



Murray Edwards
College
University of Cambridge

ISSUE

49

THE DOLPHIN

AUTUMN 2016

in this issue

Fellows' Research	7
Capitalism on the Edge	11
She Talks Science	12
Celebrating Dr Owen Saxton's Career	14-15

From the President



© ANDY MAC



© MARTIN BOND

During International Women's Day (in fact it is really a week!) in March, we launched the College's Fundraising Campaign: Women Today, Women Tomorrow.

The University as a whole is seeking to raise £2bn by 2020, and our target which sits within that is just £15m by 2020, of which £3m is already in hand. To reassure you, all the money you donate to the College remains with the College, whether it is for our students, for Fellows or for our buildings.

Funds directed to Murray Edwards are there to help us achieve our ambition. We want more young women to apply to the College directly because they understand that we are doing something special for our women. We want to make sure that we do our very best to help them achieve in Cambridge and

we want to send them into the world with skills and above all, the personal confidence to make a difference.

For the launch in London at the University Women's Club on 3 March, we held a panel discussion on women and philanthropy, chaired by alumna Mishal Husain, with Loretta Minghella (Chief Executive of Christian Aid), Sheila Damon (one of our alumnae who is leading the career strand of the Gateway Programme for us) and Nadja Swarovski (from the Swarovski Company whose foundation focuses on women). We discussed what draws women to give their time and



Murray Edwards
College
University of Cambridge

Development Office
Cambridge CB3 0DF

T: 01223 762288 F: 01223 762217
alumnae@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Design and print management:
H2 Associates, Cambridge

Murray Edwards College is a Registered
Charity (Registration No. 1137530)



Opposite far left: From left: Mishal Husain, Barbara Stocking, Nadja Swarovski, Loretta Minghella, Sheila Damon at London International Day.

Opposite right: Mabel van Oranje, Chair of Girls Not Brides at New Hall Society International Day.

Below: Students and alumnae dancing to the samba band at New Hall Society International Day.



“ We want to make sure that we do our very best to help them achieve in Cambridge and we want to send them into the world with skills and above all, the personal confidence to make a difference in the world. ”

talents, as well as money, what engagement they want and how they want to be recognised. It was a fascinating evening with about 100 alumnae, once again showing that in giving as in other areas, women may think somewhat differently from men.

In College we then held the International Women's Day dinner on the following Saturday. Mabel van Oranje talked about her organisation, Girls Not Brides, and the sometimes horrific experience of young girls married even as young as aged 10.

Graduate students Fatima Baldo and Eugenia Tanaka, moved us with descriptions of volunteer work on female genital mutilation in Sudan, and machismo in social media in Brazil and attacks even on the idea of discussing feminism.

Not all the evening was so emotionally demanding. Dinner was followed by dancing to a Samba band in the Dome. One alumna said: "This is what makes me proud of being New Hall/Murray Edwards" as the whole Dome full of people got up to dance almost as one.

Focussing again on fundraising, the biggest challenge for us now is fundraising for refurbishment of the two ends of Orchard Court, which have had no work done since 1965. They are simply not in the state we want for our students. It is not just some new curtains or chairs that are needed; the key staircases need gutting, with new bathrooms and kitchens too. As a start, we want to redo one staircase (F) next summer, the only time we can sensibly undertake these works.

We are fundraising by asking groups of alumnae to come together to cover the costs of one room. Several year groups, with 1980 in the lead, are already getting going with some alumnae being able to give more than others and with pledges which can be over several years. We want to make this a way everyone can make a small contribution to the whole. It will take us time to complete the staircases but this feels like a feasible way for us to do the refurbishment, with the College itself also able to contribute to part of the funding.



Students on the steps of Senate House with Dame Barbara Stocking (centre)

Celebrating Academic Success

This year over 93% of our Finalists achieved a 1st or 2:1.

It is a real pleasure to congratulate our Finalists on a set of excellent exam results. We have seen some real achievements and successes, both individual and collective, across all subjects, and can be extremely proud of these. We wish all of our students

the very best as they move on to the next stage of their lives, building on what they have accomplished here at Murray Edwards.

Dr Juliet Foster, Senior Tutor

“ My time at Cambridge has been truly life-changing. Not only have I learned new skills (lion dancing being my favourite!), but met new people and really changed the way I think.

Ru Merritt – 1st in History

Murray Edwards has been immensely supportive to me, encouraging me to work to the best of my own abilities. I have also enjoyed the wide array of extra-curricular activities.

Dorota Molin – 1st in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Murray Edwards College has given me all the support I needed to succeed. I'm grateful that I've always been encouraged to be bold academically and to believe that my ideas have real value.

Georgia Thurston – 1st in English

I think my time at Murray Edwards has been a journey of discovery. I would like to thank Medwards' generous support that allowed me to explore uncharted terrains. I would also like to thank my two Directors of Studies and Tutor who encouraged and helped me through my ups and downs and see me grow into a more confident young woman.

Qi Ou – 1st Physical Natural Sciences





Dr Hilarie Bateman

Accolades to our Admissions Tutor

by Dr Juliet Foster, Senior Tutor

Our Senior Tutor pays tribute to Dr Hilarie Bateman's work as Admissions Tutor for eleven years, and looks forward to her continued contributions to College in the coming year, as Educational Projects Tutor.

Dr Hilarie Bateman will stand down as Admissions Tutor in October 2016 after almost eleven years in the post. We are delighted that Hilarie will remain a Fellow in the College continuing her excellent work on Gateway and on several other special projects related to it and some other exciting initiatives over the course of the next academic year.

Hilarie joined the College in 2006, with a background in Geography and experience working in several other universities. Immediately before joining the College, Hilarie had been working on the translation of policy into practice in primary care, and she very quickly began to use the abilities she had shown here in dealing with large amounts of data and complex issues to develop and extend the College's admissions and outreach procedures and processes. Given her skills and experience, it seemed natural that she should also take on the role of Gateway Lead as the programme developed, and she has combined this with her work in admissions with real insight and care.

It has been such a pleasure to work with Hilarie as Admissions Tutor in the three years I have been in College so far. Hilarie rightly commands a great deal of respect not only within the College but also around the wider University: her knowledge of the collegiate admissions system is flawless, and she has been responsible for so many important initiatives within the College.

The Pathways to Success event which we now run every July is just one example of this, bringing ever increasing numbers (one hundred this year) of high-achieving

school and college students together to consider not just the run-of-the-mill issues relating to an application to Cambridge, but also those that relate to the way that they work and approach their lives more broadly.

Hilarie combines a real attention to detail with a desire to innovate, which makes her highly effective. At the root of all of this is a very sensible commitment to ensuring that what we do is firmly grounded in research evidence and always properly evaluated.

On a personal level, I have really enjoyed and benefited from Hilarie's good sense and support, and I am extremely pleased that we will continue to benefit from this as a College over the next year as Hilarie continues her work with Gateway, whilst also developing some new programmes and research which I think will be of real value to Murray Edwards.

Watch this space.

“Hilarie is an absolute treasure trove of knowledge and ideas, so many of which have become a core part of the Gateway Programme and its success. She is extremely thorough and has an enviable knack for balancing enthusiasm with attentiveness.”

Julie Duncan, Gateway Administrator

“A completely life-changing experience. The Gateway programme is not just about providing funding, the careers sessions I attended and the support I received with writing my CV helped me to develop professionally and prepared me in the best possible way for my future career.”

Recent graduate and alumna Elizabeth Gould (MEC 2012) on the impact of the Gateway Programme

Our New Fellows

We are delighted that our Fellowship continues to grow with a number of world-leading researchers joining the College this October in a wide-range of subjects.

We highlight here two new Fellows and their research. We warmly welcome them to our community.



Holly Krieger

Holly Krieger

I am coming to Murray Edwards as the Corfield Lecturer in Mathematics. I received my PhD in 2013 at the University of Illinois in Chicago, before joining the Department of Mathematics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I was a postdoctoral researcher and instructor.

I am currently working in the area of pure maths known as arithmetic dynamics. Dynamics is the study of the long-term behaviour of a system which is governed by simple iterative rules; for example, attempting to predict the positions of the planets on a billion-year scale. The dynamical systems I study are abstract rather than physical, and I am interested in the number-theoretic properties of these systems, which are related to interesting objects like the Mandelbrot set.

Thanks to the generous establishment of the Corfield Lectureship, I will be able to spend a significant amount of time focusing on attracting and encouraging women to study mathematics, particularly the outstanding young women of Murray Edwards. I am also interested in supporting the progression of young researchers through their academic careers, as both a role model and an active advocate, with the enthusiastic assistance of the Department of Maths.

I am involved in public outreach in Mathematics through the YouTube channel *Numberphile*, and through participation in public discussions and talks related to Maths education.



Sarah Williams

Sarah Williams

I started my career in High Energy Physics as a summer student at CERN back in 2009 and went on to complete a PhD in the Cambridge High Energy Physics group where I focussed on searches for new Physics using the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. In particular, I worked on searches for a particular class of “supersymmetric” particle, which could help to explain the origin of dark matter in the universe.

After completing my PhD in 2014, I moved to the Netherlands to work as a Physics Lecturer at Maastricht University. Since then I have taught Physics and Maths on the Maastricht Science Programme, as well as continuing my research as a member of the Nikhef ATLAS group in Amsterdam. Last year, along with collaborators at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, I helped to produce one of the first searches for new Physics using the ATLAS detector in run-II. In particular we were searching for the production of microscopic black holes in LHC collisions (but not the type that would swallow the earth).

In September 2016 I will be joining Murray Edwards as a Fellow on a joint appointment with the High Energy Physics group at the Cavendish Laboratory, where I will continue my research on the ATLAS experiment. I am intrigued about what the next few years of collisions at the LHC will bring, and very excited to be joining the fellowship at Murray Edwards. My early impressions are of a vibrant community with a wealth of different activities (both academic and extra-curricular) going on, and I am looking forward to becoming a part of it.

Fellows' Research

Fellow Dr Liz Drayson talks about her Newton Trust College Teaching Officer research leave to write a book on the last Moorish sultan in Spain, Boabdil.



Dr Liz Drayson

Two life-sized bronze statues stand in a flowerbed in a small gravelled park in Granada in southern Spain, well off the beaten track, surrounded by towering blocks of flats. Amid roses and pomegranate trees, a bearded man wearing a turban looks down sadly at a young woman who represents Granada, her head lowered in humility as she offers him a rose. This poignant monument is a memorial to the last Moorish sultan in Spain, Mohammed XI, known as Boabdil, who was the Muslim ruler of the Arabic-speaking Islamic state of Granada in the late fifteenth century. His surrender of that city and kingdom to Christian King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492 changed the world of late medieval Spain and led to the formation of a Catholic nation state which played a crucial role in European history.

Boabdil was a king and also a prisoner in chains; a shrewd negotiator as well as a schemer and rebel.

This academic year I was awarded research leave via the Newton Trust CTO Research Leave competition to write a book on Boabdil's life and times. I am deeply grateful to Murray Edwards, Peterhouse and the University of Cambridge for the wonderful gift of time to write, and for the opportunity for another very stimulating research trip to Granada to work in the archive of the Alhambra. Walking to work every day through the grounds of the Moorish palace and the magical gardens of the Generalife was a privileged experience which evoked the past vividly.

My book tells the resonant and eventful life story of this fascinating and strikingly paradoxical man at the heart of a major regime change, whose ambiguous actions and motives have turned his life into legend. Boabdil was a king and also a prisoner in chains; a shrewd negotiator as well as

a schemer and rebel; a son, father, husband and brother; a man of culture and also of war, and a man of destiny, with the die cast long before he came to power.

The political, religious, cultural and historical circumstances of this medieval ruler have direct relevance to the current conflicts and clashes between the Islamic east and western countries. They are resonant because they provide a simultaneously similar yet different model of interaction between Christians and Muslims; similar because of endemic conflict and vying for power, using religion with a political agenda, yet different because medieval Christians and Muslims lived side by side, with a degree of tolerance and cooperation.

The fall of Granada is the event harked back to by political figures, writers and artists, who view it as both a tragic loss and the origin of a desire for revenge. I hope that my research will provide a new perspective on Boabdil and give him the recognition he deserves.



Monument to Boabdil, Granada

Find out more

The Moor's Last Stand: the life of Boabdil, Muslim King of Granada by Dr Liz Drayson, will be published by Profile Books in the spring of 2017.

Three Generations of Murray Edwards/ New Hall Students

Web and Communications Officer, Livia Oldland, speaks to three generations of the same family who have studied, or are studying, at Murray Edwards College/New Hall: Lizzy Read (ME 2015), Jenny Read née York (NH 1987) and Anne York née Hull (NH 1963).

What were (or are) you studying at New Hall/ Murray Edwards College?

LR: I just finished my first year of studying Theology and Religious Studies (the best subject ever).

JR: I matriculated in 1987 and studied Computer Science, I was the only female in my year at Cambridge (I had to do Maths in my first year because Computer Science was only offered in years 2 and 3). I stayed for a fourth year and did a PGCE in primary school teaching.

AY: I matriculated in 1963 and read Natural Sciences, with Metallurgy in my final year. I was very glad it was a College for women as I was the only female in my year doing metallurgy.

What were your first impressions?

LR: At Medwards people understand that I am a person and not a studying-machine, so they were immediately very supportive and smiley. I was very struck by the fact that we were encouraged to walk all over the grass and pick flowers and spinach from the beautiful gardens. I can vividly remember receiving a packet of chocolate stars in an envelope when I arrived for my interview, and feeling grateful that I had applied to a college where they were kind to their terrified interviewees.

JR: It was very friendly and a lot more relaxed than I was expecting from a Cambridge College. I went to an open day on a beautiful summer's day in July 1986 and it was the first time that I had been to my Mum's college. The Dome looked amazing – I had never seen anything like it – and I loved the fountain.

AY: My first impressions of New Hall College were good. It was a small, friendly, family like college. The housekeeper Miss Dutton, Miss Murray (as she was then) and Miss Hammond were there to look after us and help us excel in our subjects. Miss Murray was a bit scary if you were late back to College, she used to phone TIM (speaking clock) to check the correct time and make you feel worse.

“If we wanted to cook at Silver Street there was one hob in the corridor. It may have been electric but we could only use one saucepan!” Anne York

Where did you stay (or are staying) in College?

LR: I am currently living in Pearl House with all the other freshers. My room is

P13, which is right next to the kitchen. It is one of the smaller ones, so when we had a sleepover for my birthday we all moved our mattresses to Danielle's huge room which is next door. Danielle is the other theologian in my year, so you will frequently find me eating rice cakes in her room, having popped in hours ago to ask a question about New Testament Greek grammar or borrow her phone charger.

JR: I had a split double to myself in my first year – D22. Lots of people had to share but my roommate decided to take a year out at the last minute. It was pretty similar to the un-refurbished split rooms today, but we all had an electric ring which was very handy. In years 2 and 3, I shared 41 Halifax Road with friends from New Hall. We loved having a communal living room and kitchen plus a garden. I spent many hours in the College computer room as no one had computer access in their rooms. I also spent a long vacation term in one of the rooms right at the top of the old Buckingham House.

AY: I was in the original building at Silver Street for my first year and two thirds of my second year. For the first year I had a tiny room overlooking the porch and in my second year I had a lovely room at the back looking over the garden; I think it used to be Miss Hammond's room. I then moved up to the new building in the summer and had a large split level room all to myself – very handy when my mum came to visit.

What's your favourite memory of your time at Murray Edwards/ New Hall?

LR: This is a hard question. One of the things that I always love is hurtling down Castle Hill on my bike! However, I also like those times in the evening when I've decided to finish work for the day and just stay up and chat, or when we bake brownies and eat them in front of trashy TV. This past week it has been blissfully hot, so now is the perfect opportunity for picnics in Grantchester.

JR: Every year there were baby ducks in Fountain Court which were a lovely distraction whilst working at the, now iconic, Apple Mac computers and BBC terminals. I was also once invited to afternoon tea with Dame Rosemary which was a great honour.

AY: I look back with nostalgia to the evenings we used to go to each other's rooms and drink coffee and discuss the deep questions of life and the trivia. I also remember the exhilaration of beating the Oxford Ladies rowing eight in my second and third year.

"I can vividly remember receiving a packet of chocolate stars in an envelope when I arrived for my interview, and feeling grateful that I had applied to a college where they were kind to their terrified interviewees." Lizzy Read

Jenny and Anne: How do you think the College has changed since you studied here?

JR: The garden and plants are even more amazing than they were then. The arrival of mobile phones means that students no longer come back to a sheet of notes pinned to their doors from friends who dropped by but found they were out.

The College seems to be helping women achieve their potential by thinking more

about how they learn and focussing teaching styles within supervisions and workshops. The Gateway programme looks fantastic.

AY: I noticed that there were more buildings when I visited. The entrance by the Porters' Lodge had completely changed. The gardens were lovely – not like a building site when I was there.

If we wanted to cook at Silver Street there was one hob in the corridor. It may have been electric but we could only use one saucepan! The kitchens now are well provided with cupboards and appliances.

How would you describe Murray Edwards in five words:

LR: Supportive, busy, empowering, quirky, fun

JR: Empowering education focussed on women

AY: Friendly base for acquiring knowledge



From left: Anne York, Lizzy Read, Jenny Read

Alumnae Mentoring Programme

by Hermione Eccleson, née Cornwall-Jones (NH 1991)

Having been mentored as part of a professional qualification, I know how important mentoring can be as you develop both professionally and personally. Therefore when the Director of Development at Murray Edwards College, Fiona Duffy, spoke to me about setting up a pilot Alumnae Mentoring Programme, I understood the significance of offering this opportunity to graduates.

Through the 60th anniversary survey *Women Today, Women Tomorrow*, the College identified a need amongst alumnae for support in considering work issues and goals, and the balance between these and their personal lives. Survey responses also revealed that many older alumnae, established in their careers, were willing to share the benefit of their experience through the offer of time to help younger alumnae develop and succeed.

Unlike professional or workplace mentoring schemes, where mentors often direct guidance with a particular agenda in mind, mentors matched through College are more neutral. The mentees' interests are at the centre of the relationship. The aim is for mentees to explore their potential and develop their ability to act for themselves in relation to their objectives; scheduled meetings with their mentor help them through this process.

Following high interest in the pilot scheme in 2014/2015 the College is fully launching the programme in 2016, offering alumnae aged 25 to 35 the opportunity to apply as mentees. Since February 2016 I have been working with the Development Team, using my experience of project managing and implementing the pilot scheme to advise and assist with rolling out the programme.

Invitations to participate were sent out in July to a selected group of mentees and mentors. Other application rounds will follow. A match with a mentor will be suggested to mentees, based on the areas of support they are looking for and the skills and expertise of mentors available. If you would like to find out more about the programme, or are interested in getting involved, the Development Team would be delighted to hear from you. The initiative is an exciting opportunity which it is hoped will be of value to all who participate.

Find out more

Contact the Development Office by phone on **01223 762288** or email: alumnae@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

More information about our Alumnae Mentoring Programme is also available online: www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/mentoring



Capitalism on the Edge

by Debbie Macklin, née Schofield (NH 1979)

With the level of public trust in the corporate sector at a low ebb, has capitalism run its course? Hundreds of people, from all walks of life, attended six lectures from world-leading experts on the future of capitalism at Murray Edwards College this year.

We are now at the half-way stage in the two-year lecture series, Capitalism on the Edge. It has been a fascinating and insightful first year, with excellent speakers sharing their experience and ideas on capitalism in today's world.

The series came about when Barbara Stocking reflected on how to respond to widespread public scepticism of capitalism, and deep-felt student concerns – both in College and more broadly throughout the University – about working in the private sector.

With a team of three Fellows (Dr Marcus Morgan, Dr Marc Moore and Dr Anna Barford), the President set up a thought-provoking programme, spanning two academic years.

The idea was to explore the ultimate question: is there any alternative to capitalism? But given that most people think that there isn't, then how can capitalism evolve to better meet the needs of society? The result is a platform for influential leaders in this field to air their views about what needs to change, and creating a forum for discussion in this important debate.

Different perspectives are a hallmark of the series. In the six lectures this year, we heard:

- **Ben Phillips** (Action Aid Director) and **Ros Urwin** (campaigning journalist) outline the relationship between capitalism and inequality, from a global and a generational perspective;
- **Lord Adair Turner** (Senior Fellow at the Institute of New Economic Thinking) consider how technology is challenging orthodox capitalism in developed economies;
- **Zoë Svendsen** (Theatre Director) and **Paul Mason** (journalist) describe how theatre and literature can reveal our complex and sometimes conflicting views about capitalism.

So, at the end of wide-ranging talks, I have learnt a lot and feel satiated with food for thought.

Much has been sobering, but there has also been much to inspire, and

evidence that change is possible, and does happen.

Looking ahead to next year, the programme is taking shape, with former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Master of Magdalene, Rowan Williams, speaking on 2nd November. He'll be followed on 1 December by Danny Dorling (University of Oxford) and Kate Pickett (University of York).

Get the dates in your diaries now, and join the debate!

Find out more

Videos, podcasts, blogs and summaries of all the lectures so far and details of future talks are available on our website:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/about/capitalism-edge

Memorable quotes

“

Leaders in the new era of capitalism need skills which include long term-ism, systemic thinking, a higher level sense of purpose, and working in partnership. Women are well placed to lead the evolution, because they score highly on these skills. (Paul Polman)

Responsible capitalism will not invent itself. Ultimately it is down to us to create it. (David Pitt-Watson)

Consider the greatest achievements of recent centuries: the end of the colonies, the abolition of legal slavery, votes for women, the end of apartheid. How did these things happen? They all happened through public pressure. (Ben Phillips)

The measure of success is not just how much wealth we produce, but how people share in it. (Frances O'Grady)

”

She Talks Science

by Dr Hilarie Bateman, Admissions Tutor

We launched She Talks Science in May 2015, a new blog to help young women engage with others who share their passion for science. Since its launch, there have been more than 13,000 visits to the blog, from over 70 countries.

Our Women in Science symposium in 2014 confirmed that able young women were not choosing to study sciences to A-level and beyond. This is partly because they lacked role models and the opportunity to talk about the science that mattered to them.

To help address this, we set up our She Talks Science blog. It is based on a four week cycle:

Week 1 – Career path: We invite a woman, often an alumna, who studied science to talk about her career. Entries here have ranged from cosmology, to the creation of new drugs and to the founding of a genetic testing company.

Week 2 – Science-related issue: We invite a woman, not necessarily a scientist, to discuss a topical science-related issue. Entries here have included health care for women in prison, climate control and mathematical bridges.

Week 3 – A school winner: School students have contributed a wide range of winning entries from the chemistry of tea to equine therapy for autism.

Week 4 – Studying science at Cambridge: A Murray Edwards student talks about her current studies across engineering, maths, natural sciences and the clinical sciences.

Roles for graduates March 2016

Career options available to science graduates

WISE Category	Role advertised	WISE description of attributes
Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Communications Officer Editorial and Production Assistant 	Empathic, good with words, likes to engage with different audiences.
Service Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Planning Consultant Radiotherapy Physicist 	Organised, good attention to detail, likes to deliver what others need.
Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Analyst, Health and Social Care Analytical Chemist 	Logical and cooperative, likes to work in a team gathering ideas and information.
Regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacovigilance Officer Electronics Patent Attorney 	Honest and fair, likes to ensure that all is done well and safely.
Explorer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laser Engineer Renewable Technology Engineer 	Intuitive and practical, likes to be the first to know and to understand.
Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerospace Project Co-ordinator 	Organised and good motivator, likes to manage resources and time to good effect.

“ Schools are engaging enthusiastically and tell us that the students enjoy the experience. ”

Schools interested in participating are asked to run a tailor-made competition and their winning entrant is rewarded with a blog slot and a She Talks Science hoodie. Schools are engaging enthusiastically and tell us that the students enjoy the experience. We had envisaged running the blog for one school year only, but the response from schools is such that we have decided to run the blog for the next 2016–17 school year too.

We complemented the blog with a one day conference in April, She Talks Science: Aiming High. The intention was to provide space for young women to talk about science, meet role models and to feel empowered to aim high. The day was well attended with very positive feedback.

Through such events, we continue to learn about the issues which influence young women and their choices. One of the interesting observations from the conference was the impact of two slides showing the range of courses and the range of jobs available (shown opposite) for those interested in science. Several students identified these slides as the most informative and revealing of the day. In presenting this information we drew on the work of WISE (a campaign to promote women in science, technology and engineering) which suggests that women are drawn to roles as much by the personal attributes required as by the technical content.

There are interesting parallels here with what we learn from our annual *Pathways to Success* conference. Young women are excited by the prospect of the breadth of opportunity ahead. They often falsely assume that the choices they make now will increasingly narrow their options for the future and that they are setting out on a linearly defined career path. Introducing them to the reality of the stimulating and multifaceted courses and careers that many women today choose may open their eyes to new ways of developing their own enthusiasms in science.



Student wearing a She Talks Science Hoodie

Find out more

If your school is interested in getting involved with She Talks Science, please contact our Admissions team: admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Read the She Talks Science blog: <https://shetalksscience.com/>

Celebrating Dr Owen Saxton's Career

Dr Owen Saxton retires in September 2016,
after 40 years at New Hall/Murray Edwards.

He has taught Physics at our College since 1975, became a Fellow in 1983 and has been Director of Studies since 1990. He has also been the College's Admissions Tutor, Senior Tutor, and Praelector.

Owen won the 1996 Ernst Ruska Prize, awarded every four years for the greatest contribution to electron microscopy in Europe, for his work on the phase problem and the development of the Semper Image processing system. He is also a non-executive director (and co-founder) of Synoptics Ltd (now SDI Ltd), which supported his research for some years.

Owen's departure will leave a large gap in our Physics teaching capacity but we are delighted to announce that we aim to fully fund a Lectureship in Physics, linked with the Department of Physics. We have an agreement with the Department that if we can raise two years of funding, just £180,000, they will then provide funding for the post thereafter. This is a fantastic opportunity and a fitting way to make sure that Owen's contribution to teaching physics is honoured. If you would like to say "Thank You", you can make a contribution at:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/owen-saxton-lectureship

Here our Fellows and alumnae share their memories of Dr Saxton.

Natalja Deng, Bye Fellow (NH 2000):

“Owen is always incredibly generous with his time. I seem to remember that we could always approach him with problems we were stuck on, and that supervisions could last into the late evenings. At some point near the beginning of my degree, he and my older sister (who’d also been his student) were chatting, and she hinted to me that his meetings sometimes overran. To which he replied: ‘That’s slander!’ Being his student was a privilege and a joy.”

Dr Raphael Lyne, Fellow in English:

“Owen’s generosity with his time, especially where students are concerned, is well-known, and it’s been inspiring. I have enjoyed finding out that certain unbelievable rumours (‘he won’t let people leave until they understand!’) appear to be true. And I have enjoyed seeing his surprised but kind face when I tell him about things I won’t do, lines I always draw... he always does the extra bit.”

Dr Alex Eggeman, Fellow in Materials Science:

“I work in a very similar area to Owen, such that the first paper I wrote was on an area of computer programs used for solving crystal structures from diffraction based on the GSF algorithm. Later, when developing a new process for fast simulation of electron scattering I was chatting with Owen and in one comment along the lines of “Oh, so I suppose you’re just calculating phase shifts for each atom to include then...” he single-handedly solved a major problem I was having with the speed of the software. That work ended up being published in a special edition of Ultramicroscopy for Owen’s birthday, though he modestly declined to be an author of the article. Quite a useful chap to have around.”

Dr Alexander Piotrowski, Fellow in Earth Sciences:

“Owen is always happy to give his time and wisdom to students, in his many roles such as Natural Sciences Director of Studies, supervising Physics and Maths, and also for the larger student community during the time period when he was Senior Tutor. His office door is always open and he’s always been happy to offer advice, an additional supervision, or problem-solving session to a student whose calculation has gone astray. Furthermore, he deeply cares about the students of our College in the long-term, from the admissions process through to their graduation. He delights in welcoming alumni when they return to College and finding out about how their lives, studies, and careers have progressed.”

Yvonne Deng (NH 1996):

“I was fortunate to not only have Owen as my DoS and IA Physics supervisor: he also presented me for my degrees at Senate House. I remember his pure joy at explaining the proceedings and helping us practise the century-old rituals despite having presumably been through it many times. Owen’s extensive knowledge extended much beyond the fluent presentations in Latin and included the correct way to wear a Cambridge academic hood for the ceremony. It was such a thrill doing the walk down Castle Hill with my peers with our colourful hoods all folded nice and flat to one side, just as they should be.”

Dr Penelope Wilson, Emeritus Fellow:

“Owen and I have been in and around the College together for four out of its six decades (though you wouldn’t believe it to look at either of us). It isn’t enough to say that he is always the most dependable and supportive of colleagues in a huge range of roles and interactions. As well as being a bedrock of collegial values and continuity, he is also representative of the ethos of the College at its most dynamic: I think particularly of the stylish guardianship of his Senate House appearances, and his tireless encouragement and support of Murray Edwards music. Owen’s active involvement in Murray Edwards over so many years has been the stuff on which colleges are built, and generations of students to come will continue to be the beneficiaries.”

Elizabeth Pulman née Nixey (NH 2002):

“My memories of Dr Saxton now span 15 years, from meeting him at a higher education fair and deciding to apply to New Hall partly on the basis of how approachable and friendly he was, and is, to him putting up with my eight month old son grabbing his glasses, name badge, tie and nose with very good grace at an alumnae event in April this year. In between, I remember memories of supervisions in his office and telling me he was using algorithms to help him with his filing. What remains with me more strongly is a sense of his kindness, cheerfulness, and his wholehearted commitment to both his students and New Hall as a whole.”

Celebrate Dr Saxton’s Career with us

Join us for a special dinner with Owen during alumnae weekend on Saturday 24 September.

Book here:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/shop/alumnae

Help support a new Fellow in Physics, give here:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/owen-saxton-lectureship

UPDATES FROM THE NEW HALL

ART COLLECTION

By Eliza Gluckman, Art Curator



Perpetual Spring by Eileen Cooper RA now displayed in the Dome

Our Art Curator, Eliza Gluckman, discusses the recent focus on feminism and gender for the New Hall Art Collection and new works acquired by leading artists, including Eileen Cooper RA and Gwen Raverat.

Feminism and Gender have been our focus during Lent and Easter terms this year, turning our attention to significant works in the collection by artists active in the 1960s–2000s. With the globally acclaimed conceptual and feminist artist Mary Kelly's work in the Dome being the catalyst for the collection, it is no surprise that we have some key works by her US and UK counterparts; Miriam Schapiro, Jo Spence and Judy Chicago to name a few.

“ The [Guerilla] Girls came to fame in the 1980s when a group of anonymous women artists decided to create a poster campaign in response to the appalling lack of women artists represented in exhibitions at public institutions. ”

Until September there is a focus on these works and an exhibition by guest artist Rachael House. House is well known for her hand-drawn cartoon-style zines, banners and performance works. Her banners adorn the Library and her photography and sculpture can be found in the lower Fountain Court. A huge piñata of the word ‘Heteronormativity’ was hung in the Dome stairwell and encouraged interesting debate. In June, students, staff and the public helped to destroy the piñata, followed by a conversation between the artist and alumna Dr Nina Wakeford (NH 1987), sociologist and artist.

With equality in the art world on our minds we are thrilled to announce that the US-based Guerrilla Girls will be taking to our stage in October for one of their infamous performance lectures. The ‘Girls’ came to fame in the 1980s when a group of anonymous women artists decided to create a poster campaign in response to the appalling lack of women artists represented in exhibitions at public institutions – the poster cried out ‘Do Women Have to be Naked to Get in to the Met Museum?’ Each new poster since then has put in print the glaring statistics that highlight inequality in the art world.

Our new acquisitions have seen us secure our position in representing the best of British painting. We were delighted to accept *Sun, Stars, Dawn* (1996) as a permanent gift from Gillian Ayres CBE and her gallery Alan Cristea; this has been on loan for the past two years. We have also received gifts from Mali Morris RA, Sonia Lawson RA and most recently Rose Wylie and Chantal Joffe; and the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust have agreed to a long-term loan. With Eileen Cooper RA (and current Keeper of the Royal Academy) announced as a new Honorary Fellow of the College in June, and her generous gift of a new work, *Perpetual Spring* (2016), we can be incredibly proud of our Collection’s paintings.

Two other major contributions arrived in May. The first is an exciting series of photographs, *Cockaigne* (2004), of fantasy landscapes made of food by the artist Gayle Chong Kwan, which hang in the Fellow’s Dining Room. The second is a bequest of prints, paintings and lithographs by Gwen Raverat, nee Darwin (1885–1957) whose family famously owned the land the College is built on. Dick Chapman and Ben Duncan, a local couple who showed great support for the Collection, and had known Raverat and her family, bequeathed this significant legacy.

We are grateful as ever to our Advisory Group and particularly Gill Hedley who chaired a panel discussing the crossover of science and art practice. Keen to explore how we might create new collaborations between Fellows and artists, we witnessed three artists’ very different ways of working.

The new academic year will begin with an installation work by local artist CJ Mahony, and a collaborative display with Kettle’s Yard of works by Elisabeth Vellacott and Gwen Raverat. October is also the Festival of Ideas and we will host Wysing Arts Centre for a seminar. We are delighted to be working with our fellow arts organisations and making new friendships across the University.

With funding in place to support my role for the next three years we are beginning to take a long view of the Collection. Aside from seeking an endowment for the role, this year we are applying for official accreditation of the Collection through the Arts Council and will be looking in to new areas of funding to ensure the Collection is recognised locally, nationally and internationally. The Guerrilla Girls will certainly start the new academic year off with a bang!

Find out more

The New Hall Art Collection is free to visit and open to the public daily from 10am-6pm. If you can’t visit in person, you can find out more on the website: <http://www.art.newhall.cam.ac.uk>

Visiting Alumnae in Hong Kong

by Fiona Duffy, Development Director

It's always a great pleasure to meet alumnae around the world, hear their stories and share news about the College.

© KEN FUNG



Fiona Duffy (centre) and Barbara Stocking (right) at the launch of the campaign for the University and Colleges of Cambridge in Hong Kong

In April, the College President and I made a special visit to Hong Kong to coincide with events to launch the fundraising campaign for the Colleges and University of Cambridge. This significant launch and the success so far (£800 million raised towards the shared target of £2 billion!) was celebrated at the Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong with a gala dinner for alumni of the University and its supporters.

We were delighted to be hosted at the Kwai Fung Hin Art Gallery by its founder Catherine Kwai for our alumnae gathering during the visit. Catherine has been advising our Art Curator, Eliza Gluckman, about acquiring art from Hong Kong and Greater China – watch out for more news on this in 2017. Several local artists joined the evening and shared a buzzing discussion

about our plans. Dr Rachel Leow, College Fellow in History and University Lecturer in Modern East Asian History also gave a presentation on the research behind her latest book, *Taming Babel: Language in the Making of Malaysia*.

The local representatives for Hong Kong will be getting in touch this summer with all local alumnae to check your details.

We especially want your work details so that we can make sure we can put new students in touch with alumnae and offer networking that will springboard their careers. If you've not confirmed your details recently you can do so on the College website: <http://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/webforms/update-your-details>

*Alumnae dinner at Kwai Fung Hin Art Gallery
with founder Catherine Kwai (bottom right)*

This significant launch and the success so far was celebrated at the Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong with a gala dinner for alumni of the University and its supporters.



Dr Valerie Pearl

Obituary

Dr Valerie Pearl (née Bence)

President of New Hall from 1981 to 1996, passed away on Saturday 20 February 2016.

Valerie was born on 31 December 1926, the daughter of Cyril Bence, the former Labour Party Member of Parliament for East Dunbartonshire. She was educated at St Anne's College, Oxford, going up in 1946 and gaining a Second-Class degree in Modern History. She subsequently gained a D.Phil. for her thesis, supervised by Christopher Hill, on London and the outbreak of the Puritan Revolution 1625–1643. This was published in revised form by the Oxford University Press in 1961.

In 1949, Valerie married Morris Pearl, with whom she had a daughter, Sara. Between 1965 and 1968, Pearl was a Lecturer in History at Somerville College, Oxford. She moved to University College London (UCL) as Reader in London History; later holding a Chair in the same subject.

Dr Pearl was elected as President of New Hall in 1981. During her time at College, major building works were undertaken with the help of the Kaetsu Educational Foundation, Tokyo, to add 112 student rooms in Pearl House, and a lecture hall and conference facilities, the Kaetsu Educational and Cultural Centre. Her interest in art – developed through the artists she came to know at the Slade during her years at UCL as well as through her daughter Sara Holdsworth, a curator at Manchester Art Gallery – was instrumental in setting up the New Hall Art Collection.

A Room of One's Own

by Cat Middleton, Deputy Development Director

Our Deputy Development Director shares alumnae's memories of Orchard Court and the College plans to refurbish Staircase F (formerly Staircase C).

A photograph of two young women sitting on a green lawn in front of a brick building with a dome. The woman on the left is seen from the back, wearing a blue tank top and a patterned skirt. The woman on the right is wearing a floral shirt and sunglasses. There are some items on the grass in front of them, including a green container and a plate.

“Undergraduates and Graduates living in College are asked not to stick anything on their wall either with sellotape, gum or paste. Sellotape or gum on the wall leaves a mark which is almost impossible to get off, and the walls will quickly become disfigured if the marks made in this way remains on the walls”

Note from Miss Murray, October 1966

“I remember the sound of high heels clip clopping along the corridors on A block at 3am on a regular basis. Orchard Court had a really friendly atmosphere, and we were always in and out of each other’s rooms.”

(Alumna 2002)



A non-refurbished room in Orchard Court



Students walking in the grounds of Orchard Court

Many alumnae will have fond memories of their very own room when they first joined the College. Full of promise of the rich experiences to come, and a haven from the hectic round of Cambridge lectures, supervisions, formals and sports training. A room of one’s own is a place to think and to grow.

Memories of Orchard Court (or ‘Old Block’ as many current students still call it) differ greatly, as one would expect. To some, especially those who were among the first to experience the pioneering design of its rooms, it was inventive and architecturally daring. But not always entirely practical, as College President, Dame Barbara Stocking remembers: “Getting up the stairs was hard enough, but getting down them was almost impossible!” Jane Evans (née Rice, NH 1965) recalls, in College publication *New Hall Lives II*, the location of the washbasins and cooking area: “Just inside the inward opening doors so that incautious undergraduates could send their roommates flying.”

Some, however, have more positive memories: “I remember the room’s characteristic corky smell and the luxurious under-floor heating, unheard of in the sixties” wrote Sue Rippon (née Tollworthy, NH 1967). For many the revolutionary system offered an inventive way of drying clothes, but for the less organised it could be a problem: vinyl records and chocolate didn’t fare so well if left on the floor.

Orchard Court is itself in transition. In 2009, three of its six staircases (bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, wiring and plumbing) were completely renovated, refurbished and upgraded, thanks to the generosity of alumnae and friends of the College. What had been refreshingly new in the 60s served its purpose well for many years: now today’s students in the newly refurbished areas benefit from carpeted rooms, bigger kitchens and more bathroom facilities.

Three staircases remain relatively untouched and pretty much as they were built in 1965, cork tiles and all. The College is working with alumnae year groups to update Staircase F (formerly Staircase C) next summer. The aim is to ensure that these precious spaces, often witness to the beginning of lifelong friendships and a blossoming sense of new options and possibilities, continue to provide a welcoming sanctuary and the chance to develop and grow.

Were you on C staircase?

Contact Cat Middleton to share your memories with us by calling **01223 69317** or emailing: cm475@cam.ac.uk

Further details of the refurbishment of Orchard Court can be found online:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/orchard-court

#GardenerJo

We asked for your gardening questions through social media this summer. Here, our Head Gardener Jo Cobb answers your horticultural queries.



A. Oh dear! You might come home to marrows if the weather is wet. If you cannot get a neighbour to water the plants and do the harvest, you might invest in an automatic watering system to help over the holidays. I have not tried it myself as we have arrangements in our road so all plants are watered when people are away. The down side is neighbours can be like the ravening horde with edibles!



A. I recently moved to a house to where all four of the horseman of the suburban garden apocalypse grew in profusion, e.g. brambles, bindweed, Japanese knotweed, and ground. I have managed to get rid of bindweed and knotweed, but the others are thriving. I cleared the beds and used glyphosate (tumbleweed) weedkiller on them with some success. For some reason, the brambles seemed to laugh at it by dying back and returning. I have to accept that nothing will eradicate my ground elder.

All is not lost though with the brambles. Cut them back and dig them out for several years running and consider spraying them every autumn and you have a chance of winning the battle and getting your garden back.

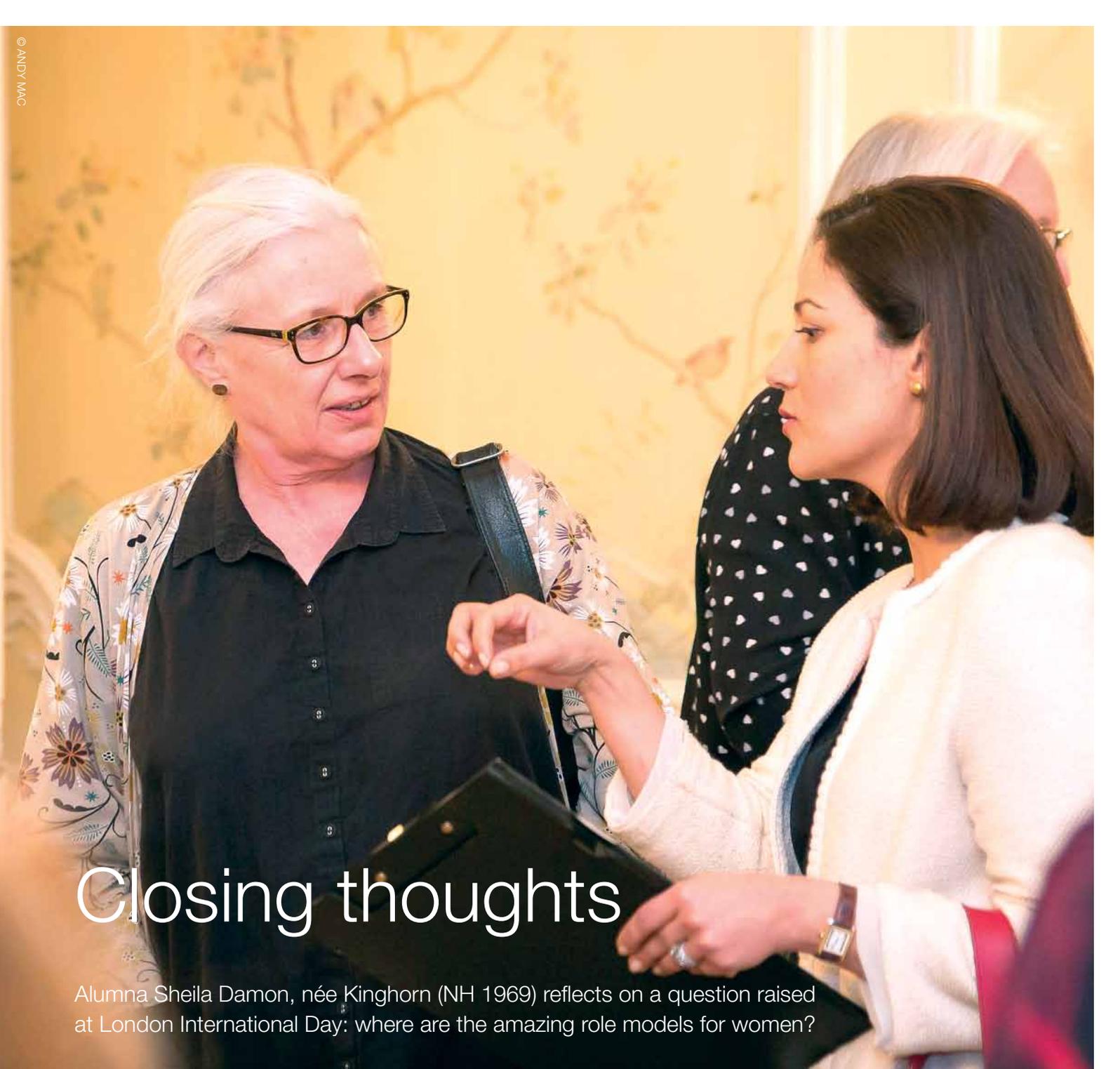


A. For the Arum, first just dig it up and put it in a pot and if watered well it should be fine. I've done this myself and I found that the Arum went down surprisingly deep and is comprised of funny dough nut like bulbs. I counted over 30 in one clump so you can split them or just put them in a pot with lots fibrous compost or leaf mould.. The plant may go dormant in winter but should be ok for next year.

The rose is different. The principle is to balance the root system with the top growth, which is the basis of bonsai, sort of what you are doing here. When you cut the roots you have to reduce the stems accordingly. Use a compost with loam in like John Innes No 3 and as large a pot as you can lift /buy, at least 15 inches diameter. The rose may not like it and may sulk or even die but you will have tried. Filled with JIP3 the pot will be heavy. I use a sack barrow to move all my large pots round the garden with ease.



A. Good grief that needs a botanist to say what's going on really. The stem has grown out of the meristem at the centre of the flower for some reason that only science can explain. This would be a good argument for reinstating of the Botany A-Level I think.



Closing thoughts

Alumna Sheila Damon, née Kinghorn (NH 1969) reflects on a question raised at London International Day: where are the amazing role models for women?

“ Look around at your fellow alumnae – everyone of us is special, starting with your Cambridge education. Whether you are conventionally successful, or have, for example, been amazing at overcoming adversity, each of you has more amazing qualities than you may realise. We need to stop and reflect on how we can each be amazing role models for those who follow us, and find ways of connecting with them. These, for us as women, may be unconventional ways. ”

Upcoming Events

Capitalism on the Edge

The second year of the lecture series discussing the future of capitalism continues this autumn.

All lectures will be in our Buckingham House Conference Centre and are free to attend.

Wednesday 2 November 2016

Dr Rowan Williams (Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge) – Ethical Capitalism

Thursday 1 December 2016

Danny Dorling (University of Oxford) and Kate Pickett (University of York) – Capitalism and Inequality

Further dates will be confirmed shortly. For the latest updates, please visit:

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/capitalism

Alumnae events

23–25 September 2016

Alumnae weekend

Wednesday 21 October 2016

Professional Development Lunch

Thursday 2 March 2017

International Women's Day – London

Saturday 11 March 2017

New Hall Society International Women's Day – Cambridge

Saturday 1 April 2017

MA Day

Sunday 2 April 2017

Boat Race Day

For further details about upcoming events, please visit:

<http://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/events>



Keep in touch



Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MurrayEdwardsCollege



Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MECCambridge>



Join our Linked In group:

<https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=3268982>



Join us on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/murrayedwardscollege/>



Follow us on Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/meccambridge/>



#SheTalksScience: Our blog encouraging young women to engage with others who share their passion for science:

<http://shetalksscience.com/>

CORRECTION: In the Murray Edwards College Report and New Hall Society Review 2015, we incorrectly published alumna Jane Evans' (née Rice) email address. She is the Year Representative for 1965 and can be contacted on: je@janeevans.co.uk

Visit us

We welcome our alumnae to come back and catch-up on College life. All our alumnae are free to visit the College at any time.

We enjoy seeing alumnae in the Dome and they are entitled to a free meal every year. They are also welcome to three additional meals at the guest price every term.

Alumnae can also stay in College in a single and twin en-suite room for £50.40 and £76.80 respectively.

Don't forget that you can visit our gardens and the New Hall Art Collection daily from 10am – 6pm.

To book a meal or room, please email: events@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

For further information visit:

<http://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/benefits>