

# The Dolphin



Murray Edwards  
College  
University of Cambridge

ISSUE 51 // AUTUMN 2018



## MENTORING PROGRAMME p.14

Alurna Helen Stevenson shares her experience of being part of our programme.



## MEET OUR NEW CURATOR p.16

Get to know Harriet Loffler, who has recently joined us from Norwich Castle.



## YEAR IN THE GARDEN p.24

Head Gardener Jo Cobb talks us through the garden's year.



# From the President



WINSTON SANDERS

**Dame Barbara Stocking**  
President

Community. A word often used, but one that really reflects New Hall / Murray Edwards. Without people, a building is a collection of bricks and mortar – and in this case our people are very special. As President and alumna, I am often asked how the College today compares to when I was here as a student, and the answer is it still feels the same. There are more students and more buildings, but the core remains unchanged: a commitment to social justice, students who are passionate about fighting for what feels unjust and wrong.

What I love most about our community is that people never really leave. Countless alumnae return every year – for work, for friendship, for our students, for our events – and it is this that makes the College such a special place. Right now, we have alumna Professor Dr. Christina Strunck (New Hall, 1991) with us as Visiting Professor from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität to research the design of our unique buildings (which you can read about on pages 4-5). We have alumnae like Claudia Bray (New Hall, 1993) who, as a teacher and member of the New Hall Society Committee, experience the College in different ways; on pages 12-13, Claudia reflects on the lessons it has taught her. We have alumnae supporting each other through their different career and life journeys – read about how Helen Stevenson (New Hall, 1981) has been supporting Sarah Hindley (Murray Edwards, 2008) on pages 14-15. And we also have alumnae sharing their experiences of studying here to inspire current and prospective students – one recent alumna spoke to students about how intermitting for a year helped her development. As a young woman who is flying now, that could not provide a stronger message for those students having a tough time.

This ethos of support continues and continues. Just recently a male colleague in the University who had never visited the College came to see me. His first impression? It feels like home. What a compliment to that ongoing vision of providing a place where everyone – students, Fellows, staff – are welcome and can achieve their best.

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COVER IMAGE: BARBARA AND MEMBERS OF THE MURRAY EDWARDS COLLEGE BOAT CLUB PICTURED AT MAY BUMPS 2018.

LEFT: FOUNTAIN COURT AT SUNSET.

BOTH IMAGES: MARTIN BOND PHOTOGRAPHY

# The architecture of New Hall: separating fact from fiction



**Professor Dr. Christina Strunck is working in our archive to discover the real stories behind the College buildings.**



MARTIN BOND PHOTOGRAPHY



As an undergraduate I was unable to appreciate the beauty of New Hall – it simply came off as second-best compared to the picturesqueness of the old Cambridge colleges. However, when I returned in 2016 in order to participate in the inspiring conference on British 17th century mural painting organised by Murray Edwards' Fellow Dr. Lydia Hamlett, I began to see things differently. I noticed the many learned “quotations” that give additional meaning to the buildings, expressing a particular vision of women’s education.

As the materials kept in the College archive demonstrate, this vision was elaborated in an intense dialogue between the New Hall Building Committee, spearheaded by Rosemary Murray, and the London architect Peter Chamberlin. His practice, Chamberlin Powell & Bon, is today best known for the Barbican Centre which Piers Gough defined as “still the most spectacular man-made public or private space in London”. Chamberlin’s designs for New Hall are on a smaller scale, but with just the same intricate balance and originality. The College archive holds



PAT HOUGHTON



dozens of plans that show how he played around with the most surprising of ideas – for instance, at one point he envisaged the Hall in the shape of a giant flower with a circular High Table in its centre! I deeply enjoy exploring these materials and am most grateful to Barbara Stocking for inviting me to do so.

Professor Dr. Christina Strunck is an alumna (New Hall, 1991) and Visiting Professor from the Institute of Art History at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg. She will be sharing her discoveries at Alumnae Weekend.

## YOUR STORIES

**We asked alumnae to write in and tell us the “stories” behind the College buildings that circulated during their time...**

“In our year the story was that a) the architect had only worked in Nigeria and didn't understand that you can't have flat roofs in England without the rain getting in b) his only other achievement had been to construct an airport.”

**Cherry Lee-Wade**  
(aka Gilchrist, née Phillips),  
New Hall, 1967

“In my day we just knew (assumed?) it had been designed for New Hall. It was a stylish modern building, and we were proud of the design. We didn't need to make up “excuses” for it!”

**Elaine Shipton,**  
New Hall, 1978

“In the late 70's one rumour was that it had originally been designed for an embassy in the Middle East!”

**Lorraine Hodgson**  
(née Savage),  
New Hall, 1975

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We are excited that this summer will see the long-awaited work to renovate Orchard Court F staircase and install new windows across F, G and H staircases take place. Thank you to all the donors who have given so far, and to those who continue to raise funds for the renovation of G and H staircases. If you'd like to find out more about how you can support this work, please contact the Director of Development, Fiona Duffy: [fiona.duffy@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.duffy@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk).

# Student research

**Alexis Opferman is studying for an MPhil in International Relations with us, researching the impact of EU-Afghanistan agreements that encourage repatriation of refugees and the organisations that support them.**



Alexis, pictured lower right standing on the ground, sorting clothes with other volunteers in Calais.



**Alexis joined us in October from the US Naval Academy, where she studied for a bachelor's degree in ocean engineering. Before starting her MPhil, Alexis volunteered in Athens and the Calais 'Jungle' to support relief efforts for refugees. Currently back in Athens for research, she spoke to Fiona Duffy (our Director of Development) about her work.**

### **F: How did you become interested in this topic?**

**A:** During my time in the 'Jungle' and in Athens, I became aware of the inequality regarding how refugees from Afghanistan are treated when they apply for asylum compared to those from Syria. Applications from Syrians are approved very quickly, allowing them to access the provisions for asylum seekers in the country where they have chosen to settle – whereas applications from Afghan asylum seekers are handled very slowly, and can take up to a year for a negative response to be received. This meanwhile leaves the Afghan asylum seekers in a state of limbo. I realised that this inequality of treatment is related to an EU agreement with Afghanistan whereby there is an economic incentive for the EU country and Afghanistan

to repatriate asylum seekers. I became interested in the impact that this policy has, socially and economically, on both the refugees and the NGOs who are trying to support them.

### **F: So what are you doing in Athens?**

**A:** I'm shadowing a range of NGOs and community groups who are providing support to Afghan refugees in Athens who have applied for asylum. What I'm observing is that, because of the length of time it takes to process their asylum applications, Afghans are forced into a situation of long-term insecurity whereby they don't have proper access to the resources they need to get by. The NGOs that exist to support them were only set up to provide emergency provisions, such as housing and food, for when the Afghan refugees first arrived – but because these refugees are kept in a state of limbo while their application is processed, and most probably denied, the NGOs have to provide long-term support, which they just aren't set up to do, making them inefficient. So the refugees are trapped in limbo, and the NGOs are trapped in limbo. It's a stalemate.

### **F: Are you seeing anything that's making a difference?**

**A:** Yes, as well as the NGOs, there are also some community groups springing up to support the Afghan refugees. These groups are having more success; they are focusing on providing social and welfare support that centres on getting people through the period of instability and provides an avenue for refugees to stay mentally engaged. It's been interesting to observe the relative freedom that they have compared to the NGOs.

# Celebrating academic success

**Congratulations to our Finalists! This year, 92% achieved a First or a 2:1 and almost one third achieved a First or equivalent.**



We are extremely proud of all of our students this year, who have achieved some fantastic results across all subjects. It is particularly pleasing to see so many of our graduands leaving us with such excellent results, and we wish them the very best as they move on to the next stage of their lives.

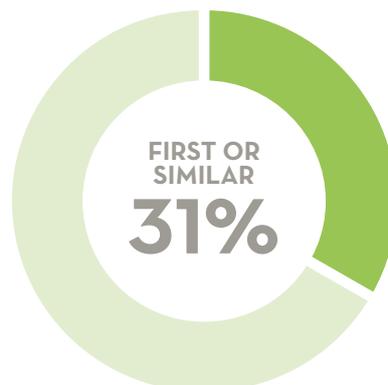
**Dr Juliet Foster**  
Senior Tutor



The people here are what make Medwards so amazing. The gardeners create chill-out spots such as a mini beach or the nest, and grow fresh herbs, spinach, and flowers for you to pick. The librarians decorate the library with inspirational posters and provide tea, biscuits and nail art suppliers to give you a break during that essay crisis. We have the best porters who will happily discuss their day with you but are also so helpful that they will make you question how you ever lived without them! We also have the most approachable Fellows, who make the demands of a Cambridge degree that little bit more manageable. Everyone here contributes to the positive and supportive atmosphere that is synonymous with Murray Edwards College.

**Mrudula Utukuri**  
Pre-Clinical Medic

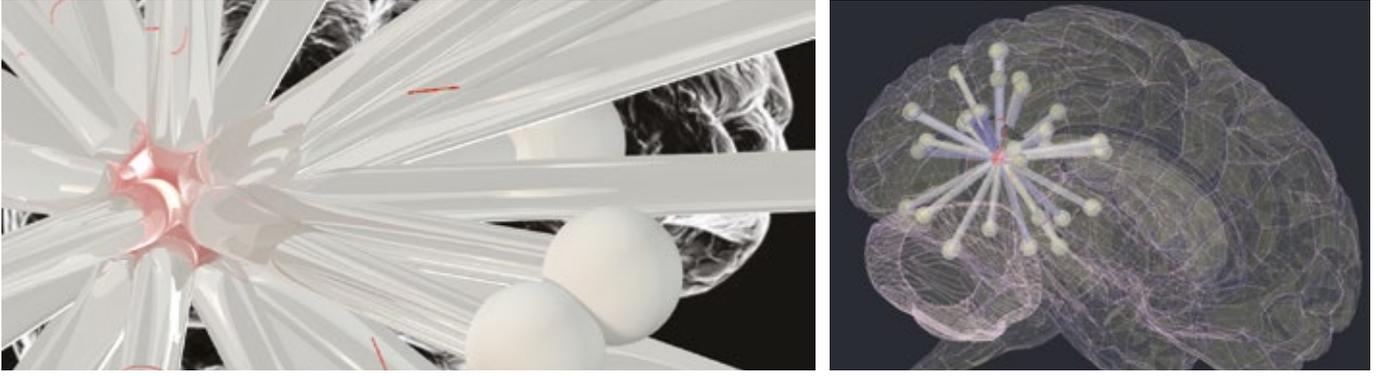
## RESULTS AT A GLANCE





MARTIN BOND PHOTOGRAPHY

General Admission 2018:  
Students leave Senate House  
after receiving their degree.



# How does dementia spread through the brain?



**Dr Thomas Cope, Fellow in Clinical Medicine at Murray Edwards, tells us about his fascinating research into how dementia spreads.**

The ultimate goal of dementia research is to prevent or reverse changes in cognitive function, early in the evolution of disease. My research aims to fill the missing link between the progress that has been made in molecular and small animal laboratories and the clinical trials that will be needed to evaluate future treatments for dementia. I do this with brain imaging.

In one recent study (<https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/awx347>) I asked: “how does dementia spread through the brain?”

We know that the abnormal proteins that cause damage in dementia start in just a few cells but that, over decades, they end up involving the whole brain. There are several theories as to how this happens. The first is that the abnormal proteins spread across the connections between neurons, like an infection. Alternatively, it might be that the abnormal proteins arise independently in neurons that are vulnerable due to either having high energy requirements or a lack of nutritional support.

I combined two advanced brain imaging techniques in

patients with two contrasting dementias: Alzheimer’s disease, which involves the whole brain, and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, in which only the base of the brain is damaged. The first, positron emission tomography, allowed me to directly observe the abnormal proteins in living patients, to see exactly how much of it was present in each part of the brain. The second, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), allowed me to observe the pattern of connections between brain regions.

In this way, I was able to show that Alzheimer’s disease could only be explained by abnormal ‘tau’ proteins spreading between neurons like an infection. This has important implications, because new treatment strategies that could stop this process at an early stage could potentially ‘lock up’ tau pathology before it can cause significant damage. In Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, by contrast, the patterns were better explained by cellular vulnerability. This underlines that in future, much like different cancers, different dementias are likely to have different treatments.

# Meet our new Fellows

**This academic year we were joined by Dr Teije Donker, and in October Dr Anastasia Khukhro and Gavin Stevenson will join us.**



**Dr Teije Donker**  
Supernumerary Fellow in Sociology

My research interests fall at the intersection of political sociology, state-society interactions and Middle East area studies. Particularly, I focus on how mobilized Islam intersects with state authorities in Muslim majority countries. I started out researching this topic in Syria under Bashar, and currently compare rebel controlled Syria with Tunisia and Turkey.



**Gavin Stevenson**  
Research Fellow in Sociology

My scholarship utilises feminist, queer and anti-racist theory within the sociology of emotions to examine the feeling of being offended. My PhD research is a study of how “offence” moves through the institution of Cambridge and has the appearance of sticking to particular bodies and not others as a means of exploring the uneven distribution of this feeling.



**Dr Anastasia Khukhro**  
College Teaching Officer in Maths

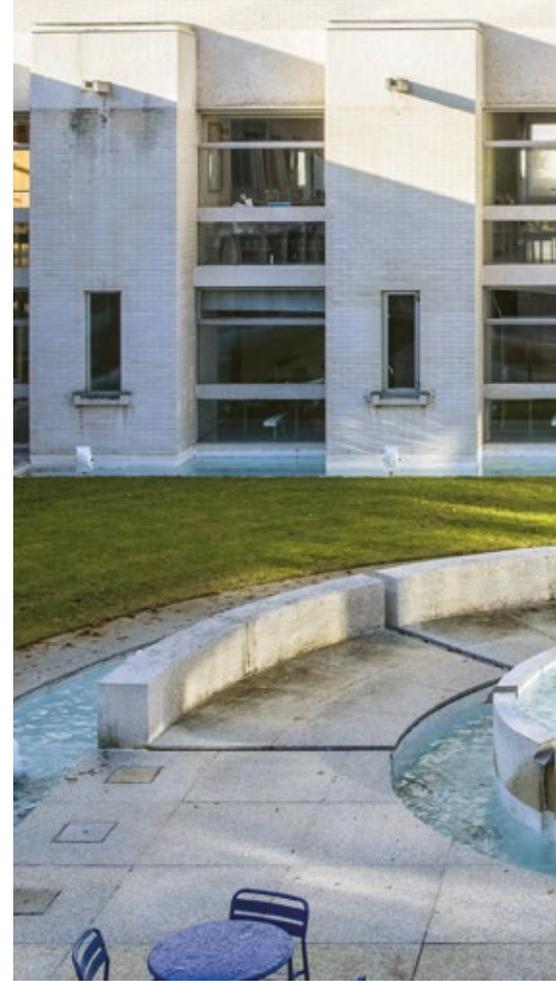
My work lies at the intersection of algebra and geometry. If one wants to find an interesting graph (a set of nodes connected by edges) with certain desirable properties, it may not be practical to delve into the world of all possible graphs to look for it by hand. A way to solve this problem is to take objects that are better understood, and to try to use them to construct the desired graph. Groups, being algebraically defined objects with a lot of intrinsic structure, can be used very effectively in this setting. Exploiting the often beautiful and surprising connections between groups and associated graphs helps us learn more about both objects, and has implications for many branches of mathematics.



**My PhD research is a study of how “offence” moves through the institution of Cambridge.**

# Life lessons from New Hall

**Alumna and member of the New Hall Society Committee Claudia Bray (née Freeman - New Hall, 1993) reflects on the life lessons she has learned from New Hall.**



This year I am celebrating my ninth year of involvement with the New Hall Society Committee. In wedding anniversary terms, that is willow. Flexible and strong: a perfect reflection of my relationship with the College!

I joined the New Hall Society Committee in 2009, on the encouragement of the former college librarian, Alison Wilson. Returning to New Hall after a long gap, I was most struck by the flowers, the plants, the gardens – everywhere was blooming in colour and textures. The atmosphere was warm, cosy, quirky, accepting. This was what I liked about New Hall as a student, and that's what I can see is still alive and kicking at Murray Edwards now.

When I was a student in the 90s, I found the transition to University quite challenging. The new environment was greatly different to the state comprehensive I had come from, but I soon discovered like-minded people and we bonded over cups of moonflower tea on my room's balcony.

Now, as a teacher and supporting young people in their university applications, I see studying at Murray Edwards in a different light. It's a super place. There are many



MARTIN BOND PHOTOGRAPHY

opportunities available for sixth formers to get involved with the outreach programmes and open events before applying. If you have an interest in your subject, something which gets you fired up, share that. This College is open-minded, forward-thinking, and unconventional – not to mention teaching you skills for life.

For more information about applying to the College, please contact Admissions: [admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk).



**This College is open-minded, forward-thinking, and unconventional.**

## LIFE LESSONS

### 1

#### Stamina & speed

The fast cycle to lectures has now become the mad dash from work up the hill (yes, there is a hill in Cambridge) to pick my boys up from after-school club. This time, without two Sainsbury's bags precariously swinging on the handle-bars.

### 2

#### Ingenuity

Being able to cook and eat with minimal equipment / improvisation - I think we have all been there, making one pot meals and being creative with vessels.

### 3

#### Finding your passions & determination

There's something for everyone; find what you love and stick at it. During my studies I was involved with the New Hall Music Society, the Chocolate Society, the Cambridge Union, and sang in a couple of choirs.

### 4

#### Courage to be yourself

I made some super friends during my time at New Hall who I'm still in touch with today. Although I don't see them as much as before, we have many happy memories. Through the New Hall Society and alumnae events, I have met even more inspiring women from all sorts of backgrounds. The common theme is that they all have an energy about themselves, which propels them forward in everything they do. They too are flexible and strong.

# Murray Edwards mentoring programme

**Our mentoring programme is back and better than ever. With over 50 alumnae taking part in 2017/18, we're delighted with what has been achieved.**

**We asked pairing Helen Stevenson and Sarah Hindley to reflect on their experience:**



**Mentor:**

Helen Stevenson (New Hall, 1981)

## What made you apply to be a mentor?

**H:** Having mentored a number of colleagues informally at work (via our Women's Network), I was keen to take up a new opportunity where I could draw on my experiences to help other alumnae navigate some of the challenges they might be facing in their workplace or in their career.

## How have you found the experience so far?

**H:** Hugely rewarding! Our discussions have been very productive (I hope Sarah agrees!) and I really look

forward to our monthly catch-ups. We are based in different parts of the country, so I was a little uncertain initially about having calls rather than meeting face to face but this hasn't been a problem at all. What I didn't anticipate was how much I'd gain myself; I often come away reflecting on how I might apply things we've discussed to myself, prompting some 'personal' mentoring.

## What would you say to a fellow alumna considering becoming a mentor?

**H:** Do sign up! It's a relatively small time commitment (a couple of hours a month, depending on how you often you both agree to catch up) and the initial half day training run by Hilary and Sarah provides helpful pointers and a chance to role play / gain feedback from fellow participants. You don't even necessarily need to be matched with someone in your own sector – what's more important are the specific challenges your mentee wishes to explore and how your knowledge and experience might help her consider and assess her options.



**Mentee:**

Sarah Hindley (Murray Edwards, 2008)

## What was the main thing you were looking for from mentoring?

**S:** I was at a crossroads with my career and needed support with where to go next. I didn't know which way to turn; whether a change of sector, a change of role or a change of location would be best. I needed someone to objectively help me navigate the maze of decisions, breaking them down in order to make sure I was making the right choices.

## How have the logistics worked?

**S:** As we live quite a distance from each other, we haven't managed to meet in person, but the mentoring sessions over the phone have been tremendously helpful. We are hoping to meet face-to-face soon, not least because I'd like to thank Helen in person for her guidance.

## How have you found the experience so far?

**S:** Invaluable! I have finally been able to understand what drives me and where my career needs to go next. Helen has always listened carefully and thoroughly to my issues and worked with me to resolve them in a constructive and thoughtful manner. I am grateful to both Helen and

the College for helping me to overcome my professional barriers through this programme.

## What would you say to a fellow alumna considering applying for a mentor?

**S:** Apply now! It is such an amazing opportunity – professional mentoring can be costly and it's better to speak with another alumna who can relate to your experiences and with whom you can reminisce with about college! We are very fortunate to have this opportunity.

**As ever, we are incredibly grateful to our trainers Hilary Douglas (New Hall, 1968) and Sarah Gornall (New Hall, 1968) for their expertise in guiding our mentors to success.**

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For more information about mentoring, please contact:  
**newhallsociety@  
 murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk.**

# Meet our new curator

**We are delighted to announce that we have recently been joined by Harriet Loffler as Curator of the New Hall Art Collection. Alumna Jenny Sweeney (New Hall, 1964) met with her recently to find out more about Harriet and what her hopes are for the Collection.**



ABOVE: Harriet Loffler pictured at Norwich Castle.

TOP RIGHT: *On the Road to Chartres*, 1983, Dame Elisabeth Frink CH RA.

Harriet joins us from Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery where she has been Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art for nine years, during which time she contributed to it becoming a contemporary art destination, with high profile exhibitions of international artists such as in 2016, the British Art Show 8, a five-yearly exhibition organised by Hayward Touring.

Harriet knew she wanted to be a Curator from her undergraduate years. Vacation activities at Tate Modern and MOMA gave her a fascination for how art works are created and an understanding of how artists think. In New York, she worked with the curator Rob Storr which inspired her focus on contemporary artists and how she could communicate what they were expressing through their art. In the UK she worked with Claire Doherty on exhibitions in the public realm convincing Harriet that “art can be anywhere”. All this came together in an MA in Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art.

Harriet knows the New Hall Art Collection well since her family lives in Cambridge. However, still in her first few days, she finds it “full of surprises”. She is currently delighted with the vast Elisabeth Frink tapestry displayed



**There is a lot of interest by artists in the handmade, in craft more generally and how this relates to digital technology.**

in the SCR which fills the entire end wall. “We have such a range of works in the collection. There is a lot of interest by artists in the handmade, in craft more generally and how this relates to digital technology. I am interested in how art and design can complement each other.”

Murray Edwards College has always championed equality for women and Harriet wants to support those ideas through telling the stories embedded in the Collection. She is excited by the College’s modernist architecture and by its beautiful and imaginative gardens. She would like to work with architects, designers, fashion designers alongside artists to create large scale events.

Harriet is struck by the generosity of the College in making the Collection accessible: “The Collection is on permanent display to the public, free, with a guidebook you can follow throughout the College and grounds, enabling anyone to visit. It is also a permanent backdrop for our students. Something which colours their time in Cambridge and which they certainly appreciate.”

Thank you to Jenny Sweeney for this article.



# Remembering the College in your Will

**A legacy is a gift for the future. A gift that ensures the opportunities and support you experienced can continue for generations to come.**

As we look around the College today, we can feel the generosity of those who came before us in student bursaries, Fellowships, works for the New Hall Art Collection and even parts of our beautiful gardens.

The Murray Society, our Legacy Circle, currently has over 100 members, all of whom have notified us of their intention to leave a bequest to the College.

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If, after providing for your family, you are considering remembering the College in your Will, or would like further information on doing so, please contact Claire Cosgrave, Deputy Development Director: [claire.cosgrave@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk](mailto:claire.cosgrave@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk).





## MY STORY



**Ann Altman (New Hall, 1966), has taken the time to share with us why she feels it is so important for her to remember the College in her Will.**



I am leaving one tenth of my estate to the College. One of the purposes of bequests such as mine is to encourage others to act similarly. A second purpose is to memorialise someone who has made a difference. I hope that, no matter how large or small the eventual sum of money handed down to the College, the College will be able to use my example to encourage similar bequests in honour of members of the College who have been an inspiration to their students. There are few better forms of preparation for life than a Cambridge education. My father received one, and that debt is paid. I received one and, when I die, my debt will be paid also.

We are grateful to Ann, not only for her legacy but also for the Stephan Körner Graduate Studentship in memory of her father.

# A year in the garden

**Our Head Gardener Jo Cobb gives you the inside story on the work that goes into keeping our much-loved gardens beautiful all year round.**

Our year starts with Alumnae Weekend in September; to some a funny time to begin work in the garden, but we follow the academic calendar to the second. Aligning the scholastic and horticultural calendars is the College gardeners' wizard skill. The aim is to create a garden for our students to use and enjoy in term time.

For matriculation, we grow our brightest salvia. Dahlias like scorching pink Rosella and red Garden Wonder grow huge and even the little African marigolds, Tagetes 'Cinnabar' can reach over four feet tall. Behind the scenes, before the leaf clearing begins, we look forward to the bulb order delivery. It brings such promise for spring. During the winter we begin to crave the bright colours of the daffodils and tulips we planted for the next season.



**The aim is to create a garden for our students to use and enjoy in term time.**

Gardeners are always asked if they hide in the greenhouse all winter and the answer is definitely not. Winter is when we do all the heavy preparation for the year. In the last three weeks of the Lent term, the tiny Crocus tommasinianus carpet the lawns and the Tête-à-Tête daffodils are everywhere, looking as if busy squirrels have planted them.

By the beginning of the summer term, spring is in full growth. Whether it's because the Gardens Department is prone to excess or because nature finally takes over, spring at Murray Edwards is very floriferous. Tulips, cowslips and bleeding hearts disregard their boundaries while cherries, magnolias, and crab-apples seem to take the season to the heavens.

For Easter term and exams, we grow honesty, foxgloves, sweet rocket, cowparsley, and peonies in abundance so students can pick them for their rooms. The Iris Border has the orange *Papaver orientale* 'Walking Fire' sauntering through the blue *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' and smaller *Iris* 'Hell Cat'. A cloud of *Wisteria frutescens* 'Amethyst Falls' is suspended above. For a modern College we are very Cambridgey!

In June when all the feasting and parties happen, the rose garden is at its best. For Graduation Day in the last weekend of June we have tall campanulas and scented Philadelphus bushes. Our geranium collection now looks its meadowy best.

The academic year comes to an end and gardeners go on holiday. Maintenance Contractors take over the site and we start sowing next year's seed and planning the next extravaganza. 2019 will be very pink, we have decided.





# Gill Conquest

(1984 - 2017)

**Gill, who studied Archaeology and Anthropology at New Hall from 2003 to 2006, is remembered by family and friends.**

Gill made an amazing life out of her 32 years. At college she split her time between her Archaeology and Anthropology degree, developing her existing interests and her friends, leaving barely a few hours for rest. She combined academic brilliance with an innate sense of fun, being both a 1st class student of Anthropology and Joint President of the Cambridge Light Entertainment Society (CULES). Never one for the conventional, her hobbies at college ranged from pantomime to archery, from Kick Bo (kick boxing to upbeat dance music) to writing for Newsworthy, a student-run college newsheet.

Her openness and talent for making others feel comfortable to be themselves made for a busy social schedule of fancy dress formals, bops, Churchill Pav, Eurovision parties in Old Block rooms, theatre trips, and annual all-night punting parties. Gill was a woman who knew how to live life well and one could be forgiven for thinking that she barely had to work for her degree at all but intense late-night library sessions and a gift for comprehension of social theory ensured she left Cambridge with the degree she deserved.

In her vacations Gill volunteered several times with Campus Children's Holidays (for disadvantaged young people of Liverpool) and always sought for improving people's lives to be her career. Gill's Director of Studies, Dr Paola Filipucci, remembers her as an amazingly clever, vivid, imaginative young woman with huge amounts of energy and enthusiasm, so full of life and a huge desire to make a contribution in her life by helping others. She also returned to college to help with the Pathways programme, encouraging young women to apply to Cambridge.

Following her time at New Hall, she worked for Big Wide Talk (a children's charity encouraging communicative play) and did development work at a NGO in the Philippines improving access for disabled people. On her return to the UK, having worked in the social sciences, her love for her subject inspired her to further her studies, paying for a part-time Digital Anthropology Masters at UCL with night-shifts

writing summations of newspaper articles for company directors. Having discovered Digital Anthropology to be a subject worth her energy, she focused on preparing for a PhD with a further year-long course in Communications Technology and work for the project that would become the subject of her thesis. Fieldwork for the project took her to both DR Congo and Central African Republic. There she worked with the BaYaka group among other forest peoples, developing technology that allowed local peoples to accurately locate and report illegal logging activities in their hunting grounds – a project for which her social skills and gift for languages were admirably employed.

Throughout these post-New Hall years, Gill's love for the sea, originating from her childhood in a seaside town on the South coast of England, and strengthened by sailing trips with her family as a teenager, developed into a passion for sailing and she skippered several holidays with friends. Her love for theatre continued and she wrote and directed a show at the Edinburgh Fringe and was highly involved in many other Fringe performances. She performed an annual pantomime for ex-pats and locals in Luxembourg and even played the Principal Boy in a production of Jack and the Beanstalk in the last six months of her life whilst undergoing an intensive course of chemotherapy. Her cancer did not decrease her ability to fill her life with joy and her final year was as full as the previous three decades. Gill even found the time for entertaining a new hobby of attending rave events.

Gill's skills in connecting people never waned either and, if anything, increased so that her last few days were filled with friends and family providing lightly entertaining comfort. Although she was a much accomplished woman with incredible potential and the PhD she was so driven to achieve will now sadly be completed by others, it is her talent for bringing people together that will be missed the most. It was through her that disparate sets of people met and made enduring friendships. In this way her legacy of joy and laughter shall continue.



You can contact our friendly events team on:  
[events@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk)  
01223 762267



# Planning a special event or conference?

**Whether it's a wedding, milestone birthday, family reunion or conference, we would love to help you celebrate - and we offer special rates\* to alumnae who use the College as their venue!**

**We're proud to have looked after high profile clients such as British Association of Comparative Law, Royal Society of Chemistry, Addenbrooke's Hospital and various Cambridge University Departments, and would particularly love to support our alumnae!**

\*Alumnae receive 10% off the total cost of any booking, and 10% off the cost of a wedding package (conditions apply).



## WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

### Seasonal fine dining, or a bespoke menu

Created in partnership with our Head Chef.

### Two conference venues

Able to seat 150 people, with space for breakout sessions and AV facilities.

### An intimate, contemporary setting

For drinks and canapé receptions: the Fellows' Drawing Room.

### The ultimate "wow" factor

Of the Dome for weddings and large parties.

### On site accommodation

The College has 159 en-suite bedrooms, singles and twins available during vacations.







WINSTON SANDERS

## Keeping in Touch

Many alumnae will know that the law has changed regarding how organisations look after your information. The College takes this very seriously, and you can read our statement on this at <https://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/legal-operational-policies-and-publication-scheme/college-policies/data-protection/alumnae>. If you would like to change your communication preferences, or have any questions, please do contact us at [newhallsociety@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk](mailto:newhallsociety@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk).



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