

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

BIOGRAPHY BOOKLET - YEAR OF 1959

Foreword

This booklet has been compiled to mark the fiftieth anniversary of our coming up to Somerville in 1959, celebrated with a special *Golden Reunion* at the college in September 2009. Sixty-seven of us embarked on our undergraduate degrees together. Three are no longer in touch with the College and seven of our year group have died, some very prematurely. Of the fifty-nine members of the year group we were able to contact, fifty-five - and two postgraduate contemporaries - are included in this booklet. Through their biographical reflections and perspectives we can be in touch with one another again at this point in our lives.

Thinking back to Oxford and Somerville has evoked nostalgic recollections: people write of the beautiful historical setting; the bells on Sunday mornings; summer days on the river; lectures by iconic figures; conversation and coffee with friends; the adrenalin rush of cycling down St Giles on a cold November morning; reading, reading - in libraries, in bookshops and in bed. Writing of life since Somerville calls forth a fuller spectrum of experience and stories of struggle, success, sorrow and serenity. Our year group has its share of the eminent and famous, and we have been able to take pleasure in seeing our friends and acquaintances become household names and national treasures, present in the live and the printed media, in the House of Lords and in the National Portrait Gallery. Most of us have lived and worked out of the public eye, but through the telescope of these biographies appears an array of other stars in their own right. These accounts from our year group, covering many varied fields, reveal significant careers created, voluntary and altruistic roles undertaken, families nurtured and fulfilling lives led.

Liz Finch
January 2009

THE WAY WE WERE -

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE YEAR GROUP PHOTO, OCTOBER 1959



KEY (married name, if known, in brackets)

Top row: Austin (Black), Clarke, Vernon (Seaton), Payne (Maule), Forrest (Spurling), Mackenzie (Leonard), Jones (Orjollet), Coghlan (Henry), Willsher (Davidson Kelly), Lord (Miles), Packham (Robinson), Aitken, (Arie), Smiley (Thomas), Allison (Reid), Geiger (Baumberg), Baldry (Leedham Green), Vaizey (Lawrence), Sheppard (Freeman), McDougall (Dunlop), Johnston (Wollaston).

Middle Row (standing): Blair (Clarke), Avery, Harmsworth, Gamble (Finch), Prigg (Belsey), Cournand, Shepherd (Herrmann), Varnals, Turner (Mulholland), Sandbach (Dahlstrom), Mansell (Pattison), Pau, Holmes (Edwards), Wilkinson (Hughes), Antonovics (Eland), Deakin (Baker), Mackintosh (Gordon), Nehaul (Noone), Gaster, Bowler (Douglas), Hubback (Phillips), Holt (George), Charlesworth (Ormerod), Hedley (Baird Smith), Parry (Kenyon), Scadding (Hart).

Bottom Row: Boguslawska (Barker), Barfield (Noble), Southern (Wells), Hogarth (Barron), Giles (Wright), Glasser (Moray), Millington (Williams), Lodge (Bowen), Osborn (Day), Booth (Boon), Bull (Neumann), Gallagher (Clark), O'Neill, Hibberd (Hook), Moxham (Crean), Simpson-Jones, Lea (Mason), Rantzen (Wilcox), Lawrence (Costen).

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Eleanor ARIE (Aitken, Physiology, Medicine)



Reflections I came to Oxford from a Midland girls' grammar school. My teachers were unhappy at my choice of Somerville, in their view a hotbed of communism and worse. My family was supportive though they doubted my prospects for a career in medicine. When I arrived Somerville was bubbling with enthusiasm. Students had many passions, not only political. CND was at its height.

Opportunities for friendship abounded. We learned to read, judge and think for ourselves among people with sharp and inquisitive minds.

Career I read physiology with premedical subjects. Our term-time lives were dominated by laboratories, the science library, tutorials and endless exams. I delighted in many open lectures in the sciences and arts and from the professors of poetry. In 1963 I went to King's College Hospital, London. Tom and I were married that summer while he was a senior trainee in psychiatry at the Maudesley Hospital. I qualified in medicine in 1965. I then spent 18 months at Kings and a year in general practice.

From Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, where I gained my MRCP, I went on to rheumatology at the London Hospital. In 1977 Tom was appointed to the foundation chair of Health Care of the Elderly in Nottingham. I spent a year in general medicine there and then continued in rheumatology as a senior registrar, publishing in the field of arthritis in older people. I also worked for Trent Regional Health Authority on services for people with physical disabilities. After a post at the Royal Hospital and Home in Putney I came to Norwich as an NHS consultant in 1991. There I established a new multidisciplinary neuro rehabilitation service for Norfolk. I maintained a day-a-week commitment to rheumatology. I have been a life-long and passionate supporter of the NHS. I share Allyson Pollock's view that current government claims for the benefits of using the private sector in the NHS are unsupported by hard evidence. I think that the NHS should be distanced from politics, perhaps run by an independent commission.

Personal We had our three children in the late '60s/early 70s. They went to the local Nottingham high schools. For some time an informal after-school club ran itself in our house, fuelled by fruit, biscuits and tea. One of its graduates is now in the Cabinet. Our own children eschewed the sciences and we have a designer, a journalist and an economist in the family. Retirement is a delight. I have time for reading and music. I enjoy a large garden. We spend much time with family and friends. The Arthur Miller Literary Festival at UEA and the Hay Book Festival are annual treats. We go to Italy whenever we can. I sneak off once or twice a year for some hill walking. I support a charity I helped to set up 15 years ago in Norfolk, providing driving assessment for people with disabilities. I help fundraise for the village school.

Advice I would say three things to the next generation. Make sure that you allow time to enjoy yourselves both professionally and personally. Be aware that teenagers and young people may need your time even more than babies and infants. Remember your mentors with gratitude.

Christine AVERY (English)



When working for an Oxbridge place I saw Somerville as just a little less glorious than Heaven and although I partly realised even at the time that I was letting some kind of deep-rooted archetype take over my mind, I don't regret doing so. Naturally enough, the real thing failed to live up to my shining visions. Coming from a Plymouth grammar school that had never before sent a pupil to Oxford or Cambridge, I was plunged into a new world where I had too few reference points in common with the people around me.

Hence my time at Somerville was, sad to say, lonely to an extent never matched in my subsequent experience.

Essentially this was my fault, but it might have been changed if the intellectual content of the course had been richer. However, my essays were encouragingly received; teachers who were unfailingly kind to me (Miss Lascelles, Miss Syfret, Miss Woolf), assured me that I had a good mind. I seized that invaluable chance to read and read. But if designing a university experience, I would make it much more varied, holistic, and less narrowly intellectual.

Nonetheless, there were delightful experiences producing memories which still nourish me: from walking to Port Meadow and lying among the buttercups by the riverside, cycling out to Woodstock to wander in the grounds Blenheim Palace, and frequent trips to the cinema in Walton Street to see films by Truffaut, Godard, Hitchcock.

The main result of my Somerville years was that I ended up with an Oxford degree, something I hug to myself with permanent satisfaction. And, of course, this degree was essential to my further academic experiences, first of a year at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania (for an M.A.) and later of three years of Ph.D. research at Exeter University. In 1969, after numerous Lectureship interviews not leading to a post, I joined the Simon Community as a full-time volunteer. From that context came a relationship which led with fated inevitability to marriage and three sons. While bringing them up I spent four years as the Matron of a London Borough of Barnet children's home and then, when we moved to Exeter, I taught part-time for the University English Department.

After moving back to Plymouth in the eighties I became a private tutor, freelance copy editor and proof reader. This provided a trickle of income, eked out by delivering meals-on-wheels. During this time, my underlying feminism was brought to bloom by a feminist theology group which became central to my life when I was deciding to end my 18-year marriage. I still belong to this group and am also active in the Unitarian Church. For the past fourteen years I have shared a house with a woman friend. We live happily within reach of most of Devon and Cornwall. I read, paint, discuss and write, and a book called *The Green Mantle of Romanticism*, written in collaboration with another friend, is about to be published.

Helen BAKER (Deakin, Chemistry)



I found Somerville a welcoming place with a very friendly group of students, and beautiful grounds and buildings. Somerville was a homely base from which to explore Oxford. I enjoyed various musical societies including the Kodaly Choir at Merton, and also religious groups such as the Student Christian Movement and the Oxford Quakers. I had good tutors and enjoyed my studies in Chemistry. It is such a privilege to study at Oxford with the beauty and history of the buildings, and the intellectual, cultural and social life. These remain part of who I am. In 1963, after completing Part 2 of my Chemistry degree, I married a contemporary Oxford graduate, Christopher Baker, who became a university lecturer and professor so Oxford has always been a very important part of our life.

After graduation, I taught for three years in high schools in Wheatley, Oxford, and then in Berkeley, California, where my husband was assistant professor in the Mathematics Department at the University of California at Berkeley. I taught Physics for one hour a day in a Catholic Girls' School in Berkeley, and also worked for five hours a day in a Kaiser Foundation biochemistry research team (a job related to my Part 2 research paper). 1964-66 was an exciting time to live in Berkeley with the Free Speech Movement developing on the campus. There was also the whole of the USA to explore in a VW "Beetle". The Berkeley experience was the first of many visits, over the years, to mathematics departments around the world. We settled near Manchester in 1966, where we still live. Our daughter and son were born in 1966 and 1968 respectively. Our daughter has a BA degree from London University and our son has MA DPhil degrees from Oxford.

Following several years of part-time teaching and tuition, I worked as Liaison Teacher in the multi-professional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team at Macclesfield Hospital (1982-2004). I took a Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs at Manchester University. I became very interested in the field of mental health and enjoyed the part I played (as teacher in the team) in the assessment and treatment of young people with emotional, behavioural and psychiatric problems. My job entailed discovering how a child functioned (educationally, emotionally and socially) in school, sharing this with the clinical team, and then liaising with the parents, the school, the team and other professionals. The aim was to achieve a happier child in school.

I have kept in regular touch with seven other Somerville chemists, physicists and mathematicians. I am enjoying retirement. I work one day per month on a fostering team in Manchester, which is fascinating work. I have also served as governor of two local primary schools. I get time for plenty of travel, music (singing in choirs, and learning to play the piano), time with our children and grandchildren and intellectual stimulation in the various cultural groups in which Christopher and I are involved.

Ewa BARKER (Boguslawska, Physics)



After graduating from Somerville, I spent the first ten years of my professional life as a teacher - a good one, I think. I had a short break from employment while my elder daughter was young, and hated it. Then came a PhD in Atmospheric Physics (thunderstorm electricity) at University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST), which was followed by a year in the USA working as a postdoc under Bernard Vonnegut. Visiting America was great fun. I returned to England then spent two or three years trying to be a scientist at UMIST, with little success, being very isolated and feeling like the proverbial square peg in a round hole. Then my funding from the USA was abruptly halted by a change of policy in President Reagan's administration in 1982, diverting resources away from scientific research and into weapons manufacture.

Suddenly I was without an income, and with no severance pay. Half of me was outraged, the other half, relieved . . . I needed a hysterectomy, which provided a breathing space and when I went back to work, I decided to try something new. I had been making jewellery as a hobby and decided to see if I had any potential in this different kind of venture. I set up a studio in the Manchester Craft Centre, designing, making and selling my own jewellery. This was successful and by the time I retired in 2005, I was part of a co-operative of three to five jewellers. We all had separate independent businesses, but shared the workspace, the materials and the public interface. We could support each other artistically, share duties and cover absences. My being numerate helped. I wrote all the computer programmes which controlled our financial affairs and kept our businesses separate but accountable. It was a unique way of working together and weathered a number of storms well. I was quite proud of that.

I married Colin Barker in 1970 and we have two daughters, Hannah and Nancy. Hannah is a community artist living in Brighton and Nancy is a medical statistician living near Oxford. Colin and I have both been members of the SWP since the early sixties and the real substance of my life revolves around socialist politics - a reversal from the views I held when I came up in 1959. My main area of political activity these days centres around climate change, and although I see these problems as being political rather than technical or scientific, if I had my time again I would love to do a degree in Earth Sciences. I find the new developments in geology fascinating. It would be ironic if we, as a species, were to seriously damage this planet just as we were getting to grips with understanding how it works.

Caroline BARRON (Hogarth, History)



My lasting impression of my time at Somerville is of freedom: to organise my own life and to go and come as I pleased. I was enchanted with my room in Library with its assortment of ill-matching furniture, a real desk and an electric fire: but it was still pretty cold! And in Somerville I found a good and important group of friends: we met together in each others' rooms for coffee after meals and prolonged our discussions to put off the evil hour of returning to the library... These friendships have continued to be important to me (and, in different ways, to my family) throughout my life.

I met my husband, John Barron, already an academic, at Oxford and we married in September 1962, three months after I left Somerville. Our two daughters, Catherine born in 1970 and Helen born in 1973, both went to Oxford and have done a variety of jobs. Catherine (Katie) is now a teacher and writer; Helen works for Amnesty International. They are both married but, so far, no grandchildren...

The study of history was increasingly important to me while I was an undergraduate, and (after a flirtation with the Home Office) it became my professional life. I have always earned my living as a University teacher, moving up the ladder to a Professorship of the History of London in 2000. There was no maternity leave for university teachers when my daughters were born, so I kept going with the assistance of a Mother's Help and with the co-operation of my colleagues.

I am a medievalist, researching and teaching the history of medieval London: my major work, I suppose, is *London in the Later Middle Ages: Government and People* (OUP, 2004). But my enthusiasms extend to the reign of Richard II, medieval religion, women and children, the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt. Occasionally I have ventured into more modern history to write short biographies of two women who had a significant influence on me: my headmistress at North London Collegiate School, Dame Kitty Anderson, and the social historian, Sylvia Thrupp, who wrote a seminal book about the merchant class of medieval London.

Outside my 'professional activities', I have served on the Council of the GDST and as a governor of other girls' day schools. I have chaired a number of societies associated with history and received an impressive royal warrant to serve on the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts! Recently I was very pleased to be elected a corresponding fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.

When I was at Oxford there were many things I thought I would do: most of them remain undone. I wanted to write books and poetry and plays; I wanted to make a difference in the world - somehow. I still have the ambition, but have so far done nothing about it, to do something to reduce the numbers incarcerated in British prisons. What remains from my Oxford days is a sense that there are more tasks out there to be accomplished and more races to be run. If your career is broadly speaking 'academic' it is easier and more 'natural' to stay in touch with your College. I was very fortunate in my choice of Somerville and, in particular, in those who taught me, and so made possible a career I have found immensely rewarding. The friendships made fifty years ago, of tutors and of fellow undergraduates, have become increasingly important as time goes on. Retirement gives one time for reflecting, savouring and cherishing.

Ruth BAUMBERG (Geiger, Mathematics)



A request for a description (justification ?) of almost 50 years since Somerville is enough to stifle any thoughts on what we could possibly have done to justify most of a lifetime. We were perhaps the last generation of women who put our careers on hold when our children were born. Yes, we all went back to work part-time when our children went to school, but our careers were far more teaching, administration, some few academics rather than the heavily ambitious lawyers, managers or careers in the public eye

that later generations had marked out. So we mostly stayed married, brought up our children, pursued enjoyable work, ran community organisations and followed our enthusiasms. Now we are retired, enjoy our grandchildren, travel, garden, read, write, do voluntary work. Not perhaps the pattern that Dame Janet Vaughan, our principal then, who alternately impressed and frightened us with her brilliance and engagement with the heart of contemporary public life, foresaw as the future for us fortunate entrants to Somerville in 1959.

So then now that is put aside, what have I personally done for the last 50 years! I went into the computer industry like many mathematicians then, after a year's diploma computer course, and, after marrying another Oxford graduate who did a D. Phil, we went to the USA for two years where I worked in computing at Princeton. We returned to the UK where my husband got an academic job in Leeds and I stopped work for 10 years until my three children went to school. Back in employment, now in industry, I worked in computing for Unilever in Leeds for over 20 years. My three sons all went to Cambridge rather than Oxford to be different. Or maybe because they were chiefly scientists who thought the courses more suitable. I suppose they are my greatest achievement not for their career successes (of which I am proud too), but for their characters as thoughtful, independent, interesting people.

My husband died a year ago after 44 years of marriage only 18 months after his retirement as Professor of Bacterial Genetics at Leeds. I have been retired for seven years and spend much time working for our local Citizen's Advice Bureau, which I find rewarding and interesting. I garden enthusiastically, take photographs obsessively, take part in our local Jewish community, do research on ceramics, visit art galleries, travel to see wild plants or Art Nouveau cities and, best of all, I enjoy my sons, their partners and four delightful grandchildren.

As for memories of Somerville: the rush of adrenalin cycling down St Giles on a cold November morning looking at the college facades against the blue sky and feeling "I am really here". What did Somerville give me that I value in my life? A certain self-confidence and scepticism about received opinion and a refusal to be cowed or overawed by anyone. A background as an intellectual and feminist despite the conventional life and above all, friendships that have endured the decades.

Catherine BELSEY (Prigg, English)



Somerville in 1959 offered a haven from a somewhat chaotic home life. I relished the central heating (new to me), the huge old baths (long enough to submerge in) and the close camaraderie a corridor provided, along with the trace of an Angela Brazil world my day-school had failed to deliver.

But Oxford as a whole frightened me. My arrival there fulfilled a dream sustained without interruption since I had first seen the Boat Race on television a decade before and rooted, quite arbitrarily, for the crew wearing dark blue. But I had very little idea what to expect. I had decidedly not allowed for the specialised vocabulary (undergraduates, not students; schools, not finals), the conventions for naming the streets (the Broad, the High) and the obligation to stock China tea and Fuller's walnut cake. Nor for the huge confidence with which everyone else negotiated the recurrent pitfalls these conventions presented, while throwing themselves into lectures, tutorials and any number of extra-curricular triumphs.

The College was very kind to me when I was in trouble, but I didn't take full advantage of what the University had to offer. I failed to join a political club or a debating society. I rather think I felt safer in the shadows. It wasn't until later that I recognised my radical allegiances, but in retrospect I realise that the seeds were sown at Somerville. Dame Janet Vaughan was certainly a magnificent role model and I unconsciously carried some of her convictions forward into my own academic practices.

I have not thought of my life as a story: too busy, perhaps, to complete one paragraph before finding myself in the middle of the next. There was certainly no plan. I didn't want to teach like my mother, but found myself an instructor and loving it. I had no intention of doing research, but signed up for a PhD at Warwick and had the time of my life. I would definitely not go back to Oxbridge, but accepted the first academic job I was offered — at New Hall, Cambridge. Thirty years at Cardiff University were more or less accidental, too, but they gave me scope to chair the union, as well as doing what I could to revitalise a discipline of English that by the 1970s was looking distinctly dusty. In due course, I set up a research centre to assess the implications of the new theories of language and culture that had been arriving from Paris since the late 1960s.

Driven out of full-time academic life in 2003 by the mounting bureaucracy that required me to choose between writing books and compiling reports on the books I had already written, might write, would write if only a space could be made among all the monitoring, planning and applications for funding, I moved gratefully in due course to a part-time research professorship at Swansea. It's an ideal life. I can choose when to rock back and forth in front of the computer, when to travel, and when to intervene, for better or worse, in a world that still strikes me as capable of improvement.

Elizabeth BLACK, (Austin) English.



I was married in 1965, to Christopher Black (Lincoln), who had just been appointed to a post in the Modern History Department at Glasgow University. A series of part-time jobs at Glasgow University, Edinburgh, and the College of Commerce and Further Education came to an end when I was appointed to a lectureship at Edinburgh, where I spent the rest of my career.

I read English (Course I), and then a B. Litt. editing a 12th c. Icelandic text, not an ideal preparation for employment. My first year in Glasgow was highly educational: the College of Commerce revealed that large numbers of the population were technically illiterate: they could, with a struggle, read 'Heat and Serve' on a tin, but the effort was such that they could not understand the instruction. The syllabus was not intended for such, either in content or level of attainment.

In Edinburgh in various positions as an Applied Linguist, I was enormously privileged to have a number of extremely able, and very interesting, PhD students, who broadened my horizons and enlivened my life. I ended up teaching Literary Stylistics, Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics, and English Grammar. I was fortunate that for most of my time I taught MSc students, and supervised PhDs. I was delighted when I retired, just as the total reorganisation of the University was taking place, amid much acrimony. I gather the bitterness persists to this day.

When I retired I had a book to finish (Pragmatic Stylistics), Edinburgh University Press. They printed a modest number of copies, but have now negotiated a deal with a prestigious Chinese publishing house for three times the number....I found it difficult to sit at my desk with no human contact, so when a friend suggested that I should become a guide at the Burrell Collection, I agreed. The Burrell is the collection of one man, with 9000 objects, one third of which are on display. It is housed in a superb modern building (enlivened by windows and arches from medieval buildings), in a lovely park, with Highland cattle in the fields. Burrell's main interests were in stained glass, tapestries, and Chinese art of all periods. I do regular general tours of the collection, and occasionally specialist tours, on Iconography and cultural transmissions on the Silk Road.

My other interest is Abyssinian cats, which I show—we hardly allow an 'untitled' cat in the house—except for one who is terrified of the experience of shows. The other cats, not the judges, stewards or public! I am also involved with the church, having served on the Vestry several times, as a sidesperson, and a thorn in the flesh to many priests. One daughter deceased, adopted twins. Five grandchildren.

Helen BOON (Booth, Chemistry)



I was born in Oxford, and went to a girls' school where very few took science A-levels, but in the sixth form we had a young Somervillian chemistry teacher. At Somerville scientists were also in a minority, so it was encouraging that Dame Janet and Dorothy Hodgkin were active scientists who also valued family life. After my D Phil at Oxford, I spent 3 years as a junior lecturer at Durham. I married a New College graduate in 1967 and thereafter we had 4 children and my career became subservient to the needs of the family. We spent 8 years in Chester and 3 years in Brussels before moving to Farnham in Surrey, where we still live.

I have had a variety of teaching jobs and also several voluntary roles. The latter have included driving people to hospital appointments etc. through the local Care Farnham organisation, of which I was a founder member in 1986; being an active governor of a local large and successful junior school for more than 20 years; and helping, through the local branch of Nadfas, to organise the bi-annual large-scale art exhibition for 20 local schools, inaugurated to mark the millennium in 2000.

1998 was a year of major life changes for us; my husband took enforced early retirement, the school where I was teaching closed down, and our older daughter and young son came to live with us, after her marriage failed. They were with us until 2006, and still live nearby. I became a very hands-on Granny...especially when our daughter commuted to London for her PGCE and probationary teaching year. It was strange to be back at the school gate twice each day.

Amazingly we had at least one of our children living with us for 37 years! Even now one grandson comes to us before and after school each day (when I help with homework) and we shall soon start helping to look after the new grandchild (our fifth) born in May 2008, but only part-time. This is a positive development after a difficult two years. Our younger daughter, who ironically was studying to become a clinical psychologist, became mentally unwell and tragically took her own life in December 2006. Possibly due to stress after this, I suffered a severe brain haemorrhage in July 2007; fortunately I have made a reasonable recovery, but I now read much more slowly than before, have some memory loss and am not allowed to drive. This is limiting, especially in terms of helping with the grandchildren and my 95 year old Mother, who still lives in her own home in Oxford. However I do my best to have a positive outlook and am just thankful to be alive and able to do most things. Such experiences certainly change ones priorities.

Beryl BOWEN (Lodge, Classics)



Coming from a non-academic background, I thought Oxford heaven on earth when I arrived. Academic libraries, famous scholars, friends with similar interests, historic traditions, dreaming spires! And Somerville? Well, at interviews I was seduced from a long-held desire for Cambridge (my Classics teacher's alma mater) by the friendliness with which I was met at Somerville coupled with the pleasantly labyrinthine nature of its buildings. The only time I regretted my decision was when engaged in a life-and-death struggle with philosophy in *Greats*.

After *Greats*, I did the Diploma in Classical Archaeology and a DPhil. Of my nine years at Oxford, I was lucky enough to spend all my undergraduate years and some post-graduate time living in college and Somerville was like home. It was a wonderful environment for me, and I found surrogate siblings, having none of my own. I left Oxford in 1968 with my husband Keith (SEH 1959) who had been appointed to a lectureship in the Engineering Department at Warwick. Keith's career culminated in election to the Royal Society in 1998 and an honorary fellowship at SEH in 2006 - I'm not sure which pleased him more. My career followed a humbler course! I gave extramural classes in Greek archaeology at Warwick, then for seven years was a tutor in Classics for the Open University, during which time I wrote a Unit on Roman Art. I also taught courses as needed for the fledgling Classics Department at Warwick (Greek art my greatest pleasure, though I enjoyed them all) and finally, I worked for fifteen years, part-time, teaching all Classics subjects, at the Kingsley School, Leamington Spa. I loved (almost!) all my students, but the adults, with their commitment and enthusiasm, were especially rewarding.

Outside work, I was closely involved with our church until 1995 and was an active member of Christian CND. We have one son, Huw Edmund, born in 1973, blessed with two Somervillian godmothers! He is a busy and inventive film-maker. In 1995 I went to Colorado with Keith, who took a sabbatical at the University of Denver. This unexpectedly turned into a seven-year stay, as Keith set up the US office of a small British scientific instrument company with which he was associated. I volunteered in the conservation laboratory of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, working mainly with Native American artefacts. I missed Classics and my students but gained a deep interest in Indian art and life. It has not been easy to settle here again after the wide-open spaces of the US Southwest. I am an inveterate collector, and am slowly cataloguing my diverse collections. Oxford is still, and will always be, a magnet. At the end of 2007 I became a part-time volunteer at the Beazley Archive in Oxford; this has provided a welcome chance to meet old friends. Friends made at Somerville are still very important to me, and though I see few of them frequently, losing touch completely is unimaginable!

CAROL CLARK (Gallagher, Modern Languages)



After leaving Somerville I worked for a year in an East London comprehensive school, one of the then pioneering comprehensives. I had planned to stay in school teaching but instead got married in 1963 and went with my husband to Mali in West Africa, where I taught English in a French -medium lycee until the birth of my son in 1966. When we returned to London, the need to earn some money soon drove me to the TES to try to find an evening teaching job. Instead I discovered that a graduate studentship would pay more than half as much as a full time teaching post (those were the days for academics) and decided to try for one of those instead. I was lucky enough to get one at Westfield College and will never forget the heavenly feeling of entering the light and quiet of a library again. I could only afford one afternoon's childcare a week, but somehow I got a thesis written and, in due course, a job back at Glasgow University.

My husband sadly died in 1971 and since then I have been on my own. I was elected to a Fellowship at Balliol in 1973 and so ended up spending most of my working life back in Oxford, where I witnessed many changes, including the end of single-sex colleges - not altogether a cause for celebration, in my view. But otherwise largely a happy life. My son is married and I have one grandson, now eight, who seems to be developing some aptitude for languages (unlike his father, who always firmly refused to speak anything but English, at least when I was around.)

I decided to retire a few years early and go and live in Paris, and so far I have enjoyed city life very much. I have taken up some things again that I had hardly done since school, like trying to learn to draw. Otherwise I do a small amount of private teaching, sing in a choir (the American Cathedral) and go to lots of old films. (It's very striking how little Paris has changed physically since the days of the "Nouvelle Vague" or even since the 1920s.)

This morning I was in drawing class, struggling once more with charcoal, to the background music of a 1950s jazz record that I once owned but had long lost. I realised I still knew every note of it, and felt I might really still be back in Somerville. It felt good.

I have kept a little house in England as a base: in Faversham, where my son and his family live. I expect to be spending more time there in the current school year, while keeping my Paris flat.

Marieke CLARKE (History)



Reflections: Coming from a lower middle class family, I particularly appreciated Somerville's meritocratic atmosphere. I loved Oxford (the university much more than Somerville) but I found the girls' boarding school atmosphere infantilizing. I was amazed I could not hold committee meetings in my college rooms in the evenings. I was placed in a private house for my second year. It was too much of a jump and I think I needed some social support. Fortunately the landlord and landlady and I got on well.

I remain deeply grateful to Somerville for accepting me into its secular meritocratic egalitarian atmosphere. My student years at Oxford, made possible by Somerville, have determined what I did with the rest of my life.

Since Somerville: I did an Oxford Diploma in Education 1962-63. In 1971 I did an Oxfordshire Youth Service Training course. I was employed at Inyathi Secondary School, Matabeleland North, Rhodesia from September 1963 to November 1964, and managed "The New African" January to August 1965. From 1965 to 1984 I was Oxfam's Educational Materials Editor, and from 1984 to 2000 I was Oxfam's co-financing officer accessing government funds primarily for Asia. Now I am co-supervising a Zimbabwean student working for a PhD on the history of girls' schooling through Roman Catholic missions in western Southern Rhodesia. In addition to educational books and packs, I have published academic books and articles, particularly on India and Zimbabwe.

Voluntary work: I was an active Labour Party member from the 1960's till 1996. I resigned my membership before the 1997 General Election. I am an active Quaker. I was a volunteer for Asylum Welcome in Oxford from 2001 to 2005. I was Secretary and Grants Officer for Oxford Poverty Action Trust for some years till mid 2008, and am Publications Secretary and Membership Secretary of the Britain Zimbabwe Society.

Interests and passions now: I am writing "Lozikeyi, queen of the Ndebele: a very dangerous and intriguing woman" a biography of the senior queen of King Lobhengula, driven from his country by Cecil Rhodes. My love of history predates Somerville, but I became much more interested and involved in Africa because of experiences at Oxford, and Somerville encouraged me to work on committees.

Personal life: Aged 33, I married an Indian development worker. Many of my activities and publications were possible because of that friendship. The political atmosphere in Britain after 1979 undermined our relationship and we divorced after he returned to India. We had no children. I have lived alone (with an academic lodger) since he left. I like to spend spare time with friends. I read voraciously and also enjoy visiting the cinema and the theatre. I am extending my knowledge of Oriental Studies and travelled to Bhutan in 2008. I am making some efforts to return my French and German to the level they reached when I was at Somerville. I use the Nederlands language anyway because I am half Dutch. I am grateful I could retire at 60.

Shelia CLARKE (Blair, Modern languages)



What has been the influence of Somerville on my life? Among other things, a sense of connection with original fighters for equality of opportunity for women, and an awareness of what an immense privilege it is to have been at Somerville.

Having spent three years in the company of the cleverest and most thoughtful in the land (no exaggeration!) I have the confidence to trust my judgement as to what is true and what isn't, no matter who has said it.

I haven't used my degree except for a little bit of teaching. In the last thirty years my chief interest has been painting and drawing. I first tried life drawing at the Ruskin in 1959!

I am still married to Stephen Clarke (Corpus 1958-62). We have a daughter and a son and five grandchildren.

Angela COSTEN (Lawrence, English)



Early memories of Somerville include taking the skiff up the Cherwell, the February ball where Alan Bennett performed the "smooth man" sermon, and sneaking my boyfriend into Somerville bathrooms, warmer than Queen's, where the baths were in the cellar. Married in 1962, we have three sons, two of whom went to Queen's. I hope our grand-daughter, nearly eleven, might choose Somerville, but perhaps our four-year-old grandson will do that. The college had enormous influence on my working life, since I spent most of it teaching English Literature to young women, and, I hope, helped them to understand their reading as my tutors at Somerville opened my own eyes to the complexities of meaning.

Although my original writing amounts only to some poems and an unpublished novel, while teaching I produced a play most years, from Shakespeare to Ayckbourn, and also wrote or adapted many different texts for performance; I enjoyed organising the "book", expressing meaning through songs and dances, or even, in *The Mystery Plays*, drawing on material studied in the Middle English sections of the B.A. course. I taught at schools in Nottingham, Yeovil, Somerset and Bristol, finishing as Head of English and Drama at an independent girls' school. Other employment included lecturing for the WEA and for Bristol University Extra-Mural Department, and A Level examining.

From 1976 to 1983 I ran a smallholding from our house in Somerset, and worked part-time for the Agricultural Training Board organising courses for The Smallholders' Association. It was hard work but extremely absorbing; I loved doing it and look back on it as perhaps the most vivid period of my life. Owning a small holiday house in a remote area of France has provided a window into another rural experience coupled with a complex historical background. During regular visits I have learnt much about the landscape and people. I also followed a three-year course with the Open University to gain their Diploma in French. At home, I grow many vegetables and fruit. We are self-sufficient in garlic, chili peppers, apples and mulberries! Another interest is sailing, mostly on the Exe River and in Lyme Bay, in our small gaff sloop. I gained my RYA Day Skipper and RYA Radio operator Short Range certificate last year. Swimming and walking, in England or France, are great pleasures.

Michael, my husband, is retired from academic life but still teaching and writing. For myself, teaching is firmly in the past; I am enjoying the freedom to read all sorts of books, unconnected with a professional life. Our sons are Timothy, now 43, who read Physics at UMIST and designs software; Nicholas, 40, read Experimental Psychology at Queen's, now a Senior Lecturer in Computing at Manchester Metropolitan; and Matthew, 38, read Chemistry at Queen's, now a Research Fellow and lecturer in Chemistry at Heriot-Watt. I think sometimes of how lucky we were, those of us who were the first generation of our family to go to university, and what a change it made to our lives, past, present and in the future.

Marie Claire CURNAND (Modern Languages)

After teaching English in Paris I returned to New York. I got a doctorate in French literature at Columbia, then taught at local colleges and schools and translated literary and popular works. I then spent thirteen years helping co-ordinate seminars and conferences on inter-religious dialogue at the UN and worldwide. I now live off the grid in the backwoods of Massachussetts.

VALERIE CREAN (Moxham, Chemistry)



After nearly 50 years memories of Somerville are patchy. I do remember, however, that on the first day, feeling rather uncertain about being away from home for the first time and not knowing anyone, I went to the cinema, only to discover that I had missed an interview with my tutor - not an auspicious start!

During the 4 years at college I realised that I had chosen a subject, chemistry, that I found quite fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. I must have transferred my enthusiasm to my children - three of them choosing the subject at A level and all regretting it!

After graduating, I spent several years as a research chemist for Albright and Wilson, followed by freelance editing work on journals and books for a number of medical publishers. After ten years working in-house for the British Medical Association as a managing editor, I "retired" about 8 years ago, but continue to work as a freelance editor on *Heart* and *Rheumatic Diseases* journals for the BMJ Publishing Group.

My husband and I recently celebrated our forty-fifth wedding anniversary. We have lived in Harpenden for 42 years, 35 of which were in our current house. We have four children - three sons and a daughter, who work in medicine, finance, publishing and as a Dominican friar. Five grandchildren currently take up a fair bit of time.

I made some good friends at Somerville and I am still in contact with a number, meeting six of them with their husbands for lunch at my home only recently - they were husbands in those days! I hope to continue seeing my Somerville friends for many years yet.

Catherine DAHLSTROM (Sandbach,History)



I know I am supposed to write a paean in praise of Somerville and all it did for me, but that would be dishonest. Admittedly I learnt to both to skim over and make a synthesis of a large amount of material - something that is now known as a "transferable skill" - and also grasped the depressing nature of much human history. Nonetheless, with the exception of my teenage years, however, my time at Oxford was the unhappiest of my life. This was not strictly speaking Somerville's fault, it was a necessary phase. Coming as I did from a Cambridge

University family, I had chosen Oxford in the hope of getting away from the background I was beginning to question. But Oxford turned out to be more of the same. I should have gone round the world instead - but the modern gap-year had not been discovered in 1959. Also I had chosen the wrong subject. I loved history at school because it was narrative; so English would have been better, or, considering the things that interest me, PPE. However I was firmly told at home that neither of these options were proper disciplines.

Perhaps my reactions were typical. Our generation was caught between very conflicting demands. On the one hand we were expected to be sexually attractive and on the look out for husbands, on the other to have dazzling professional careers. This was not an easy combination. My memories of Oxford are tainted by it; there is a great deal that I have forgotten, or more accurately repressed. However, coming from a home where nutrition was a very high priority, I found the food appalling, as I told Dame Janet when I became anaemic. Nor did ascetic communal living suit me. Presumably one of the reasons I have so liked living in Sweden is that being warm and comfortable is morally acceptable here.

So what did I get out of it - apart from one enduring friendship? Getting to know people from backgrounds very unlike mine certainly, and new political impulses not least from the nuclear disarmament movement and the campaign against the death penalty. My feminism dates from an encounter with the booklet listing "careers for graduates" that had special coloured pages listing opportunities for women.

Ironically, the year after Somerville was more formative. Having decided to become a Probation Officer, I was very conscious of my sheltered upbringing. To toughen myself up I lived in London, on the border between Paddington and Maida Vale, working as a supply teacher. The winter of 1962 was bitterly cold with freezing smog; all the pipes froze. Watching the mother of a large Catholic French Caribbean family next door triumph over all the hardships of her life cemented my conviction that what the academic world so often lacks is humility, and a critical sense of its limitations.

In the light of this, it is ironic that I returned to the academy. But my memories of my neighbour, of the semi-criminal boys I taught that winter and many subsequent similar encounters were perhaps not such a bad starting point for the study of literature.

Jane DAY (Osborn, Classics)



I felt extraordinarily at home at Somerville. There were eccentricities to laugh at and issues to object to, but I deeply felt that I belonged there! Indeed, when I later became a tutor at Lady Margaret Hall it was a year or two before I got used to going "home" up the Banbury Road instead of the Woodstock one! I did so in the end, and Somerville lost its halo of special attachment. But I still retain an enormous admiration and respect for my tutors, especially Elizabeth Anscombe and Philippa Foot, both as thinkers and as teachers. Above all, the big effect of my time at Somerville is that this was where I found all my main adult friendships, and my friends from Somerville also became family friends as well.

I read *Greats*, followed by a B.Phil in Philosophy (for which I stayed at Somerville as a graduate student). I then went to Leeds University as an Assistant Lecturer in Philosophy from 1965-66, after which I became a Philosophy tutor at LMH for the rest of my employed life. My main areas of speciality have been Greek philosophy, from pre-Socratics to Aristotle, in particular Plato; and Ethics. I have also particularly enjoyed teaching Philosophy of Religion. I retired in 2007, although I am enjoying continuing with a little teaching and am not sure whether to do more. In principle, I do not entirely approve of retirement. In practice, I certainly needed a gap to get my act together. I have set myself a goal of sorting out neglected domestic issues! In my free time I enjoy conversation, reading and music, travel, especially a recent trip to the Middle East, and walking and gardening when the weather and my joints allow!

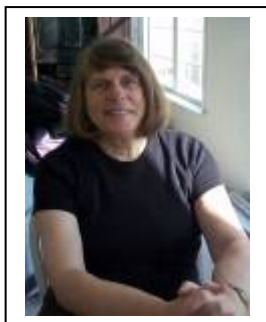
As with many women, it seems, family matters have been of major importance. I married John Day, one of the early male fellows at LMH, in 1981, and since 1990 we have had two adopted children, a daughter Lisa now aged 25 and a son Sebastian aged 23 who are very much with us. When the children were young, I taught in St. Giles' Sunday School for several years, which I found a refreshing and fascinating complement to teaching undergraduates.

MARY DUNLOP (McDougall, Philosophy, Politics, Economics)

Mary worked for an antiquarian bookseller for a few years after leaving Oxford, and later had a small business selling pashminas. In 1976 she married Ian Dunlop and has one son, Rory. The family lived in New York for about twelve years, then returned to England in the mid 1980's, and have lived in central London ever since.

(contributed by Ian Dunlop, by phone)

Maureen DOUGLAS (Bowler, Geography)



Somerville was a friendly, welcoming environment on an intimate scale. I was not from the same background as the majority of students, where it was regarded as 'normal' to have been to a single sex school in a large city or a boarding school. I found that the majority of students came from nonworking class families with a history of higher education in the family. As I was studying a subject lacking an in-house tutor, I left the college more than most students.

Looking back with the advantage of half a century of changing patterns of behaviour I wonder why the Somerville student body so meekly accepted significant limits to personal freedom (human rights?) such as the impediments against going out after 7pm, needing permission to leave Oxford during term and for being in Oxford during vacations. The distorted gender balance in the student body, with the sexual discrimination yet to be met - not eligible to join the Oxford Union. The intellectual challenges, late night essay writing, certain memorable lectures and tutorials and the long period of relatively pressure-free extended study. The greatest lasting influence of Somerville is that I met my husband at Oxford and as we read the same subject have much in common and mutual understanding about the Oxford experience.

I read *Geography*, then did the post graduate Certificate in Education at Cambridge University. I taught briefly in a high school in Canberra, Australia followed by a period as a Research Officer in the Federal Public Service. I was engaged in little paid work while my children were small. In New South Wales, I gained a Masters degree in Social Science. From 1979, back in the UK I worked full-time as a research assistant in economic history at UMIST, followed by NHS work, firstly in research and lately more general management. I have the Certificate in Health Services Management and am a Primary Care Trust's Corporate Policy Adviser. My unpaid occupations include keeping up-to-date with developments in main stream geography and looking after my mother during her slow decline until her recent death at the age of 97.

My newer interests mainly revolve round things that were not present at Oxford, mainly my family life, husband, children and grandchildren. My children have reinforced my interest in and concern about the future functioning of the planet, physically, socially and economically. I enjoy travelling and in particular have been privileged in visiting and living in tropical rain forests. Over twenty years in the NHS has developed my interest in the delivery of health care.

Ian and I have been married 44 years. We had two sons and a daughter. Our elder son was killed in a bicycle accident when he was 16. My younger son has two children and my daughter three children. I work part time and enjoy extended holidays for travel. With little free time, after paid work, family commitments and periods of travel / holiday, I enjoy the art, music and drama in Manchester, as well as our garden which includes a small portion of protected 200 year-old Cheshire Plain woodland.

Janet EDMUNDS (Holmes, Zoology)



My first and subsequent impressions of Somerville merge together. Having been at boarding school being away from home was no problem. Work in the science laboratories and with academic tutors (who were not from Somerville) possibly had a greater influence on me than college. I enjoyed being able to arrange my spare time, as long as we were back by 11.00pm. It was salutary to realise that, having been one of the best in class at school, at university I was average. Although Somerville had high academic expectations of us, there was freedom to be oneself rather than conform to a stereotype. Unusually, I read Science Honour Moderations in Zoology, Botany and Geology for my first two years followed by Zoology for two years, as I wanted a broader area of study than reading just one subject.

I very much enjoyed chatting with others at Somerville over coffee or cocoa on all sorts of topics, from the serious to the amusing. I found questioning and coming across new ideas fascinating. I enjoyed the societies I joined, in particular the Young Quakers, Geological and Archaeological Societies. In the latter we undertook excavations at the weekends and a week long summer camp and dig. Although the tutors told us to think for ourselves they didn't like it if we disagreed with them. Both Somerville and my courses left me with the enjoyment of research, of questioning, of learning new facts and ideas without necessarily taking everything at its face value. The political views of other students at Somerville influenced me into becoming more left wing.

I left Somerville in 1963 having married Malcolm Edmunds, also a Zoologist and Quaker, in January and in September we went to Ghana, where Malcolm had a Lectureship at the University of Ghana near Accra. We stayed there for ten happy years and had two daughters. I did some part-time lecturing and a PhD (with the University of Ghana) on the *Ecology of Orb Weaving Spiders*, which I wrote up on returning to England.

In 1974 Malcolm got a Lectureship at Preston Polytechnic, now a University. I was a volunteer with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and did occasional short-term projects. Part of our old Mill House was dated 1722, but the mill closed in 1972. I have researched its history, published two papers on it and one about the local Catholic Church and am now putting them together into a book of local interest. I have also published a booklet on the marine molluscs (snails and allies) of Ghana, nine papers on the Ecology of Ghanaian Spiders.

My main interests are local and landscape history, gardening, walking and natural history. I am chair of the Lancashire Archaeological Society. We have easy access to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. Malcolm and I have been concerned about the environment and climate change for many years and are relieved that this is more widely accepted, though are doubtful if the politicians will do enough. Both our daughters live in Leeds, and we have two grandsons.

IEVA ELAND (Antonovics, Chemistry)



I knew at once that I would be happy at Somerville. My life at Oxford made such a strong impression that, fifty years on, it is still vivid - except for the Chemistry! Like many, I met my husband at Oxford and made lasting friends. These contacts had a more long term influence than academic work. At Oxford, work mattered most, but now my family matters most to me.

I read Chemistry, married another Chemistry undergraduate and completed my DPhil in 1966. I held a one-year NATO Research Fellowship at Basle University for peptide research, then continued to research on peptides at Oxford on a Medical Research Council Grant until 1969. From 1969-1980 I was not employed, but was living abroad in France, Germany and the USA and I was staying at home to look after three young sons. I felt completely out of touch with the subject, but on returning to Oxford my scientific training was useful and from 1980 to 1992, I taught Chemistry part-time at the Wychwood School in Oxford. I also did scientific editing at Elsevier from 1988 to 1999, also part-time, to fit in with family responsibilities. From 2000 to 2007, I had a part-time post-retirement job helping to compile medical databases at the Cochrane Centre, Oxford.

Our three sons all went to the University of London. When my husband is fully retired, we shall continue living in North Oxford. In my free time I enjoy natural history, especially wild flowers and their ecology. Walking in the countryside and gardening are long-standing interests. I am also interested in art and visiting galleries. I hope to find some worthwhile voluntary work too. Retirement is so much more enjoyable than being in employment! Since retiring in 2007, I have accompanied my husband on work trips abroad including a month in Japan.

Liz FINCH (Gamble, Philosophy, Politics, Economics)



Birdsong and wildflowers, my early passions as a Norfolk country child, led to a love of music and art which has sustained me all my life. My parents warned that neither would support me, so I studied hard in a quest for some other interesting living and became the first family member to go to university and the first from my school to go to Oxford (Somerville winning hands down over Newnham). Having enjoyed every subject except maths, I chose PPE as something new. At Somerville I found marvellous friends who would sit for pencil portraits over coffee and play me their LPs of modern jazz and Bach (a lifelong friend!) ; but what beguiled me most at Oxford was the scope for choral singing. I joined every choir that would have me and spent many afternoons rehearsing Requiems.

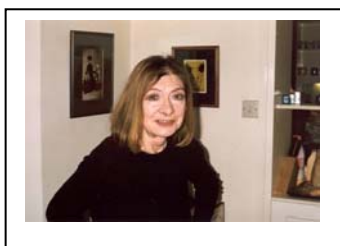
PPE was well suited to one who found the library less conducive to thought than the meadow. Economics and Philosophy offered a sturdy framework of theory on which the mind could perform acrobatics while hand and eye were occupied with pencil or punt pole. Politics, approached as an aspect of history, was less engaging and I did not enjoy the subject until I was both learning and teaching it as a graduate assistant at McMaster University in Canada - and indulging my desire to travel and view the world from another perspective. However, my career preference was public administration. I returned from Ontario to the London County Council, the fascination of London and weekends visiting art galleries, until marriage (to a Wadham graduate) entailed moving to Liverpool and its University.

There I taught Political Theory for three years before my husband's Ford Foundation Fellowship enabled us to spend two vivid years based in Uruguay and travelling elsewhere in South America. I researched in Spanish for an MA on Uruguayan politics (graduating in absentia in 1970 on the day my first son was born). My second son soon arrived so I resigned from the University, then supplemented our income through lean times (first mortgage, spiralling interest rates) by giving Economics evening classes and running an allotment.

In 1980 I learned dangerously categorising skills of touch-typing and shorthand in order to compete for scarce local employment, and rejoined the University as a departmental secretary. To progress I had to go elsewhere, and after five years with a housing association, at management grade, finally was delighted to return to the University at senior administrative level overseeing Student Services and Alumni relations. The last ten years before retirement in 2003 were the most challenging and enjoyable of all, as senior administrator of Liverpool University Veterinary School.

After twenty-eight years Henry and I amicably divorced and remain in friendly contact. I now live happily with my partner Alan, partly in England, partly in Spain. Ours is a busy, enjoyable life pursuing shared interests - in music and art of course - nature, gardening, hill walking, and naturally, seeing friends and family. Family visits involve further travel and delight: my elder son lives in New Hampshire and the younger in Sweden, so I have an American grandson and granddaughter and two Swedish granddaughters. Life is good!

SARAH FREEMAN (Sheppard, Philosophy, Politics, Economics)



Sarah Freeman (née Sheppard) died on 15 December 2007, a few days after her 67th birthday. She had emailed a few months earlier to say she hoped to attend the 2009 Reunion. This biography has been contributed by her husband, Michael.

Sarah spent three happy years at Somerville reading PPE and graduated in 1962. Armed with her degree, she launched herself into the London publishing world and secured an editing job with Penguin Books. She then moved sideways into journalism, and took a series of editorial jobs on various magazines, including *Architectural Design*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Wine and Food*, ending up as arts editor of *Harpers & Queen*. By this time, in the early 1970s, Sarah had been married for several years and had started a family. Her last employer was reluctant to have mothers of young children on the staff and so she left, stayed at home and looked for other outlets for her energy and interests. One of these interests was food, and this led to her writing a number of books over the next 35 years, among them **Isabella & Sam: The Story of Mrs Beeton**, **The Real Cheese Companion** (a guide to handmade cheese in Britain and Ireland); and most recently **The Borough Market Cookbook**. Sarah was passionate about following the food process "from plough to plate", and she was never happier than when she was sitting in a farmhouse kitchen interviewing a cheese maker, or a pig farmer, or an asparagus grower, teasing out what motivated them to create quality produce for us, the consumers.

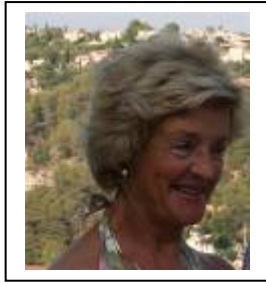
The Slow Food movement embodied many of the ideals that Sarah espoused and she became an enthusiastic supporter. This led to an invitation to lecture on writing about food to the newly founded University of Gastronomic Sciences, in Italy. Her unconventional lecturing technique was enthusiastically received by her students, and she loved the experience which, sadly, could not be repeated due to her failing health.

Sarah was also very interested in visual arts, especially contemporary painting, and she developed an easy rapport with young artists. She tried to help them and at the same time raise money for Somerville by holding a series of art fairs in London in the late 1980s. She enjoyed painting, although she realised that for her it could never be more than a hobby.

Sarah's death at the age of 67, although premature by today's standards, was not completely unexpected. She had been a very enthusiastic smoker for much of her life, and was unable to avoid the consequent damage to her lungs.

She will be missed, not only by her family and friends, but also by the many people she came into contact with in the food world who appreciated her directly expressed enthusiasm for what they did.

Penelope GAINE (Dornan, English)



When I first went up to Somerville I found university life to be very grown up compared to the narrow restrictions of the convent where I had been from the age of four up to eighteen years old. An endless vista of possibilities appeared ahead of me. I was either very happy or very unhappy while at Somerville - I felt both very intensely. Somerville was a sociable and relaxed place with lots of friends, although we stuck very closely to our own year. The tutors tended to be rather remote - one never saw them outside tutorials - and one in particular was absolutely terrifying.

I read English, which is a wonderful subject and still very important to me, but my main regret is not having worked hard enough at the academic side of life. I chose English because in those days one simply read what had been one's best subject at school with no thought for the future (in any case the nuns thought my future was to be a good Catholic wife and mother!)

There were always so many other attractions at Oxford. I did some costume design for the ETC and rather unfortunately one review said that the production was worth seeing, if only for the costumes, which not surprisingly did not please the producer very much!

It was quite a shock joining the real world and I took some time to adjust, then did a variety of jobs (fashion - a great mistake), television and finally publishing, ending up as a commissioning editor at Weidenfeld. My own publications amount to three children's books: on children's parties, parties for older children and an activity guide - all of which did surprisingly well! I wrote 'Children's Parties' with a friend when our children were young and we knew from experience how alarming a group of small horrors could be. We sold over 100,000 copies and I still meet women today who say the book really saved their life.

I own several houses in Cambridge which I rent out and which I luckily bought over fifteen years ago. I have been a magistrate for over fifteen years, work which is interesting if infuriating. We are of course very serious in court but in our retiring room we sometimes fall about at the things that happen. One defendant, when asked if he had his driving licence, said 'Lor' bless you, I haven't seen it for four years' then added thoughtfully 'Mind you, I haven't seen my wife for five'. It can be hard to keep a straight face!

My main interests now are as they always were - reading, the arts, travelling, different countries, and, I am ashamed to say, bridge. Dame Janet Vaughan, when asked how she had managed to combine so many different careers, always said "Never play bridge, girls, it is such a waste of time!". Alas for good resolutions!

I have a husband of 36 years' standing and two sons, now 31 and 28. We have a house in the south of France and spend some time every month down there. As I get older I try to live in the present, and my life is very spoiling and agreeable - I have had a lot of undeserved luck.

LUCY GASTER (Geography)



I enjoyed much of my time at Oxford, academically and socially, had my share of anguish (ditto), and found that the much maligned geography course had a great deal to offer to anyone who took it seriously - which after some initial hiccups, I did. Although my professional life did not relate specifically to my degree - my social administration diploma at LSE was much more important in that respect - it did teach me to make connections, to avoid simplistic solutions and to distinguish between cause and effect - something that most politicians and managers still find difficult! I made lifelong friends, both my daughters were at Oxford, and generally I think it must have been a force for the good.

Most of my career involved some kind of research - practical policy research for the Labour Party, the Race Relations Board, the United Nations Development Programme (in Botswana, 1969-73), the Institute of Community Studies and finally the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. This phase, when I mainly worked part-time while bringing up my three children, ended in 1982. After that, I worked in local government (Hackney and Islington Councils) for six years, four of them on the 'front line' as a neighbourhood office manager. This led to the need to know more about public services and management, so I did a Master's Degree in Public Sector Management at Aston University. The pleasures of doing applied research led to my becoming an academic (aged 50), first at Bristol University (School for Advanced Urban Studies) and then at Birmingham University (Institute of Local Government Studies), where I concentrated on issues surrounding the improvement of public services - decentralisation, quality improvement and public participation. In 2000, I gained a PhD on the basis of my publications in the previous decade. I retired from university life in 2000, and from all paid work in 2003.

I was an active member of the Labour Party from 1962 to 1997, when I resigned. In my 30s and 40s I was a 'community activist' of various kinds - excellent training in local democracy. This was good for my local government roles, and ensured that I kept a strong consumer and citizen perspective in my research. It all fitted well with my Socialist values and my generally practical approach to life.

I have been married twice, first to John Syson (1962), with whom I had three children, Luke, Lydia and Antonia, then to Nicholas Deakin (1988), who also has three children, Fred, Camilla and Ellen. Between us, we have eight grandchildren aged 2 - 12, who give us much pleasure. Now, following some intensive parent-care, it's time for music (one reason for retiring back to London), travel, child-care, piano lessons and WEA classes in geology - in other words, a 'normal' retirement!

Judith GEORGE (Holt, Classics)



Early impressions: it was quite a culture shock, coming from a more working class northern England environment, to a southern England and international culture.

Influences: a passion for Classics still drives my research and teaching; exposure to debate about key social issues and insight into the political dimensions of education; reinforcement of pleasure in making and listening to music, especially chamber music.

What matters now: my family, friends and cats; continuing work in education, especially in 'open access' aspects; research and teaching in Classics; peace and reflection in nature - gardening, painting and walking.

Career: I read *Greats*. I moved to Scotland, where I did supply teaching in philosophy at St. Andrews University, after having two children. I was appointed as a tutor for the Open University in 1974, then Senior Counsellor in 1978, and Deputy Scottish Director in 1984; Professor of Educational Research and Development in 2001. I received the OBE in 2004 for services to Higher and Lifelong Education. I am an Honorary Fellow of the Highlands and Islands Millenium Insitute, Visiting Fellow for the Classics Department of the Open University, I do external examining for various institutions, and am currently responsible at a Provincial level for education and training (both clergy and laity) in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Research and publications in education (issues in assessment, evaluation, staff development, curriculum development), and in classics (Late Antiquity - Merovingian Gaul and Vandalic North Africa).

Publications: I have made contributions in books, book chapters and articles on issues in higher and adult education, and on aspects of life and literature in late antiquity.

Personal life: I have two daughters; one a GP, the other a software designer, both of whom live within easy visiting distance. I was divorced in 1980. In my free time, I enjoy making music, films, walking, painting, and being with family and friends.

Retirement has freed me of a great deal of paperwork and management, so that I can focus on what I really enjoy - educational innovation, research, and hobbies. As retired people always say, I don't know how I had time to work! But, having had major surgery for cancer and chemotherapy, I have learned to prioritise and can now spend time on the things I really value.

Jane GORDON (Mackintosh, Modern Languages)

Going up to Somerville was exciting and I soon got to know a group of people who became lifelong friends. Overall I didn't work as hard or achieve as well as I could have done, but Somerville was the setting in which I began to recover from the stress of family and school expectations that I would do what others wanted for me. At Somerville one felt one was joining a lifetime community. My husband, Edmund, always felt very welcome at Somerville, as do our children, two of whom went to Balliol.

My first impression of the University Appointments Board was not favourable. I had no particular vocational impulse, but felt it was feeble advice that all one could do with a languages degree was teach. However, I did subsequently find a job through the Appointments Board as Research Assistant in the Printed Books department of the British Museum. It was soon evident, however, that career progression at the BM would be slow and in 1964 I changed direction, working for the General Medical Council. An Administrative Assistant until I resigned in 1966 shortly before the birth of our first child (one did in those days), I returned to the GMC as Senior Administrative Assistant the following year. I resigned again, for health reasons, a year later. A major operation in 1969 restored my health and our second child, our daughter Isobel, was born in 1970 and Eleanor our third in 1973. I began to study for my OU degree in Social Sciences in 1975. This introduced me to a new field and vocabulary for my subsequent MA in Politics and Government at the Polytechnic of East London (1980).

Soon after, I was appointed Assistant Registrar at the General Dental Council, with particular responsibility for education and legal matters. As a public servant I often liaised with government departments, taking account of government policy as it affected the statutory remit of the GDC. In 1995 I was appointed Deputy Registrar with a brief to develop a more general policy overview. My husband having retired in 1996 from a post which entailed commuting weekly to The Hague, I negotiated early retirement in 1998.

Ed and I have always collected pictures, albeit early acquisitions were occasional and very modest. Our most significant collecting period was in fact the 1980s and 1990s, though obsessives like us never stop! Since then Ed and I have devoted a great deal of time to our common passion for art, visiting museums, galleries and auctions and continuing to collect as far as our means allow. I have been involved in various kinds of voluntary work, in particular at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution and the local Sue Ryder shop. We enjoy the cultural opportunities of both London and Edinburgh, where we have a second home. Edinburgh also gives us the chance to see Anne Seaton (Vernon) and Judith George (Holt), friends since our first term at Somerville. We also enjoy being grandparents: two of our three adult children are married and we have a granddaughter and a step-granddaughter.

MADELEINE HARMSWORTH (History)



It was something of a minor miracle that I got into Somerville at all. Thanks to an abysmal Latin education at school, I didn't just fail the compulsory entrance examination paper, I actually submitted a blank sheet with some fatalistic juvenile remark attached. To my astonishment I was not rejected outright but given the opportunity to take the paper again. How come? Especially as I was neither scholarship nor exhibitioner material.

Thanks to the avuncular tutor at the crammers, who spoon-fed me every word, a second degrading failure followed. This had to be it. But amazingly I was given yet another chance. I was flabbergasted. Why this indulgence? I sought a sterner teacher who schooled me for every possibility, except simple Caesar. Caesar is what I got and this time, which was presumably was the intention, I sailed through. Only months later did I discover that our college principal, Janet Vaughan, was at the forefront of a campaign to abolish Latin as a compulsory entrance paper, and the mystery of my chequered entry into Somerville was solved.

After graduating from Somerville in 1962 I joined the Sunday Pictorial (currently Sunday Mirror) as a very junior reporter, where I learned the hard way, with much shedding of tears and tearing of hair, that writing at Oxford essay length to fill a news-spot in a tabloid newspaper was not the ideal way. Gradually I learned that three-quarters of the words we write are superfluous and have hated verbosity from thereon. I stayed with the Mirror Group for my entire working life of thirty years. I progressed from general reporting to general feature writing and from 1965 until my retirement in 1992 combined the latter with being the paper's film reviewer. I subsequently edited the Letters Page and was briefly the paper's travel editor. Off and on throughout that period I wrote freelance pieces under the pseudonym Hannah Carter, for The Times, the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Independent and the now defunct Queen magazine and The Oldie. These were mostly in-depth interviews with writers such as Patricia Highsmith, Jean Rhys, Bridget Brophy and Richmal Crompton. There were also book reviews, travel pieces and, sadly, obituaries of people I knew and loved.

I have lived all my life in London except latterly, when for several years, until recently, I divided my time between England and Cape Town, South Africa. This allowed me to indulge my love of the outdoors as South Africa is a paradise for hikers, cyclists and swimmers, all of which activities I still enjoy.

I aim to return to South Africa at least once a year to prepare for and to participate in the annual Cape Argus cycle race - a 109 km, individually timed course around the Cape peninsula which attracts regularly upwards of 35,000 cyclists from throughout the country and the world. My aim is to become the oldest woman to finish the race. Believe it or not, at the age of 66 I still have at least ten years to go.

MARY HART (Scadding, Zoology)



After leaving Somerville, I attended a one-year education course at Bristol University. In September 1963 I married and went with my Nigerian husband to Lagos where we lived happily. I worked for a UK publishing company, Thomas Nelson Publishers' as a science representative. I toured Nigeria by road with a personal driver, visiting secondary schools and universities, introducing science staff in particular to new science publications suitable for their students as course or library books. After leaving Thomas Nelson

I worked as secretary and assistant to my husband in his bookshop and kept the accounts up to date.

In 1983 I returned to the UK as my mother was unwell. I did not return to Nigeria as the constant heat and humidity was having its effect on me. My husband made regular visits to me in England, which he enjoyed. On the death of my mother I had some very serious thinking to do. What would happen to me in retirement? I moved to the south east of England, to Saffron Walden, Essex, not far from my brother. I worked for 15 years as a secretary at an aviation firm at Stansted Airport, in their Quality Assurance department.

When I was 69 years old I took a temporary job at Cambridge University in the examinations section, amassing students' examination papers. I was retired at 70 years as the university was not insured to cover workers above that age. At 70 I was also diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Sadly my husband died in 2006, in Nigeria. At 79 I am still mobile and able to get out and about on my own and do for myself. I enjoy attending my fortnightly classes of yoga and physiotherapy, which are keeping me agile and active, and making new friends.

Lisette HENREY (Coghlan, Zoology)



I remember that my father worried at my apparent inability to decide on a career so, to my great embarrassment, he wrote to Janet Vaughan who called me in for a gracious and practical chat. I ended up in London editing science books for Macmillan for a couple of years then, excited at the opportunity for some field research, spent a memorable three months in the Camargue riding the temperamental local horses and counting wintering ducks and doing some sleuthing to discover where they were flying off to feed at night. The work became part of a paper on wintering ducks.

Marriage to Robert Henrey followed (1965) and a passage to America to take a quick look at what America was all about - we have remained there on and off ever since. We lived eight years in New York City where Robert worked for what became the giant Coopers and Lybrand accounting firm and I worked as an editor for Holt Reinhart and Winston and McGraw-Hill. This was the time when multimedia was beginning to take over education and I was fortunate to be able simultaneously to learn and actually produce science films and filmstrips for schools. Even after having our first child, Dominique, I continued part time with McGraw-Hill and also became involved in the production of an experimental science TV show for a new cable company in New York City with a successful children's author Vicki Cobb. I prepared the experiments to make sure they worked on camera - she did all the talking and I had all the fun! When Dominique was four we moved to Singapore where our son Edward was born. Robert and I learned to scuba dive and spent weekends underwater photographing coral reef life for a field guide I was writing. We travelled all over SE Asia and came to appreciate the world from a totally different perspective. Back in the States we settled in Greenwich CT where we have been for the last 29 years and where I have worked, volunteered and enjoyed our children's growth to adulthood - interrupted by the tragedy of our daughter's death from an allergic reaction to peanuts at age 18.

I am currently retired but work freelance as Science Education Consultant, and as a Guest Exhibition Curator at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich - the most recent exhibition being Climate Change. Prior to this I have held positions as State Director of Education for National Audubon (a nationwide conservation organization focusing on birds) and Associate Curator of Education at the Bruce Museum. I am very much involved in conservation at the local level as a member of Greenwich's Conservation Commission, and the Long Island Sound Councils. On a more academic note, I work as a volunteer in the invertebrate palaeontology collection at the Yale Peabody Museum where I also attend classes to fill in gaps in my Oxford education! Every year we spend time as a family travelling to places of great natural beauty and birding potential as well as cultural interest. We also spend time at our farmhouse in Normandy (the house where Robert was born). Other hobbies include choral singing, hiking, birding, nature photography - and exploring all kinds of museums.

Norma HERRMANN (Shepherd, English)



I was born in Sheffield and attended the mixed Sheffield City Grammar School. No-one from my school had ever been to Oxford (one boy had been at Cambridge thirteen years before) so I had no idea what to expect. I was daunted for about five minutes. I even enjoyed Maitland 9, which I was told was the worst room in College. Does it still exist?

I remember a treasure trove of people. I cannot think of one whom I would rather not have met. I did a lot of acting and so met students of all ages and felt the benefit of so many brains and so much talent (theirs, not mine!).

There is no doubt that the name "Somerville" has secured various jobs for me. My first employer advertised openly for Oxford and Cambridge graduates to impress clients with the number of "light and dark blue" employees they had! However, jobs are the least important thing. My years at Somerville made me feel fortunate. I have never lost the feeling of being fortunate, which is a boon as one gets older.

After reading English I did a shorthand course for journalists, then joined an advertising agency - very briefly as I hated it. To this day, I do not know what my job was! Afterwards I spent thirty years as a BBC journalist - first as newswriter in the BBC Radio Newsroom in Broadcasting House from 1964 to 1967, and later as reporter and producer and foot-in-the-door consumer campaigner.

In 1967 I married the American musician Bernard Herrmann, conductor of the American CBS Symphony Orchestra and composer of film music (*Psycho*, *Citizen Kane* etc) and from 1967 to 1971 moved between Regent's Park and Hollywood, California, and I worked sporadically for the BBC. In 1972 we settled in London and I went back to work in BBC television making documentaries and consumer programmes until retirement. In 1975 I was widowed. Three years later, I met Roger, a senior police officer, and my son Daniel was born in 1978. This has been quite a contrast to being a Hollywood housewife, which I recommend to no-one! It was part of life's rich tapestry, which I have managed to unpick. Sadly, Roger died in April 2008.

I seem to have chosen a life of deadlines, weekly, daily, hourly, like taking one exam after another. Now retired, I do enjoy a comparatively stress-free life, and do not miss working - and miss commuting even less, though I do feel a twinge sometimes when I see something on television which we could have done better. I enjoy the usual pursuits of retirement: reading, gardening, brainteasers, entertaining, theatres, looking after animals and vintage cars. The only work I would consider in the future would be teaching Latin in a primary school. There is a movement to bring back Latin with which I agree passionately. If it gets off the ground in my area, I will be there.

Margaret KENYON (Parry, Modern Languages)



Somerville has made a profound contribution to my life, often in ways I could never have predicted. I applied to the College sight unseen---no open days in 1958---- largely because my school never appeared to send girls there, and I liked the sound of it. I have never regretted it. I made lifelong friends, mixed with women of daunting intellect and independence of mind, both dons and fellow students, and felt the world open up. My sister Helen followed me four years later, and to my great delight, my elder son William married a Somervillian in 2001. Throughout my teaching career, and particularly as Head of a girls' school, I tried to steer girls towards applying, a task which after the admission of male undergraduates became very easy. It is a joy that many of them went on to do so well. I was hugely honoured, and amazed, to be made an Honorary Fellow in 1999 and pleased to be able to make some small return for all I owe the College by membership of the Development Board.

I met my husband at Oxford, through the Christ Church Dramatic Society; in due course, our two sons William and Piers studied at Exeter College and St John's. My brother-in-law was philosophy fellow at St Peter's. There have always been good reasons to revisit and enjoy parts of Oxford we perhaps did not fully appreciate when undergraduates. Caroline and John Barron were wonderful hosts when John was Master of St Peter's, a very special bonus for their many friends.

Since leaving Somerville, my life has been entirely spent in the Manchester area--- My Modern Languages degree, specialising in French, led to teaching, first at a large mixed independent school, later at Withington Girls' School, where I was Head of Department and then Headmistress from 1986-2000. I suppose that few careers combine as easily with family life as teaching, and I was fortunate in being offered interesting part-time work when my sons were young. A particular highlight was being President of the Girls' Schools Association in 1994. I met so many interesting women running schools in Britain and abroad and learned a great deal from them.

In retirement, education still looms large. I am a governor of several schools, and involved in a variety of educational charities and grant making bodies. I have had to learn about a different world by chairing the Board of the Manchester University Press; a fascinating insight into trends in academic publishing, and the impact of new technologies. I must admit to disliking the word retirement, and prefer to think of this stage as an exploration of the hitherto "unlived life", as Jung would have it. Work is undoubtedly easier to orchestrate, but does tend to be all consuming. Now there is more time for the impromptu, for travel out of school holidays, for exhibitions and galleries, above all for our growing family and for friends. Five young grandchildren, including twins, are a thrilling experience; they make us feel rejuvenated and ancient at the same time.

Jane LAWRENCE (Vaizey, Physiology, Medicine)



I enjoyed being at Somerville, and having been to a boarding school, liked the comparative freedom of college life, even though it was restricted compared with today! Looking back I know it was a great privilege to have been there and it opened my eyes to life and knowledge and taught me to think for myself. I met so many interesting people studying so many different subjects and this has been a lasting beneficial influence on my life. After reading Medicine at Oxford, I did a variety of junior hospital posts and then specialised in Paediatrics and was a hospital consultant at the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Lincolnshire from 1980 until my retirement in 2000. There were huge changes in the NHS during this time and we went from two consultants and three juniors when I started to five consultants and about ten juniors when I left. The EU Working Directive had a big impact, reducing working hours and therefore experience gained but improving the work-life balance considerably. The other big change was the Child Protection work which increased enormously and became a considerable burden to the consultants. Clinically there were great improvements, especially in Paediatric Cardiology and Neonatology during those two decades.

During my elective period as a medical student I did research at the Park Hospital for Children in Oxford comparing the behaviour of autistic children with brain-damaged ones which was published in *Nature*. I have also published papers on neonatal special care and Leber's amaurosis.

I married in 1969 and was widowed in 1995. I have a daughter born in 1973 and a son born in 1976 and a grand daughter born in 2008. I live near Boston, Lincolnshire and in retirement I continue to enjoy travelling. I lived in Ethiopia during my early childhood and this gave me a degree of wanderlust! I am a governor at the local hospital school and the local primary school, where I listen to young readers once a week. I still enjoy learning and take advantage of the local U3A. I have taken up bee-keeping which brings me into contact with another group of interesting people and locally-sourced honey has become more popular with the present concern about food miles. I find the behaviour of bees and their organisation and co-operation in the hive fascinating.

I belong to a local photographic club where I face the challenge of digital photography and computer manipulation of the images! I also enjoy reading, gardening and having more time for family and friends and now my new grand daughter.

MARY LEEDHAM-GREEN (Baldry, Physics)



On arriving at Somerville, I felt considerable awe for the learning and the learned, and appreciated the new-found liberty to discuss and deliberate on any subject under the sun. The College, of course, exerted limitations on our behaviour!

I found Oxford very beautiful, apart from the traffic, but because I was training as a scientist I never felt fully integrated into the traditional intellectual life of either the College or the University. I married an Oxford graduate, Charles Richard Leedham-Green, who eventually became a Professor of Pure Mathematics at Queen Mary, University of London. I have never ceased to be proud and amazed that I attended such an ancient university. It has probably been of assistance in obtaining employment. After my youngest child reached eight, I taught Physics to A-level and A-level Applied Maths. In 1987 I changed career and worked with medical databases, clinical and drug company research and medical statistics. This second career has resulted in being co-author of a number of articles in medical journals on epidemiological topics ranging from prevalence of types of osteoarthritis to population-based studies of certain viruses.

With regard to voluntary work, for some ten years I worked on the North East London Committee of the Stonham Housing Association. I was also a voluntary visitor for the N.E.London Probation Office.

We have lived in Woodford Green since 1968. We have three children, Richard, Kathleen and Sarah and seven grandchildren. The careers of my children and the education and welfare of my grandchildren are very important to me. I love my garden and take a particular interest in growing unusual vegetables. Besides gardening, my leisure pursuits include crime fiction, cinema, painting in acrylics, and I enjoy a social game of Bridge! I have always enjoyed meeting my Somerville friends again at the College functions. Now that I have retired, I feel that I am returning to a long childhood holiday, when I can please myself from dawn to dusk.

KIRSTY LEONARD (Mackenzie, Chemistry)



After gaining my degree in Chemistry at Somerville, I worked in product development for Unilever. Moving to Ireland, I worked on drug synthesis at Dublin University and then went in to teaching and did the Higher Diploma in Education at Trinity College, Dublin in 1966 and also supervised teacher training practice there. I worked in a range of schools from a boys' High School and a Comprehensive School in Dublin to a Sixth Form College and a Convent school in Sussex. I was involved in the early years of introducing computers into schools, developing and demonstrating the use of data logging in science experiments to teaching groups. I did an M.Phil in antibiotic synthesis at Sussex University in 1981.

I trained as a teacher of the deaf and taught at Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf in Newbury for the ten years before retiring. School teaching is always hard work, even more so when the children are profoundly deaf. A lab full of pupils who cannot hear you means that you have to have eyes in the back of your head to avoid accidents. None the less, expectations at Mary Hare School are high and pupils do very well academically with most going on to higher education. I became involved in Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education (CASE) and obtained a Leverhulme Grant to research the development of abstract reasoning skills in adolescence, particularly in profoundly deaf children with delayed language skills. In conjunction with this I studied for the MSc in Cognitive Neuropsychology at Oxford Brookes University.

I am married with two daughters and four grandchildren. One daughter has an Australian husband and two children in Brisbane, and the other has a French husband and two children near us in Scotland. While my daughters were young I took a career break and ran an organic market garden from my home in Sussex. I did an HND in Horticulture on day release at Plumpton Agricultural College. Living in the country, we were able to keep ponies and I spent much of the 1980s and 1990s driving a horse box around England at weekends and school holidays, showing native ponies, Pony Club and mounted games and Dressage. I became an excellent stable manager and lorry driver and lunger, but remained a poor rider.

I grew up in a gardening family and have made gardens wherever we went. I started, and run a Beautiful Scotland volunteer group (like Britain in Bloom) in Linlithgow where we moved soon after retirement. This is hard work and takes up a huge amount of time. Life seems to be busier than ever.

MARGARET MASON (Lea, English)



My time at Somerville was not really a happy one - I was still reeling from the discovery that my father's death had been a suicide, and I was not studying the right subjects (English then Russian). Looking back, the vocational guidance/careers advice on offer both at school and at Somerville were lamentable. I'm sure it would be very different now - but what a waste!

I left Somerville with a baby and no degree in 1962 but the security of marriage did give me the chance to find my real vocation. I retrained (quite a struggle with two little children and no grant) and found a fulfilling career in Child and Family Guidance Clinics.

I was eclectic, using a wide range of therapeutic approaches to help parents resolve the very varied problems which had brought their child to the clinic (referrals came from schools, doctors and parents themselves). The assessment phase - working out what was going on and how best to intervene was endlessly challenging and fascinating, the work very demanding and successful resolution immensely rewarding.

My marriage ended in 1976 when my research scientist husband dropped out to live on a croft! We had two sons. In 1986 I had a serious accident, sustaining spinal injuries and a chemical exposure and my health never fully recovered.

At this point, together with a co-worker from Bristol's Rape Crisis Centre, I had been running what we believed was the first group for women whose partners had sexually abused their children - the last group meeting took place around my hospital bed. Soon after this, the Child Guidance clinics were axed and I worked in a Child and Family Support Centre but even part-time, both life and work were a struggle and in 1997 I was thankful to retire on health grounds, which enabled a degree of recovery.

In 2000 I married my long-term partner Tony and we live contentedly in Bristol. We live in the Montpelier Conservation Area, close to the inner city, and we are both involved in local conservation, planning and community issues (Tony to a much greater extent than I). This takes the place of a formal retirement job and can absorb as much time and energy as we have to put into it.

My two sons and three grandsons are now all living in America, so I no longer have the fun of regular involvement with little grandchildren; instead, (like many of us?) we are supporting Tony's recently widowed and now dementing 91 year old mother, who is still living independently a couple of hours away.

GERTA MORAY (Glasser, History)



Looking back at that group photo I think I must have been one of the least worldly-wise recruits to arrive at Somerville in 1959, but that didn't matter a bit; a marvellous group of new friends there soon remedied any gaucheness. We pooled our experiences and watched each other test out the opportunities the university offered - I was sure I was destined to be an actress till Miss Harvey pointed out I had used up all my acting leaves.

What I brought away was the self confidence born of intellectual training in enquiry and critical thinking by Somerville dons who treated us as potential scholars and equals, as well as many lifelong friendships and vivid memories of studying and living in an intoxicatingly beautiful historical setting.

I suppose that encouraged my later move to art history for my graduate degree. But history at Somerville truly grounded my life - as a refugee from war-devastated Europe, I needed that chance to immerse myself in British history and also to look further at Europe. Friendships made at Somerville also in some ways replaced the extended family that I lost through displacement.

I went on to an MA equivalent in Art History at the Courtauld Institute, and finally a PhD at the University of Toronto on the wonderful Canadian painter and writer Emily Carr. I had moved to Canada in 1970 and since Canadian art history was a very new field it proved an exciting area to explore. It has been particularly rewarding to introduce generations of Canadian students to the riches of their cultural traditions and to see many of them now pursuing careers in the visual arts. My research and teaching gained impetus by the feminist movement and I have enjoyed writing catalogue essays for women artists' exhibitions. My book *Unsettling Encounters: First Nations Imagery in the Art of Emily Carr* (UBC Press 2006) was short listed for one of Canada's biggest literary non-fiction prizes and won a Canadian Historical Association award. In retirement I am continuing research on Canadian art history and look forward to having more time to travel, particularly in Asia. And to paddling a canoe or kayak through lakes or coastal waters whenever the chance arrives. With one daughter in New York and the other in British Columbia, global dispersal remains the order of the day and I appreciate the thread of continuity that Somerville has woven through my life.

SYLVIA NEUMANN (Bull, Mathematics)



I married the year I left Somerville and taught for a year at Milham Ford School while my husband, also a mathematician, was still an undergraduate. Then our family started and my career went on hold. Subsequently I gradually took up teaching at undergraduate level, working briefly for Somerville and St Hugh's, then Westminster College, Merton College, The Queen's College and The Open University; the latter two are where the majority of my career has been. This summer I have retired from Queen's but

I shall continue some Open University teaching.

Meanwhile we have brought up three children: David, born in 1964; Jenny, born in 1965; and James, born in 1968. All are now married and with children of their own, giving us the pleasure of ten grandchildren, ranging in age from 19 to 8. One family is based in Sweden, one near Oxford and one in Surrey. We see them all from time to time, and occasionally manage a large family gathering; the most recent was in February 2008 when my husband was presented with an OBE for services to education; this was principally for his work with the UK Maths Trust, which encourages children of a bright mathematical bent by means of challenges of various types.

We have remained in Oxford apart from two sabbaticals in the USA and shorter periods in Australia; from October my husband will spend several months in Paris, and I shall join him for the autumn. He hopes to do further research on the works of Evariste Galois, a mathematician who did important work in algebra before dying at the age of 20 in a duel.

Having elected not to continue studying after my first degree, and perhaps regretted it, I am now belatedly studying for a taught MSc in mathematics with the Open University; I expect to finish this year. After which I shall have to find some more to do.

I also plan, in retirement, to do more walking, reading, listening to music, sewing or craft work of some kind, to continue singing in a very informal group, and probably to do some form of voluntary work. My husband and I both enjoy doing crosswords and Sudoku puzzles, and we also have a large collection of mathematical puzzles which we sometimes use to entertain and amuse our friends and grandchildren.

SUSAN NOBLE (Barfield, Physiology, Medicine)



I started my undergraduate studies under Jean Banister at Somerville but finished them at University College London before returning to Somerville to do a DPhil in physiology. I then continued in research on the heart in Jean's laboratory. An important paper in *Nature* with Hilary Brown and Dario DiFrancesco in 1979 identified a new cardiac membrane channel that controls rhythm. 30 years later this discovery has led to a new medication (Ivabradine, Servier) to slow heart rhythm that is proving effective in treating patients with angina. This discovery was recently recognised by the award to DiFrancesco of the Grand Prix Lefoulon-delalande by the Academy of Sciences in Paris. This was only one of a series of unknown channel mechanisms discovered in the heart, which I was partly responsible for, including sodium-calcium exchange current, the background sodium current, and a channel activated by isoprenaline. These have also led to new medications and to understanding the side effects of many drugs on the heart. The work is reported in 50 publications in scientific journals between 1968 and 1999. I am deeply indebted to all the people from the UK and abroad with whom I have collaborated.

I am also grateful to the Open University where, in 1979, I began a systematic and rewarding study of mathematics. The path to their BA degree proved an important tool in rounding out my abilities as a biophysicist. Recently, we were pleased to learn that our efforts have borne more fruit in a potentially powerful anti-arrhythmic drug, Ranolazine (CV Therapeutics) which is being assessed in clinical trials. The final post I held at Oxford was that of Senior Research Lecturer, in the department of Physiology from which I retired in 1997 because of ill-health. Work on reconstructing the heart's activity is still being carried out there by, amongst others, my husband, Professor Denis Noble and my daughter, Penelope.

Ahilya NOONE, (Nehaul, Philosophy, Physiology, Psychology)



In retrospect I realise that during my four years at Somerville I was cocooned away from the outside world. Coming to England from what a recent (and amazing) television documentary had called 'The Lost Land of the Jaguar', I suppose that was no bad thing. It did feel like very hard work though.

Was I the only confused Somervillian woman at the end of those four years? I completed the PPP (Philosophy, Physiology and Psychology Honours) schools in June 1963 and got married in July 1963. Unsure of whether to go on to clinical studies, I had two years out, working for Professor Jack Tizard on the Isle of Wight Epidemiological Study and having my first child. I ended up doing my clinical studies, graduating in medicine in 1968 and completing my house jobs.

The '1960s career woman' problem made things worse. After my second child was born in 1971, I wondered whether I ought to be at home with my children. It was an emotional issue in those days of poor nursery facilities, no concessions to working women, rather comments about the damage inflicted on the children. I do wonder whether the large number of graduate women of generations around my time were the first to raise awareness of these issues. We still have the 'career woman/childcare' problem but unlike the Scandinavians we seem unable to deal with it. I watch and sympathise with my daughter-in-law as she continues to deal with work and childcare and am thankful that she is a more relaxed working woman than I was, despite the many problems.

My big break came when I moved to London when my younger son was 16, to work as a Consultant in the AIDS Division of what was then the Public Health Laboratory Service (now the Health Protection Agency). My working contacts were now more spread out - in the UK and beyond. Seminars in the newly independent European countries were interesting, not only for the AIDS issues, but also for a very brief introduction to the very different cultures which there were in these countries. I had begun to travel and what a discovery that was!

In 1995 I moved to Scotland to work in what was the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (now Health Protection Scotland). The years before retirement were spent in developing systems of surveillance of Healthcare Acquired Infection (HAI). This, I think, was the part of my career which gave me greatest pleasure, not least because of the talented young people who formed the team I worked with.

Since retirement I have been able to enjoy the magical Scottish landscapes and the peace of the place. I visit Jean Banister, my tutor at Somerville, in the lovely, remote Ardnamurchan peninsula and hope that I will be as sparky and interested as she is when I am in my 90s. I live in Glasgow where the cultural scene is alive and developing. The Edinburgh Festival is not far away, either. I am now properly aware of the true value of my time in Somerville, Oxford. My parents gave me more than their ambitions for me. They encouraged a curiosity and excitement to explore the world around, including music. This continued at Oxford in the opportunities I had and the confidence I gained. No longer am I confused, but happy and fulfilled. Children and grandchildren play a huge part in this, of course!

Onora O'NEILL (Philosophy, Physiology, Psychology)



On arrival at Somerville, I was wholly incurious. I never wondered how the College came to exist, or how it was run, or how it was paid for. I just thought it was a congenial place and wrongly imagined that the sort of teaching we got was widely available. My lasting memories of Oxford and Somerville are of hard work, excitement and lots of interesting people. Somerville was wholly supportive. They let me switch from history to PPP, let me keep one room throughout (my parents were abroad) and made very few demands.

One influence that Somerville had on my life, through my tutor Elisabeth Anscombe and my moral tutor Phillipa Foot, was that I became an academic; I even became a Head of House - but I can't blame that on Somerville!

The basic bio data are quite simple: I was awarded the Coombes Scholarship by Somerville and gained a first class degree in PPP, then did a PhD at Harvard, under John Rawls. I married young and am divorced, have two sons and three grandchildren and close family ties. I taught first in the USA, mainly at Barnard College, Columbia University, then returned to the UK and the University of Essex where I lectured in Philosophy and remained as a Professor until 1992, when I was appointed Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge (so I had to learn how Colleges work and are paid for!). I retired from Newnham in 2006, but remain an Honorary Professor of Philosophy in Cambridge.

My philosophical writing is mainly in ethics and political philosophy, and on the work of Immanuel Kant; some of it deals with issues in 'applied' ethics, ranging from consent in medical and research ethics to arguments that (supposedly) justify claims about rights of various sorts. I lecture to many different sorts of audience. At one end of the range are prestigious 'named lectures', at the other lectures for a large range of academic, professional and public audiences. My life was changed when I gave the Reith Lectures for the BBC in 2002, under the title **A Question of Trust**: I had lit on a theme that still attracts huge attention, and on which I still work.

I have had far more experience of institutions than I expected to (at Somerville I was a bit unclubbable). I have chaired the Nuffield Foundation since 1998, entered the House of Lords in 2000 and became President of the British Academy in 2005. I have played a minor part in a lot of other public and academic committees and bodies. I balance institutional life by teaching and writing philosophy, and plan to go on doing so while health holds. (Incidentally, I have stopped saying I am retired. It misleads, so I say that I have a portfolio life. The diary is just as full as when I had a salary.) In my free time I like conversation, walking in the country and a small amount of gardening.

(photo by Eaden Lilley, Cambridge)

Mary ORMEROD (Charlesworth, English)



After Somerville, I did a Dip Ed in Norham Gardens and my teaching practice back home in Cumbria. It was the spectacular winter of '63 and I was snowbound for weeks, as were many of the children, who had to be lodged all round the town. The school was closed, helicopters brought in supplies and I walked out into magical countryside on the tops of hedges because the drifts were so deep.

I taught in a girls' grammar school for seven years and loved it. In the middle of that I married David Ormerod who is a musician but had taken a job in local government finance on the grounds that musicians can count. Fortunately he is also a practical man, because we bought a good-sized but derelict house in North Oxford and David extended and renovated it around us. By this time we had two daughters, Sally and Emily, and we lived in a certain amount of squalor, without electricity or running water for seven months. When the roof was replaced Emily sat with her legs round the chimney pot while five year old Sally ran up with each slate to be nailed on. Probably Social Services would have something to say nowadays, but it was educational in its way. We all learned how block and tackle works.

David and I worked from home and I tried some experimental teaching with dyslexic, autistic and excluded-from-school children. Now, mostly in self-defence, I have reverted to mainstream.

About three decades passed in this pleasant but unremarkable way. Sally and Emily went to university, married and had children. David built a castle for the little boys at the end of our garden, complete with spiral staircase and coat of arms.

In 2003 David and I parted company and he now lives in France with his new wife and baby daughter. Fortunately I am not alone, as Sally and her partner Tim and her two sons Adam and Thomas share the house with me and Emily lives just up the road with her son James. I realise how very privileged I am to live at such close quarters with my extending family. My time is divided between taking care of three year old James, teaching and seeing friends, notably Jane Day (nee Osborn) of Somerville. We meet every week. The next decade or two look like continuing along the same lines. Well, there's only so much excitement a girl can take.

MARIANNE PAU (Zoology)



I left Somerville after Prelims but have fond memories of kind friends I made there, some of whom remained in touch with me for years. After Somerville, I spent a few years in London and in Paris, then worked in a small French community in the Auvergne mountains. After two more years in the UK, I returned to France, and, after separating from my daughter's father, worked in various families as a carer or household help. I am now living in Nimes in retirement. Apart from the company of my cat Minouchet, what I enjoy most is the company of my friends.

Kristin PAYNE (Maule, Modern Languages)



Reflections: It is difficult to believe that it is nearly 50 years since we came up. In those days I never had a camera so, sadly, I have no Somerville photos, but many images, often quite insignificant, remain vivid: coffee parties in our rooms, dinner in hall and bowing to top table if you arrived late, the inspiring figure of Dame Janet Vaughan, Mr and Mrs Day at the lodge, reading newspapers in the JCR, seeking books in the library, parking my bike behind chapel and on occasion climbing the wall.

I always regard my time at Somerville as one of the most important influences on my life. The friends I made there are among my dearest. When we meet I feel we can pick up where we left off. Though never directly involved with work for the college, I am aware of Somerville and Oxford as a constant presence in the background that offers comradeship and could provide support if needed. I am a member of the revitalized Oxford and Cambridge Society of the Netherlands which has regular activities. Sadly, my husband, Clive, did not share my Oxford experience; he went straight to work from school and always joked about contributing as a tax payer to my "expensive university education"; but he said it with pride.

Since Somerville: My Career and my Personal Life: I read modern languages, German and French, and in the months before finals the careers advisor recommended going into teaching. That, I thought, was the last thing I wanted to do and I got a job with Unilever and became a brand manager for toilet preparations. However, after 7 years, I left the business world to concentrate on my two young sons. My main hobby was fencing and for 20 years I was deeply involved in the administration of women's and youth fencing, from 1988 to 1992 being on the board of the British Fencing Association as Director of Youth Fencing.

In the meantime I had started, guess what, teaching English as a foreign language to German and French businessmen. And I was back in Oxford, working for the OISE language school (now one of the largest in Britain), which had its premises in The High, above the market. In 1990 I took a PGCE at Reading University. Meanwhile my husband's job had moved to Amsterdam, so in 1992, when our sons were no longer at home, I moved to Holland to join him. Sadly, he died from cancer in 2002, but I have stayed on and still live in a little village south of Amsterdam in an apartment with a beautiful view of a lake on one side and greenhouses on the other. I have my own business teaching English to Japanese and Dutch people. I also have a little house in France, inherited from my mother, which I visit as often as possible. In a year or two I intend to retire and come back to live in the UK in order to be near my sons and their growing families. As for sport, I still do the fencing and I also play a little hockey (veterans) which I used to do twice a week at Somerville.

Cassandra PHILLIPS (Hubback, Philosophy, Politics and Economics)



My lasting memories of Oxford and Somerville are of frantic activity, so much crammed into each 8-week term, most of it stimulating and/or fun. Bicycling everywhere, often in the rain. Heart-breaking love affairs. Lectures often very boring, long hours in libraries for the twice weekly essay crises. Some excellent tutors (such as Lady Hall), some rather over my head. All those intimate chats over coffee in friend's rooms, college life was ideal in having friends around when you wanted. We were well aware

that there were 10 men to every woman in the University, an advantage but we did appreciate being able to retreat to our all-women college. Eating nightly dinners in Hall was a good experience (the atmosphere rather than the food) making one feel part of such a special college.

I met my future husband in my second term at Oxford, we married soon after going down and are still married so that must be the biggest influence on my life. Another enormously valuable influence has been the many life-long friendships formed in Somerville. I got my first job in the new National Economic Development Office thanks to Lady Hall, but didn't remain an economist for long. The rest of my very varied career was certainly helped by having read PPE which prepares you for almost anything. Probably one of the main influences of my time at Oxford was in giving self-confidence. Having survived those essays and finals with reasonable results helped make you feel you could tackle many apparently daunting situations throughout life.

Our two sons were born in 1965 and 1968. In 1974 we moved to Kenya where Adrian was in the UN Environment Programme and I taught geography in Loreto Convent and learned to fly a small plane (including aerobatics). In 1978 we moved with Adrian's job to Switzerland, near Geneva, and I started working for WWF (World Wildlife Fund). I continued with WWF when we moved back to England in 1981 (Adrian became CEO of the Countryside Commission). Until his death in 1989 I was Sir Peter Scott's conservation assistant, and then I became the WWF Policy Adviser for the International Whaling Commission and Antarctic Treaty. I attended every IWC annual meeting, held in many countries all over the world, from 1982 to 2003. We won the whaling moratorium and the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary but failed to stop whaling altogether. In Antarctica, our major achievement was the Environmental Protocol, which bans all mining and greatly strengthens the environmental controls on the continent (10% of the planet). I travelled to the Antarctic twice with the British Antarctic Survey.

In 2003 I retired, and published a book about my artist grandmother. We live in a small village in Gloucestershire and are involved in several local projects (including a village shop which Esther Rantzen opened for us). Environmental issues certainly didn't register at all in the early 1960s but they have largely taken over my life in the last thirty years.

SUSANNA REID (Allison, English)



My parents came to live in Oxford several years before I started at Somerville but I did not feel a part of the place until I joined the University. I found the College a place where I could be myself. I did not feel directed or coerced and the basic rules seemed few and fair. Although I found Dame Janet intimidating she was a marvellous Principal. My tutor, Miss Syfret, was sympathetic and encouraging even when I was not doing well. I always enjoyed her tutorials and seminars. I experienced some of the happiest and the most miserable times while I was at Somerville but that was because I was learning about life from my mistakes.

There is no doubt that I benefited from the prestige of having been at Oxford, for example in job applications. However I was also aware from time to time of some resentment and scorn at the privileges I had enjoyed.

I read English and then went to London and did a Diploma of Education and got a job in a comprehensive school in Peckham for which neither my degree nor my diploma were an adequate preparation. A police training would have been more useful.

I married in 1963 and moved to Sussex. When all my children were at school I returned to teaching, this time at a private girls' school where I had no discipline problems. I worked there for nearly 30 years, part-time, then full-time and finally as Head of English. At one stage I was responsible for school assemblies and published a book of the readings I used. It was not on the bestseller list but I was unjustifiably proud of my little production.

After retiring I gained a qualification in teaching English as a foreign language and spent two periods of six weeks teaching in Romania. I was working for a medical charity which sent hospital workers to England for further training. For this they needed to speak English. The project gave me an exciting new interest and it arose from my long-term fascination with Soviet protest literature and the post-communist world.

At Oxford my interests were mainly in the literature of the past. Now I read more modern works of fiction as well as some history and philosophy. We live in a village where I have served on the Parish Council and on the PCC. I love the countryside and my garden. I do some volunteer work for Age Concern since I am naturally concerned, at this stage of my life, about old age.

For my husband and myself the hub of our lives is our children and grandchildren. We have a son in London, a daughter with three children in Edinburgh and a son with two boys in Cardiff. Although we wish they lived closer, we manage to see them often enough for us to be familiar to the little ones and for us not to miss important stages of their development.

Jane ROBINSON (Packham, Chemistry)



The terylene pleated skirts and twinsets we wore as freshers contrasted well with more eccentric tutors and established characters at Somerville. I have abiding memories of summer days on the river, science labs and lectures, conversation and coffee with friends and films at the Scala cinema, preceded by a 1s10d Wimpy.

I went down in 1962 with an unclassified Chemistry degree, having decided to get married as soon as Schools ended and do a PGCE in London rather than remain in Oxford for a fourth year. I have not regretted this decision. After completing the PGCE at King's College, London, I spent 12 years at home with our children (two sons, one daughter). We all spent a year (1966-67) in the USA experiencing race riots of a long hot summer and anti-Vietnam sentiments among the friends we made. Later I taught "science" in a London comprehensive school.

In 1991 I was ordained NSM Distinctive Deacon in the Church of England and have remained deacon when other women were ordained priest. I look forward to the consecration of women bishops, and work for a more inclusive and tolerant Church of England. I was Curate in the London Diocese (Willesden Area) first at St Peter's in Ealing from 1991 -96 and then at St Gabriel's in North Acton from 1996 - 2000. My husband died in 2003 and I continue to live in the same area of west London where I have lived since 1962. I have had a very ordinary life filled with quite extraordinary experiences, and my passions now are my family and justice.

Anne SEATON (Vernon, Classics)



My home was the Isle of Man and my school a girls' boarding school in England, the former culturally limited (for all its beauty and historical interest), and the latter perforce socially limited. Oxford therefore seemed a paradise of cultural and social opportunities - concerts, exhibitions, plays, society meetings, and parties anywhere and everywhere. Clearly one had to have a good time and, if possible, a love life, but was either worth getting a bad degree over? The architecture of the colleges was something I neglected - I wish I'd investigated them more like a tourist. As for Somerville, it was informal and welcoming, just like the Principal Dame Janet Vaughan herself. I read Classics, and found instant friends in my three fellow Classicists and my regular mealtime companions in Hall - I'm lucky enough still to have those friends.

After graduating in 1963 I started work in Edinburgh at the National Library of Scotland as a cataloguer of antiquarian books, one of a small team preparing a catalogue of pre-1600 foreign holdings (Classics helped, since the works were predominantly in Latin and Greek). In 1966 I married the then Secretary of the library, Hamish Seaton, later Deputy Librarian. I left the library just before the birth of our first son in 1967; we had a second son in 1969. During their early childhood I indexed some academic books, and produced a cumulative index to a run of volumes of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, learning quite a bit about archaeology in the process. But I preferred words and language, and joined W & R Chambers, the publishers of *Chambers Dictionary*. I stayed with them for 20 years, compiling English dictionaries, some for native speakers and some for learners. Office politics forced me into freelancing in 1996 and now, many lexicographical projects later, I specialise in writing dictionaries and grammars for the ELT market of South-East Asia.

I'm eternally intrigued by language change; not new words particularly, but the development of new expressions and changes in grammar and usage, and what may have prompted such changes. I still do a bit of linguistic research and write the occasional article. It surprises me now that I took my own children's language development so much for granted - I watch it much more closely in my grandchildren.

Classics still figures in my life and I organise annual play readings in Greek and Latin for the Edinburgh branch of the Classical Association. My enthusiasm for this can be traced back to 1960, when Averil Cameron and Lucy Ismail (both Somerville 1958) produced Aeschylus's *Persae* on the dais in Hall, and I was lastingly impressed. In 1998 Averil and I re-united the 1960 cast for a reading of the play in Somerville, and further play readings in Oxford have followed with an expanding group of readers. My other activities include teaching a movement class, opera-singing and choreography, and I go gymning and swimming in an attempt to keep fit and slim.

HILARY SPURLING (Forrest, English)



A writer's life is hard to account for because, apart from books published, it is almost entirely without external events, landmarks or appointments. So I shall describe instead how I fell into it and why, before that, Somerville changed my life. I was born on Christmas Day, 1940, during a bombing raid on Manchester, and grew up in Bristol where we played on bombed sites, building fires in the shells of gutted houses, exploring craters, scaling rickety chimneys, always hoping to find an unexploded bomb. It gave me an insatiable desire ever afterwards to unearth, and try to make sense of, the dark secret undersides of human life.

Our parents were exhausted by the war. Afterwards all they seemed to want was a prolonged period of collective convalescence, which made the provincial world we lived in look to a teenager stiflingly narrow, stale, enclosed and backward-looking. Oxford was for me a revelation. At Somerville, Dame Janet Vaughan was the first woman I ever met who didn't recognise gender as a barrier. She gave me, and indeed our whole wartime generation, a courage and confidence in sharp contrast to the sense of innate inferiority implicitly fostered by my girls' school.

Before I left Somerville I married the playwright, John Spurling, and we set out for London to be writers. We rented two rooms in a Bayswater slum for £5 a week, and I became a waitress in a sleazy little lunchtime café with a weekly wage of £4.10s plus tips (customers tipped either nothing at all, or the lowest feasible coin which was a thruppenny bit, the equivalent of just over 1p in today's coinage). A couple of years later I joined the *Spectator* as Arts Editor, in those days a dogsbody job which I improved by appointing myself theatre critic, eventually taking over the Books pages too, and finally resigning on the day of the General Election, 1969, when the paper's proprietor sacked the editor (the future Tory Chancellor, Nigel Lawson). That was the first and last real job I ever had.

My plan was to write my first book, a biography of the novelist Ivy Compton-Burnett, which grew into two volumes (the second won the Duff Cooper prize in 1984) with a gap of 10 years between during which I had 3 children. For most of my life I've earned my living as book reviewer, mainly for the *Observer* and the *Daily Telegraph*, which allowed me to spend as long as I needed and go wherever I liked in pursuit of any given subject, following one or other of them across America, Australia, Asia and Europe. My last book was the first biography of Henri Matisse (the second volume, *Matisse the Master*, was Whitbread Book of the Year for 2005). Dame Janet taught by example rather than precept a deep respect for human beings, which is ultimately why I write biographies. It is because I am fascinated by people - by their infinite resourcefulness, by their mystery and power, by the strange patterns their lives make - and because they give me better plots than any novel I could invent. (Photo by Graeme Robertson)

RUTH THOMAS (Smiley, Physiology/Medicine)

This entry was written by Ruth shortly before her death in June 2008.



Reflections of Somerville and after: It is such a long time ago! It was large, but fairly friendly and I settled in very quickly. I had great fun! I made a lot of friends and learned a lot. One of my most vivid memories is of doing three Commem Balls on consecutive nights with three different beaus and taking a while to recover from all the fun! At Oxford, I enjoyed my studies - I suppose reflected in my ongoing enjoyment of learning and in addition to regularly playing lacrosse, I played tennis (which I still do now) and hockey and I swam often. *(Editor's note: Ruth was awarded a Bronze medal in the late 1960s from the Royal Humane Society, for saving three children who were at risk of drowning off the coast of Scotland).* Being active is something that has remained important to me throughout life. Somerville taught me analytical skills that have lasted throughout my life and which have been very useful at work as an anaesthetist and in making decisions relating to family life. Discussions around life before marriage and career did not feature large in family life, but I think the kids are quietly proud that Mum went to Oxford.

Having studied physiology at Somerville, I went to Barts (St Bartholomews, City of London) to do my clinicals before qualifying as a doctor in 1965. I specialised in anaesthetics and married Gwyn, a consultant anaesthetist whom I met over the operating table in London in the mid 60s. I went part time after our first child arrived. Eventually, I had done my time, and was appointed to a consultant post in Norwich in 1980. I was fortunate to be able to retire relatively young at 56, when my husband (also a doctor) stopped working. We have been very happy together and have just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary.

Since I retired 12 years ago, my kids complain that I never have time for anything. It's not true! Family took up much of my time for around 20 years, but since the kids fled the nest some time ago now, I do my bit on a small scale distributing the local Parish magazine but sadly seem to have made little time for much more of a worthy nature. But I am enjoying doing all the things I didn't have time for when I was at work. Our large garden is looking better than ever and I spend hours locked in my greenhouse communing with the tomatoes and cucumbers. I also enjoy Bridge (keeps the grey matter going), tennis, crosswords and socialising. We live in Norfolk in an old house with a rambling garden that has been our passion for the past 35 years. Part of it was developed from a field in the late 1980s and it has taken most of our spare time and energy over the years, but with most satisfying results! We are members of the Norfolk Historical Buildings Group.

What matters most now? Well my family and keeping up interests and staying mentally and physically active. Our daughter Carys (late 30s) is married with one daughter and works in Healthcare Communications. I like to hang out with my first grandchild, Elsie, born late in 2006 and am looking forward to her sibling arriving sometime this summer. Our Huw is in his mid 30s, also an anaesthetist and about to get married to another doctor!

ESTHER WILCOX (Rantzen, English)



I found Somerville exciting, slightly eccentric - and democratic. We were taught by a wonderful, memorable gallery of dons, some iconic, some odd, one or two appalling, others inspirational. My time there gave me a sense of adventure, and commitment. My daughter and my son followed me there. Being at Somerville gave opportunities to explore our potential. As an undergraduate, I loved satire, drama, journalism and debating, and these interests have channelled into a career in communication and in campaigning, especially for children.

My career in broadcasting began with BBC radio as a sound effects assistant. From there I moved into television as a researcher/reporter for Braden's Week and then in 1973 as producer/presenter of That's Life which was on air for twenty-one years. I have made a number of pioneering programmes on subjects such as British women's experience of childbirth, stillbirth, mental health, child abuse and palliative care. I have also taken part in "reality shows" such as Strictly Come Dancing and the dating programme, Would Like to Meet.

In 1986 we invented the concept of ChildLine and I chaired its Board of Trustees for twenty years. After the merger of ChildLine with the NSPCC in February 2006, I became President of ChildLine and a trustee of the NSPCC. I am President of the Association of Young People with ME and patron of a number of other charities working with children and disabled people.

I contribute regularly to the Daily Mail and other publications and lecture on children's issues, broadcasting and many other topics. I have also written a novel, "A Secret Life" and "Esther: the Autobiography". I have received Honorary D Litts from Southampton Institute, the University of the South Bank and the University of Portsmouth and an Honorary Fellowship from Liverpool John Moores University. I received the Dimbleby Award for on-screen presentation, the Special Judges Award for journalism from the Royal Television Society and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Royal Television Society (of which I am now a Fellow) for Women in Films and TV. I have received the OBE for services to broadcasting and the CBE for services to children.

I was married to documentary-maker Desmond Wilcox for twenty-seven years until his death in 2000. I have three children, Emily, Rebecca and Joshua. I am still making documentaries, and my priorities are travel and friendship. My latest book "If Not Now, When?" sums up my current philosophy.

SUSAN WILLIAMS (Millington, English)



I found Somerville pleasant but daunting. Freedom from a very controlling boarding school - no-one cared whether I ate breakfast or not - wonderful! But more freedom than I knew how to cope with. As an avid but undisciplined reader with no self-confidence and no social skills, I was overawed by so many bright, confident and sophisticated young women who seemed at ease with so much that had me at a loss.

My lasting memories are of reading - in libraries, bookshops (upstairs in Thornton's), and in bed. Tutorials - Miss Syfret pushing me to clarify and support my arguments, not just record my impressions; Miss Lascelles correcting crudities; Mrs Turville-Petre, tongue-tied in Headington with an enormous old fashioned gramophone. Discovering that music was not a closed book after all. Falling in love with new authors. Falling in love. Blowing bubbles to relax after exams. Services in the cathedral. A lecture by David Munrow in the dining hall. Tolkien reading his poems in Blackfriars. HS Bennett on *The Dream of the Road*.

I find it impossible to assess the influence of Somerville on my intellectual life - there was of course a lasting impact on the way I thought and wrote, but no obvious career outcome. I probably suffered from depression and low self-esteem when I went up, and still did when I left. Somervillians, I felt, were expected to be achievers and I lacked the desire and ability to achieve. I certainly did not feel equipped for anything much. I have never managed to earn my living since graduation. Apart from some part-time teaching and adult education most of my work has been unpaid. I have worked with playgroups and the playgroup association, improving life for young children and parents from many backgrounds. I have been helping women with no confidence discover their abilities and put them to good use. I gained my a Diploma in Adult Education with Distinction and I have also published through the Playgroup Movement books on playing with bricks, playing with water, early maths, road safety and a collection of finger rhymes. I have spent many years working for the church in different capacities and this is still evolving. I took an MA in Theology and Pastoral Studies at Nottingham in 2000, became a Reader in 1996, then a Deacon in 2006. I was ordained as a priest only in 2007 and am still discovering all that this entails, now that I am a non-stipendiary curate in a six-church parish.

I met my husband Bryn Williams while I was at Somerville (he was doing a Dip Ed in 1959) and we married in 1962 (the day of my viva was moved forward to allow this). We had two children, a daughter, Rowan in 1967, now a curate in Leicester, and a son, Gareth in 1969, a curator at the British Museum. Bryn and I now live in Lincolnshire with two cats. Our first cat was inherited from Judith Ann Hibberd when she moved to Edinburgh. I still read a great deal, now including much more theology, and still occasionally write poetry. I am no longer so shy and anxious as I was at Oxford and for many years afterward, so I spend a lot of time listening to people (especially old people) talking. I am an enthusiastic but very sporadic gardener.

POSTGRADUATES

ANN NATALIE HANSEN (Modern History)



I still remember the warmth with which I was greeted by Barbara Harvey, then Dean of the college. I was not unprepared for Somerville as I had spent a summer school of six weeks at St Hilda's in 1957 with a tutor at Brasenose, and had travelled in Britain five times prior to coming to Somerville. I do recall with amusement Dame Janet's Sunday lunches at which two or three graduated students were introduced to successful Old Somervillians. Each time I was introduced as working on such and such, my reply was always "No, that was last time, Dame Janet". In short I had supervisor problems. But Somerville continues to be my pride and joy and it changed the thrust of my life.

I came to Somerville with an American BA and MA and four years' experience as a reporter and feature writer on the *Columbus Dispatch*. At Somerville, I did a BLitt in Modern History on Colonial America. Three months after my arrival at Oxford I was received into the Roman Catholic Church at St Aloysius, a step I have never regretted. I spent six years working with a Dominican priest to edit the papers of the first Catholic Bishop of Ohio (Bishop Edward Dominic Fenwick, OP), which have been published. I have done some teaching at Berea College, Kentucky, Heathfield School, Ascot, England and at the University of Dayton, Ohio. I have also worked voluntarily at the Pontifical College Josephinum. For over five years I drove 70 miles round trip once a week to volunteer in Manuscripts at the Granville (Ohio) Historical Society. I have published a number of articles in journals including the *New Catholic Encyclopaedia* as well as five books, the most recent being *Oxford Goldsmiths Before 1800* (1996). I was named Historian of the Year by the Granville (Ohio) Historical Society in 1999 and was awarded the Papal Honour of membership of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, 2000.

My main interests continue to be writing, photography; and collecting, studying and learning all I can about antique sterling silver, mostly English from the late 15th to mid-19th century, with emphasis on the 17th and 18th centuries. I still pursue family history which I have been doing since 1945. A few years ago I participated in a study-day on the subject at Somerville, organised by Caroline Barron. I continue to live in Columbus, Ohio, in the suburb of Upper Arlington, in the same house I have lived in from the age of 15 when it was built in 1942. I have no family left apart from cousins. I never worked anywhere long enough to retire, and I do not think of free time because there are not enough hours in the day to accomplish everything I want to do. I travel in various parts of the world extensively, especially for the purpose of exploring museums. Every year, sometimes twice a year, I return to Oxford and Somerville.

LISELOTTE KASTNER (Adler, Biochemistry)



In 1963 I graduated DPhil and, on marrying an Austrian citizen, settled in Vienna. I was appointed temporary assistant lecturer in the Pharmacology Department, Vienna University in 1964, whilst fighting to get my Edinburgh MB ChB recognized by the Vienna Medical School, which did not wish to create a precedent by recognizing a "bachelor" degree, the standard British medical qualification. Finally, I was allowed to graduate MD in 1966.

However, despite being fully registered as a doctor in the UK, I would have been required to work for a further 4 years in hospital in Austria to become a GP, or 7 years for a specialty, thus dashing my hopes of returning to medicine and combining clinical practice with research.

Initially, in Vienna, I implemented the biochemical methods learnt under Sir Hans Krebs, my supervisor in Oxford, to study the metabolic effects of the coronary vasodilator, hexobendine, which was then being assessed in the Pharmacology Department. However, I gradually realized that conditions in reactionary Vienna were unfavourable for women and, moreover, that extraneous factors such as politics, rather than academic accomplishment, played a role in advancement. Thus, after the birth of our 3rd child in 1971, I withdrew from research and concentrated on scientific and linguistic editorial work within the Pharmacology Department and for the Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift (the main Austrian medical journal). My training in Oxford and Edinburgh, coupled to being bilingual, was ideal for this work, but it brought me neither satisfaction nor appreciation; hence, retirement in 1998 was welcome.

My frustration at the perceived waste of my privileged training has been mitigated by coincidental participation in a stimulating, long-term scientific project. Hermann Brugger, a mountain rescue doctor in South Tyrol, whose sister was a technical assistant at the Vienna Pharmacology Department, requested my collaboration in a series of research studies on avalanche accidents, commencing with the publication of "Avalanche Survival Chances" in Nature in 1994, which received the Georg Grabner Prize of Vienna University. The recommendations formulated in this paper and our subsequent publications on the triage and management of avalanche victims, have been adopted by rescue organisations internationally, thereby hopefully contributing to saving lives in winter sports accidents and natural catastrophes. I am currently a visiting scholar at Oxford Brookes University and much enjoy cooperating with Paul Weindling, Professor of the History of Medicine, researching the doctors and medical scientists (like my own parents) who came as refugees to the UK in the 1930s.

I have been married for 45 years to Georg Kastner, a chartered accountant. We have 3 sons (the youngest is a Cambridge graduate) and 8 grandchildren (4 boys and 4 girls, aged from nearly 7 years down to 3 months). Among my hobbies are being a very active grandmother; relishing the restoration by my 3 lovely daughters-in-law of gender balance in the family; playing the cello (far too seldom); going to concerts, opera, theatre, exhibitions; skiing (downhill); unenterprising (but enjoyable) travel.

IN MEMORIAM

SARAH BAIRD SMITH (HEDLEY, English)

Sarah worked for various publishers, including Longmans, Crowell, Collier and Macmillan, and became head of Geoffrey Chapman, a publisher specialising in religious, mainly Roman Catholic books. Later she moved to Collins as senior editor of Fount Books, their paperback religious department. Her husband was also in publishing, with Collins. Sarah died in 1994.

SUSAN DAVIDSON KELLY (WILLSHER, Philosophy, Politics, Economics)

Susan's career was in social work. After her marriage to John (Exeter 1959) she moved several times following his career in teaching. They were pleased to end up in Glasgow in 1986, since they had Scottish roots; they had a house on Skye built where they enjoyed many holidays. By this time their two daughters were older, and Susan was able to work full-time, as well as supporting John in his school work. Throughout her life she was actively involved in various voluntary roles, including Christian Aid, the Presbyterian church and the MacLeod clan. She played competitive squash and tennis until 1994, and enjoyed Scottish dancing. Sadly Susan became ill with cancer in 1995; two months before her death she came to Somerville to the literary lunch and the 1959 reunion, a most poignant occasion for those of us who were there. Susan died on 23 November 1995. (contributed by Helen Boon and Sylvia Neumann)

SARAH FREEMAN (SHEPPARD, Philosophy, Politics, Economics) - see alphabetical biography section

JUDITH HOOK (HIBBERD, History)

Judith pursued an academic career in History at various Scottish universities, including Edinburgh, Stirling and Aberdeen, and specialised in Italian history, with books on the sack of Rome in 1527 (recently reissued); the history of Siena; Lorenzo de Medici; and the Baroque Age in England. She was very active in the AUT and was a campaigner for widower's pensions. She was married to a Professor of English at Glasgow University and had three children. Her eldest daughter came to Somerville to read Chemistry. Judith died in Siena in 1984.

Phyllis SHAW (WIGHTMAN, Physiology/Medicine)

Phyllis Shaw was born in 1926. She first came up to Somerville in 1944 and after Moderations in Mathematics went on to read PPE. She trained and worked as a psychotherapist for eleven years before returning to Somerville in 1959 to read medicine. After qualifying as a doctor she became a psychiatrist and was a lecturer and honorary consultant in the department of Psychiatry in Oxford. She was appreciated for her rigorous approach to research and her contributions to student health issues. She was a trustee of the Temple School, Oxford. She married twice, having two sons from her first marriage. She died on 26 October 1977. (contributed by Eleanor Arie)

AMANDA SIMPSON-JONES (History)

Amanda died in 1965, three years after graduating.

RUTH THOMAS (SMILEY, Physiology) - see alphabetical biography section