to get to the bathrooms, having your own shower might seem a luxury, but most other Cambridge colleges now offer en-suite facilities for those students who require them, and it is important that Newnham can compete in order to attract good applicants. Students are now offered the chance to move around Newnham in each of their three years so they will have the chance to experience both the modern facilities and those in the original buildings.

The ability to offer ensuite accommodation supported by modern new facilities will also improve the quality of our summer conference trade which is vital to the financial well-being of the College.



Catriona Low (NC 2012)



Catriona Marriott (NC 2015)



Iona Morphet (NC 2016)



Emily Barker (NC 2014)



Katy Grobicki (NC 2015)



Window seat view



Juliet balcony

We invite you to Sponsor 'A Room of One's Own with a View'

As already reported, the College has secured the funds required for the construction of the building through the issue of a 40 year bond and allocating part of the endowment. However some of you like the idea of your name, or that of your family, being linked with the fabric of a place which was so important to you as a young woman and asked us how you could contribute to the building.

The Fellows are excited at the concept of former Newnham students being connected with the new building in a way which reflects our tradition of linking women across different generations and cultures with a particular initiative. This is the biggest capital project the College has undertaken since the late 1960s and we would love you to be involved.

We invite you to **'Sponsor a Room of One's Own with a View'**. This can either be on your own account (e.g. in your name, your parents or another) or with a group of friends. We have been told some of you would like to club together – to celebrate a particular boat crew – a year group reading Economics – to remember a Newnham friend who has died or to thank a DoS. Of course the actual cost of building each room would be well into six figures so, following consultation with a number of you, we ask for a donation of £10,000 to name each room. Specialist graphic designers will devise an elegant plaque which can hold up to ten names and matrics.

Each donation will release £10,000 for student support

For each £10,000 which is donated to name a room, an equivalent sum of £10,000 will be released from the existing 'earmarked' funds for the building into a student bursary fund. By sponsoring **'A Room of One's Own with a View'** you will not only support the environment of future generations but provide financial help to those who might otherwise struggle to afford to come to Cambridge.

The rooms will be named on a first come first served basis and I would be delighted to talk to any of you who would like to join this 'once in a generation' opportunity to help talented young women and to be part of the fabric of Newnham College.

Please email me at penny.hubbard@newn.cam.ac.uk for details of how to secure your room.

Penny Hubbard, Development Director

8 spotlight

A Newnham poet who has power to 'comfort and astonish' readers was awarded The Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2016. Gillian Allnutt (NC 1968) decided she was going to be a writer when she was just seven-years-old, but she didn't start writing poetry until she was 15. Now the strength of her entire body of work has won her the prestigious medal which was created by King George V in 1933.

'I was at a convent school and our teacher was going around the class asking us what we wanted to be when we grew up, so I said that I wanted to be a mummy. Everyone laughed so I quickly said I wanted to be a writer instead,' Allnutt explains. And so a childhood dream was born and the County Durham resident has certainly kept her vow to write. Her poetry often references the north of England and she is probably most famous for her published collections *Nantucket and the Angel*, and *Lintel*, which were both shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize.

Allnutt came up to Cambridge in 1968, the first of her family to go to university, and initially she studied Philosophy but found it too analytical and switched to English. After graduation and a spell of travelling, her parents encouraged her to do a PGCE so she could always find employment. 'Teaching has been my main income over the years, I am very grateful to my parents as there have been as many lean years as there have been fat years. In fact, it wasn't until I started getting my state pension that I had a guaranteed regular income,' Allnutt says.

She has taught many creative writing classes and her extensive teaching experience has taught her not to judge people's talent – or perceived lack of it - too quickly. 'I learnt not to be hasty and think someone had no hope as six weeks into a course they could produce something qualitatively different,' she explains. Her own work has sometimes made her feel like a 'stripper' because it is often personal and confessional. 'I can feel exposed and laid bare like a stripper I once taught, but you never know what it is that someone is going to connect to in a poem so you have to really give something of yourself,' she muses before explaining why poetry is as relevant as ever in 2017: 'Poetry is about beauty, we don't live by



Gillian Allnutt at graduation with her supportive parents Kit and Terry

bread alone. It keeps the language sharp and keeps the verbiage and bland speak we are becoming increasingly exposed to at bay.'

She works at a 'large and messy table' so she can spread herself out and if she ever has writer's block she washes clothes by hand. 'There is something about the water that opens the mind. I try to keep emails in check but the dutiful woman in me wants to respond and be helpful. I have to find the willpower to protect my space to write, if I let the world in too much it affects my ability to think.' Allnutt doesn't have a television and only listens to the radio occasionally during the day, her computer is banished upstairs.



Allnutt in her bedroom in Peile; she made many life-long friends during her time at Newnham

Allnutt says that writers write, even if no-one is likely to pay for the writing or even read it, and she has a 'paper jungle' of work that she one day plans to turn into an archive. She has never married but she has found love in recent years after accepting a dinner invitation on the spur of the moment, and she is now in long distance relationship with a man called Tom, the son of renowned Philosopher Mary Midgley. 'Perhaps my life has come full circle and back to Philosophy after all these years? My new book will be dedicated to him.' Allnutt says her childhood plan of growing up and becoming a mother never happened and with typical frankness she explains, 'It is the greatest sadness of my life that I didn't have children. But then I see how much work it is being a grandmother and I think it was possibly for the best!'



Allnutt received the poetry medal from the Queen earlier this year

Dame Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate, said of Allnutt's work: "From her first collection published in the early 1980s, Gillian Allnutt's work has always been in conversation with the natural world and the spiritual life. Her writing roams across centuries, very different histories and lives, and draws together, without excuse or explanation, moments which link across country, class, culture and time.

"The North is a constant touchstone in her work; canny and uncanny, its hills and coast, its ancient histories and its people. Her poems progress over the years to a kind of synthesis of word-play and meditation.

"In her work the space between what is offered and what is withheld is every bit as important as what is said. She has the power to comfort and to astonish in equal measure. In her outlook, her imagination, her concerns and her lyric voice she is unique."

9 TEDxNewnham

Search launched to find inspirational alumnae speakers for special TEDx event



The Roll Committee celebrating the news that Newnham will host a TEDx event

Newnham College will host a special TEDxNewnham event exploring the theme of 'Embracing Challenge' on Saturday, February 17 2018 – and this is your chance to get involved!

Be part of TEDxNewnham!

We are looking for applications from Newnham College alumnae and current Newnham undergraduate and graduate students to be speakers or performers. Applications from other potential speakers from outside of Newnham College, and applications from anyone wishing to be an audience member will open in the autumn.

As part of the TEDxNewnham project, we are creating a Wall of Women which will feature videos submitted as part of the TEDxNewnham application process.

Why TEDx?

TED, standing for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is an organisation devoted to ideas worth spreading on all topics – from science and business to global issues, art, philosophy and music – usually in the form of short, powerful talks and performances.

TEDx is the platform for TED-like community events and the TEDxNewnham will be a day of

short inspirational presentations around the theme of 'Embracing Challenge' to an audience at Newnham. The day will also be live streamed.

Why you?

Newnhamites are known for embracing challenges – from setting up community groups to stem cell research. Do you have an idea – big or small – that you would like to share as a TEDxNewnham presenter?

What are you going to say or do?

That is up to you. You can interpret 'Embracing Challenge' in any way you choose. You could do

a talk, a song, a dance, a demonstration, an experiment, or artwork – anything that spreads an idea which is making, or could make, a difference, fits the theme and would inspire the audience. Each presentation on the day should last about 10 minutes and absolutely no more than 18 minutes.

For more information visit www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/tedxnewnham/ or if you have any questions email tedxnewnham@newn.cam.ac.uk



Pam Alexander, Chair of the TEDxNewnham committee

Presentation Training Saturday, January 27 2018

We are delighted that Scarlett MccGwire and Tess Woodcraft, both professional presentation skills trainers, will provide a day's training for the successful applicants on Saturday, January 27 2018. Be reassured that a TEDx day is not the place for a formal lecture – you do not need experience to present a TEDx talk, although you should be someone who feels comfortable speaking without notes and show passion and enthusiasm. Tess and Scarlett will review your presentation – help you create high impact openings and closings – get your message across in less than 18 minutes – give you tips on how to engage your audience and give you friendly, supportive feedback which will give you confidence for the TEDx day itself. This is a fantastic opportunity to acquire new skills and to learn how to deliver an inspiring and exciting presentation.

You may also find this website useful: www.wikihow.com/Deliver-a-TED-Talk

Scarlett MccGwire has been media and presentation training for 20 years in the public and corporate sector. She worked in television and radio, at a national and local level, as a reporter and writer for many publications including the Guardian, Observer, Independent, Independent on Sunday and New Statesman and has reviewed and edited TEDx talks. Scarlett's impressive tally of clients includes one President, five Prime Ministers, numerous Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament in various countries and one Miss England!

Tess Woodcraft has been training in the UK and internationally for the past 15 years. A former TV presenter, she has also been CEO of a national charity and Head of Communications for a London Borough. Her consultancy clients include: The Football Association, Honda UK, Cineworld, Simon Community (Ireland), Goldsmiths, University of London and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

We have worked with Scarlett and Tess for a number of years as they come to deliver the Veronica Crichton Presentation Skills Course for our students. They are warm, friendly, accessible and encouraging. Feedback from the students who attend is always extremely positive!

100 anniversary of the roll

100th Anniversary of the Roll –
HOLD THE DATE – Saturday, July 7 2018



Newnham hockey players pose for a photograph in 1918

On Saturday, July 7 2018 we invite all alumnae and their families to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Newnham Roll. Plans are still being developed for the day but provisionally include:

- The **'singing from scratch'** by alumnae of a piece commissioned to celebrate the anniversary to be written by acclaimed composer, Janet Wheeler (NC 1975) and conducted by Monica Buckland (NC 1983) – there will be additional relaxed local get-togethers in advance to practice and create a core of singers familiar with the piece – please email us if you would like further details.
- **Newnham talks to Newnham** – a special celebration of the work Newnhamites do, whether in a big or small way in the community, their campaigning and in making a difference – if you are a riding for the disabled assistant, a former Greenham Common demonstrator, a campaigner for Human Rights, a school or prison governor, a parish council member, indeed anyone who has done anything to help change we want to hear from you.
- The screening of two of the **TEDxNewnham** talks followed by discussion.
- **Exhibitions in the Library** of the Wartime Memories Projects, the 50s and 60s Project and commemorating the 100 years of votes for women.
- Enjoy a **family picnic** and fun in the gardens with a giant mega slide.
- Join the **mass photograph** on Clough Lawn to mark this important occasion.

How was the Newnham Roll formed?

The Newnham Roll was preceded by the Newnham College Club which had been founded in the 1880s. All old students who had been at College for at least three terms were entitled to join in return for paying a subscription. In 1917 the College was granted its Charter of Incorporation and the statutes accompanying the Charter provided for the creation of a 'Register of Old Students to be called the Newnham College Roll'. Letters were sent to all traceable old students inviting them to join the Roll, Blanche Athena Clough was appointed as its President and a committee was duly elected. The Newnham College Club wound itself up, handing over some 600 members to the Roll. In 1918 Miss E.M. Sharpley was appointed by the College Council as the first Registrar. So we regard 1918 as the year in which the Roll was formally constituted by Council.

Please email roll@newn.cam.ac.uk for more details of how you can participate in the musical and Newnham talks to Newnham events.

11 inspiringwomen

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Life expectancy in Zambia is just 57. There are just 30 anaesthetic doctors to serve the entire 16 million population which leads to a high number of deaths. Dr Michelle Le Cheminant (NC 2003) is working in Africa as a Visiting Lecturer in anaesthesia as part of an innovative training programme for local doctors. She has received an alumnae travel grant to support her work.



It was late January when I exchanged a cold British winter and a London teaching hospital for an African adventure. I was eager to begin my six month post at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka, Zambia as a Visiting Lecturer in anaesthesia. My work as part of the Zambia Anaesthesia Development Project (ZADP) has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding. Physician anaesthetists are sparse in Zambia and their services are stretched to breaking point. The importance of anaesthetic services cannot be overstated.

Eleven per cent of the global burden of disease necessitates surgical intervention, and there can be no safe surgery without safe anaesthesia. For five years ZADP has played a key role in anaesthetic training in Zambia. Volunteer anaesthetists from around the globe join ZADP and dedicate their time to the training of talented local doctors enrolled on a four year Master of Medicine (MMed) programme.

With over sixteen hundred beds and sprawling over a kilometre, the tertiary referral centre, UTH presents a daunting sight. My primary role was to provide clinical teaching in theatre to the eighteen MMed doctors. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of my trainees and their ingenious solutions to tackling the deficits in equipment and drugs. Two days every week were dedicated to facilitating quality improvement work, with enhancing patient safety as the key goal. With a keen interest in ophthalmic anaesthesia I focused my attention on the busy UTH eye hospital. These days added huge diversity to my work with time spent writing departmental protocols, teaching life support courses and introducing the team to a safer method of regional ophthalmic anaesthesia.

The deficit in anaesthesia providers is felt throughout the country, but is particularly stark in the rural areas. Six hours South of Lusaka in the village ofimba is a small mission hospital providing eye surgery. An opportunity arose to travel toimba to provide paediatric anaesthesia. I cautiously accepted and began painstakingly packing the car with every drug and piece of equipment I might need. With the nearest anaesthetic provider fifty miles away there was little room for error. That day stands out as the highlight of my time in Africa. Many of the children we treated live in absolute poverty and had travelled hundreds of miles to reach the clinic. It was a privilege to give them the gift of sight. Several Zambian doctors have already graduated from the MMed programme and have taken up essential posts throughout the country. We hope that in time the project will become self-sustaining, but until then ZADP will continue to provide training and promote safe anaesthesia in Zambia.

I'm incredibly grateful to Newnham College who saw the merit of this project and supported my work with a travelling scholarship. This financial backing has been invaluable and is a really special alumnae benefit available to Newnhamites.

You can read more about ZADP at www.zadp.org

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Dr Una McCormack (NC 1990)

Una is a New York Times bestselling author and a prolific fanfiction writer. She also teaches creative writing at Anglia Ruskin University. She lives in Cambridge with her partner, Matthew, her daughter, Verity, several daleks and no cats.

I arrived at Newnham from a Merseyside sixth form college which had little experience of sending students to Oxbridge, but had great ambitions. I'd ignored advice not to apply for the big colleges and had been spectacularly unprepared for an interview at King's. I came to my interview at Newnham with nothing to offer but my genius (still unrecognized nearly thirty years on) but my interviewer, experienced and kindly, must have seen something worthwhile and I received an offer to study History.



Cambridge was overwhelming, and probably didn't do a great deal for my confidence. But what I got immediately was validation that the work was worthwhile. I loved it: I loved the time in the library chasing down research rabbit-holes; I loved wandering along the stacks in the UL turning up something new every time; I loved being taken seriously in supervision, and the sense of the world unfurling, and the pleasure of growing in confidence intellectually. After Part 1 History, I made a sideways step to SPS for Part 2, ultimately getting a PhD in sociology from the University of Surrey.

I am now a lecturer in creative writing, having made a habit out of taking sideways steps. As I studied for my PhD, I realized that I was no longer invested in research, and I began to write fanfiction for my own amusement, based on TV shows such as *Star Trek*. I found communities online whose readers enjoyed my writing, and I took encouragement from them. As the PhD progressed, the fiction writing took over: I received my first commission for a *Star Trek* novel as I entered the writing-up stage, submitting both novel and thesis in the same month (not advised). Since then I've written ten more novels (some *Star Trek*, some *Doctor Who*, some of my own devising), and numerous science fiction short stories and audio dramas. One of my novels has been a New York Times bestseller, which is gratifying: as my editor said, "They're like an Oscar: they can't take that away from you."



Una taking part in our Wikipedia edit-a-thon on International Women's Day

It's a long way from the intricacies of the Second Reform Act, in which I was deeply absorbed at one time, and it's not the kind of writing that earns awards or accolades, but I enjoy myself immensely, and I get to sneak feminism into mass-market paperbacks sold in Walmarts across the mid-West. I didn't expect to be doing this kind of work – but it presented itself, and I love doing it, and what I took from my time at Newnham is that someone out there will always try to diminish women's work, so don't play that game. The work, done well, is its own reward, and everything else is a bonus.

Snapshots of Newnhamite lives

Lucy Parsons (NC 1998)

A former teacher who set herself four hours of homework a night when she decided to apply to Cambridge, Lucy Parsons quickly found that she excelled at passing exams. The mother-of-two decided to career change after what she describes as a 'lightbulb moment'.



Walking round Trinity Great Court aged nine on a family trip I decided I was going to come to Cambridge. I had to figure it out myself – the fact I worked my socks off made no difference to my comprehensive school which didn't recognise anything special in me. But seeing Great Court made me decide that nothing was going to stand in my way. I had a dream and I was determined to make it happen. I moved to a former grammar school turned comprehensive for A-levels and set myself a strict regime to get me to my goal of a place at Cambridge. This included a minimum of four hours homework a night and working at weekends as well as reading the papers.

After graduating with a 2.1 in Geography I worked at Tesco on their grad scheme and then moved into teaching, via a PGCE at Homerton. I stopped work outside the home when I had two children. I had a difficult pregnancy and birth with my eldest child and so didn't go back to work after maternity leave. Following my second child's arrival in 2012, I faced the same dilemma faced by so many women – I wanted to work but also wanted to be a hands on mum – and it was impossible to find a part time teaching job.

My 'lightbulb moment' took place when someone said: "You should do whatever you are best at". I realised I was best at passing exams so I decided to start helping school students aspire to, and get into, University. If I was asked what five points are most important I would say: 'Have a dream – manage your time ruthlessly as it is your most valuable resource – focus on your weaknesses to aim to bring them up to the high standard of your strengths and understand how to think like an examiner – learn to analyse what you have written.' I didn't have any budget so created a platform almost entirely through social media – working on twitter @LucyCParsons and encouraging people to visit my website. I finally decided to write down the lessons I had learned and sold it one by one as a PDF until a publisher approached me – the first print run of 4,000 books was snapped up by Amazon and we had to do a re-run the day after it was published.

I am not very good at looking backwards or celebrating my achievement as I am always looking forward to the next stage but I think the key ingredient to my life has been and continues to be time management. I get up at 6am to give myself an hour of meditation, writing and exercise before taking the children to school. I work until 3pm and then pick up the children and am a 'full on mummy' until they go to bed. I then do one-to-one coaching from 7.30pm till 9pm. It has been a really exciting and fulfilling journey so far and I am looking forward to the next step – possibly the creation of an online course. I am forever grateful to the person who, by stating what one might think obvious, made me focus on my strengths and gave me the clue as to how to find a rewarding role which really suits me and which I can juggle with being a mum to my kids.

12 didyouknow

Changes in the Data Protection Law

We are very proud of the strength of the Newnham Network and Community which reaches out to our alumnae and friends around the world. Many a principal has said in her graduation speech that 'Once a Newnhamite you are always a Newnhamite'. When our students sign the Register of the Roll they become members of the special Newnham family and we hope they will maintain a lifelong relationship with the College.

To enable us to keep our connection with you we hold your personal data. We have always handled your data with care, discretion, respect and treated it very sensitively and will continue to do so.

However the law applying to Data Protection is in a state of flux. New regulations (The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications (RPEC)) are coming into force in May 2018. There is still a great deal of uncertainty as to how these regulations will operate but, together with all other 31 Cambridge Colleges, Newnham has been working closely with the University of Cambridge to ensure that we will all comply with the new laws. We have updated our Data Protection Statement so far as we are able at the present time. The form is based on the one recommended by the University's data protection experts to all the Cambridge Colleges. It may need to be updated again over the next 12 months.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Roll and Development Office if you have any questions which we would be happy to answer. Our full updated Data Protection Statement can be read on our website: www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/keeping-in-touch/data-protection/

newnhamassociates

Since leaving Newnham in 2001 after six years studying Veterinary Medicine, my career has taken me in a number of directions I wouldn't have predicted arriving in College in October 1995. After graduation I headed to the USA for a one-year internship in Large Animal Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary teaching hospital (New Bolton Center). This led to a further three years of residency training in Large Animal Surgery at Penn and becoming a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, followed by three years as a lecturer in Equine Sports Medicine.

I then moved back to the UK to work in private practice as an Equine Surgeon in Newbury and more recently in Newmarket. I became a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2009, and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (Equine) in 2016. Whilst being an equine surgeon and sports medicine specialist isn't always as glamorous as it might sound (particularly on call at 3am!), it's safe to say that it's never dull and no two days are the same.

Newnham made a huge impact on my life and my career to date, providing me with fundamental opportunities and experiences that would otherwise have been beyond my reach. I became an Associate to contribute back to College, provide support and guidance to current students and graduates in Veterinary Medicine and to support the College's on-going development and future. The Newnham Associates encompass a wide and diverse group of alumnae offering career advice, mentoring and support to current and former Newnham students. More information and contact details are available at: www.newnhamassociates.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day was marked at Newnham with a series of special events to commemorate the victims and survivors of the Nazi persecutions and other genocides. The aim of the week, organised by **Dr Jenny Mander (NC 1983)**, Newnham Fellow, was to share powerful stories from the past to provide an opportunity to learn lessons and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future. Nearly 200 people attended a free public panel discussion titled *From Kindertransport to Calais: The Story of Child Refugees*. **Professor Sucheta Nadkarni and alumna Dr Victoria Kimonides (NC 1993)** brought a Hackathon Challenge to Newnham to help tackle technological challenges. Participants worked in teams to brainstorm ideas to help Microsoft improve customer engagement. Professor Nadkarni is a Newnham Fellow and the Director of the Wo+Men's Leadership Initiative at the Cambridge Judge Business School. **Dr Sam Lucy (NC 1991)**, Admissions Tutor, was one of the featured experts on a BBC Four documentary titled *Digging for Britain*. Dr Lucy spoke about 'bed burials' and what they tell us about the 'network of women' who helped introduce Christianity to Europe. Alumna **Joanna Penberthy (NC 1978)** was appointed as the first female bishop in Wales. The 56-year-old said being made bishop was 'awe inspiring'. **Principal Dame Carol Black and Dr Rosalind Ridley (NC 1968)** represented Newnham at the Hay Festival 2017. Dame Carol spoke to journalist Rosie Boycott about how drugs, alcohol and obesity affect people's ability to work. And former Fellow **Dr Ridley** explored how *Peter Pan* shows author J. M. Barrie's understanding of human cognition. **Professor Jenny Morton**, Director of Studies in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, has been awarded a £1.3m grant for her research into Huntington's Disease. **Professor Mary Beard (NC 1973)** explored the depiction of women in the media past and present in her latest London Review of Books lecture. The Newnham Fellow's London Review of Books (LRB) Winter Lecture on *Women in Power* covered everything from Clytemnaestra in the tragedies of Aeschylus to Hillary Clinton on social media and asked: *is there a cultural template which works to disempower women?* The lecture was delivered to a sold-out audience at the British Museum on March 3. **Rosalind Franklin (NC 1938)** and **Dorothy Hodgkin (NC 1932)** were celebrated as part of a Newnham's flagship event for the Cambridge Science Festival. The busy programme featured talks from scientists who had worked with the eminent Newnhamites, a biographer and family members. **A crane's eye view** of the building development is now available. Work to improve the facilities at Newnham is continuing at quite a pace and an additional web cam has been added to a crane offering a spectacular view from above. New en-suite student accommodation, a new Porters' Lodge, gym, cafe, conference facilities, and a new suite of offices and supervision rooms are all being built after Strachey was demolished last year. Progress can be viewed on four web cams which are live streaming footage, visit www.newn.cam.ac.uk/about/architecture/new-build/webcam/ **And finally**, did you know that the shoes worn by Princess Charlotte and the other bridesmaids at the wedding of her auntie Pippa Middleton are by Papouelli Shoes? Alumna **Felicia Brocklebank (NC 1989)** is a director of the British designer shoe company.



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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13 events

Forthcoming events

Alumni Festival 23 – 24 September 2017

Alumnae from Matrics 1962, 1977, 1987 and 1997 are invited back to Newnham for their Reunion Dinner on Saturday 23. On Friday 22 come to the discussion with the other two women's colleges at Lucy Cavendish College: '*Feminism: back by popular demand? How women are responding to the rise of populism?*' Saturday afternoon the gardens are open to all for a family picnic with children's entertainment. Sunday 24 we will hold the annual Newnham Conversation: '*From Hate Speech to Fake News: Is Free Speech a Free-for-all?*'

Newnham Family Forum – Mental Health 14 October 2017

Come and join the newly branded Newnham Family Forum for a discussion on mental health and young people – whether you are a mum, granny, aunt, sister or in connection with young people in any other manner this should provide a very interesting discussion day.

TEDxNewnham 17 February 2018

TEDx Newnham will be live streamed and you will be able to go to a local venue to watch some of the talks and discuss them with other Newnhamites. Further details will be circulated in September.

100th Anniversary of the Roll Celebration 7 July 2018

Come with friend, your family or on your own to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Roll with a fascinating day in College. See main feature.

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

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

calendar

2017 – 2018

2017

23 – 24 September

Alumni Festival – Special Reunion Dinner for Matric Years 1962, 1977, 1987 and 1997. Family picnic for all alumnae and their families. Newnham Family Forum – Mental Health
Formal Hall – Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
Formal Hall – Geography, History
Formal Hall [no subject] Fairtrade
Formal Hall – Classics, Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies
Formal Hall – Natural Science Biology
Music for the Festive Season Concert and Friends' Reception
Formal Hall – Archaeology, History & Politics, HSPS, PBS

14 October

19 October

26 October

2 November

9 November

15 November

26 November

22 November

2018

17 January

24 January

25 January

1 February

15 February

17 February

21 February

1 March

7 March

23 –25 March

12 May

7 July

Formal Hall [no subject]
Formal Hall – Computer Science, Land Economy, Mathematics
Formal Hall – Economics, History of Art, Law, Management Studies, Music
Formal Hall – Architecture, Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering
Formal Hall – AMES, History & Modern Languages, Linguistics, MML
TEDxNewnham – Apply to be in the audience or watch with your local host
Formal Hall – Chemical Engineering, HPS, Natural Science Physics
Formal Hall – ASNC, Education, English, Media/Screen/Visual Arts
Formal Hall [no subject] Fairtrade
Commemoration Weekend – Special Reunion years 1948, 1958, 1968, 1993 and 2008
Law Networking Lunch
100th Anniversary of the Roll Celebration Open Day

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



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