

# THE CAROL BLACK LEAVING FUND FOR NEWNHAM



NEWNHAM COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

THE CAROL BLACK LEAVING FUND



## LETTER FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Dear Alumna,

The entire College community can be proud of the enormous amount we have achieved during Dame Carol's seven years as Principal. Her leadership has been felt in many areas, from the creation of the new website, to establishing the Rosalind Franklin Conference for Sixth formers, to focusing on mental health and wellbeing for both staff and students, to agreeing a College Strategy. Perhaps most notably, she has overseen the development of the magnificent new Dorothy Garrod Building.

Carol has always been determined to raise Newnham's profile and celebrate the fact that we remain all-female. She has spoken as our ambassador around the world, acted as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, thereby ensuring that Newnham's presence is felt across Cambridge, led the University's *Breaking the Silence* initiative, and used her work for Government to fly the flag for the College. She has laboured tirelessly for us, speaking to schools in the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and elsewhere. Building on the legacy of those who have preceded her, Carol's hard work has contributed to the fact that the number of young women who put Newnham as their College of choice has doubled.

We have become a College of destination for graduate students and we have seen our PhD students rise by 31% in seven years. Our vibrant research population is now supplemented by our new 25 Post-Doctoral Affiliates who bring fresh input to College conversations.

Carol has loved meeting all our alumnae. You are generous not only with donations but with your time and expertise: offering training, internships and advice to our students. We are all extremely grateful for your support.

As Carol said in her TEDxNewnham talk, 'retirement' is not a word in her vocabulary. She leaves us to continue her role as Chair of the British Library and to advise the Government on addressing drugs and alcohol abuse. We are keen to pay tribute to her work at Newnham by raising a leaving fund in her name. When asked what she would like to support, she wisely pointed out that the iconic Champneys buildings now need some 'TLC' to ensure their facilities are brought up to standard.

**Carol feels strongly that community underpins Newnham's success and she hopes that any gifts made in her honour may be used to help ensure the rejuvenation of the spaces that Champneys identified as being critical to the special spirit of the College and to Newnham friendships.**

We hope you will join us in making a donation to the Carol Black Leaving Fund: all gifts, no matter the size, will make a difference.

Thank you for your recognition for this inspirational woman and of her impact on Newnham College.

Dr Emma Mawdsley  
Vice-Principal

## CHAMPNEYS' STUDENT SPACES

Basil Champneys included individual kitchens, each to serve a number of rooms, providing social space for a smaller number of students as well as having a larger communal eating place and JCR or MCR. This tradition is quite different from other Colleges and has been continued in the design of the Dorothy Garrod Building. It helps create and underpin the strong sense of community and companionship which distinguishes Newnham and makes it special.



*Old Hall*



*Dorothy Garrod Building*

Alumnae remember early (perhaps even first) cooking attempts, baking birthday cakes and brownies, suppers following a long day in the library, after a challenging supervision or returning from the river. Having this shared space in which to cook and eat together resulted in friendships across different years and disciplines. It provided an informal setting for putting the world to rights, for learning about each other's backgrounds and cultures and for broadening their understanding of the wider world. This continues today.

Many students love the older buildings and delight in the sense of history that living there entails. Now the new Dorothy Garrod Building is open in all its splendour, we need to turn to the Champneys Buildings and upgrade their facilities to ensure we are offering accommodation suitable for the 21st Century in all the halls of College.

Other areas need an overhaul as well as the kitchens. The College has a rolling programme of what one might call 'critical' repair and refurbishment but we would love to have more flexibility to improve student accommodation.

Having the Carol Black Leaving Fund will enable us to make a tangible difference now to our students' experience and ensure the continued attraction of the historic buildings as a special place to live, to learn and to grow.

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

Newnhamites have always demonstrated their strong alumnae community through pooling their resources. The combination of gifts of all sizes enables major impact. Your donation will help us improve the student experience for future generations.

- **£15,000** would modernise an entire kitchen
- **£5,000 - £10,000** (depending on the extent of work needed and on wiring and plumbing) would enable the refurbishment of a student room
- **£3,000** would cover the cost of a new shower room or specialist repair of one of the big sash windows
- **£1,000** would buy a new oven or repair one of the stunning 'princess' balconies
- **£100** would purchase a microwave

“*I am delighted to make a donation to the Carol Black Leaving Fund. I think she has been an exceptional Principal. She has shown great commitment to improving the College's architecture and space which is vital to the wellbeing of its community and which makes it such a special place to learn. It is characteristic that, even as she leaves Newnham, she is thinking of future students who may benefit long after her departure.*”

Margaret Campbell NC 1966



## TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

- If **twenty alumnae each gave £150** to the Carol Black Leaving Fund the early morning 'dash' down the corridor would be worth it to enjoy the warmth of a new shower.
- If **ten alumnae each gave £500** to the Carol Black Leaving Fund a student would enjoy a newly refurbished room.
- If **five alumnae each gave £3,000** an entire kitchen could be updated to encourage community building and friendship.

## NOTABLE SUCCESSES DURING DAME CAROL'S PRINCIPALSHIP

- The extension and strengthening of the alumnae community around the world
- The appointment of a Communications Director
- Redesign of the website and improved use of social media
- Replacement of Strachey with the RIBA Award Winning Dorothy Garrod Building
- The founding of the Margaret Anstee Centre for Global Studies
- The endowment of the Catherine Seville Lectureship
- A new University Teaching post at Newnham in Maths
- Increased recruitment of the best female undergraduates – doubling the number of students who now put Newnham down as their first choice
- Supplemental programmes for students to bolster self-confidence, resilience, risk taking and empowerment
- More graduate scholarships and attracting outstanding graduates including more Gates and Marshall scholars
- Creation of the 'Women in Tech' business challenge and consolidation of Newnham's link with the Judge Business School
- The foundation of a new group of young academics – the Post-Doctoral Affiliates
- Establishment of the Rosalind Franklin Sixth Form Conference (targeting State Schools and STEM)
- Sixth Form prizes increased from one to eight
- Led the way in Cambridge on the *Breaking the Silence* initiative against sexual harassment
- Developed a programme of Leadership Skills and media training for Academics
- Put mental health and well-being on the map for students and staff with the introduction of the Health and Wellbeing Charter
- One of the first Colleges to appoint in-house student counsellors
- Increased profile for the College
- The development of a College Strategy



*Essay Prize Day*



*Hong Kong alumnae*



*Celebrating the four dames*



*Dorothy Garrod Building Opening*



*Commemoration*



*Roll Committee*



*Singapore alumnae*



*Graduation*

*“Uni life is as much about learning to live independently as it is about studying. I’m gradually learning how to cook and today I made scrambled eggs! ”*

*“My friends and I have very different working habits and schedules, so a lot of the time we can spend together is during meals. We’ve shared birthday breakfasts, a Bridgemas feast (when the students celebrate Xmas early) and Sunday brunches, either in one of the large kitchens in Peile Hall, or by ferrying pots and pans between my kitchen and room in Old Hall, which isn’t the easiest task in the world. I’ve learnt how to make A-class crepes and failed abysmally at making profiteroles - which looked more like bread rolls...”*

*“It was Freshers’ Week and most people had gone out clubbing, but I’d decided to have a night in and cook. Georgia was in the kitchen too, and we got chatting over our shared love for banana bread (there was a loaf in the oven). And that’s how I made my first proper friend at Cambridge! ”*

