

8 JCR and
MCR news

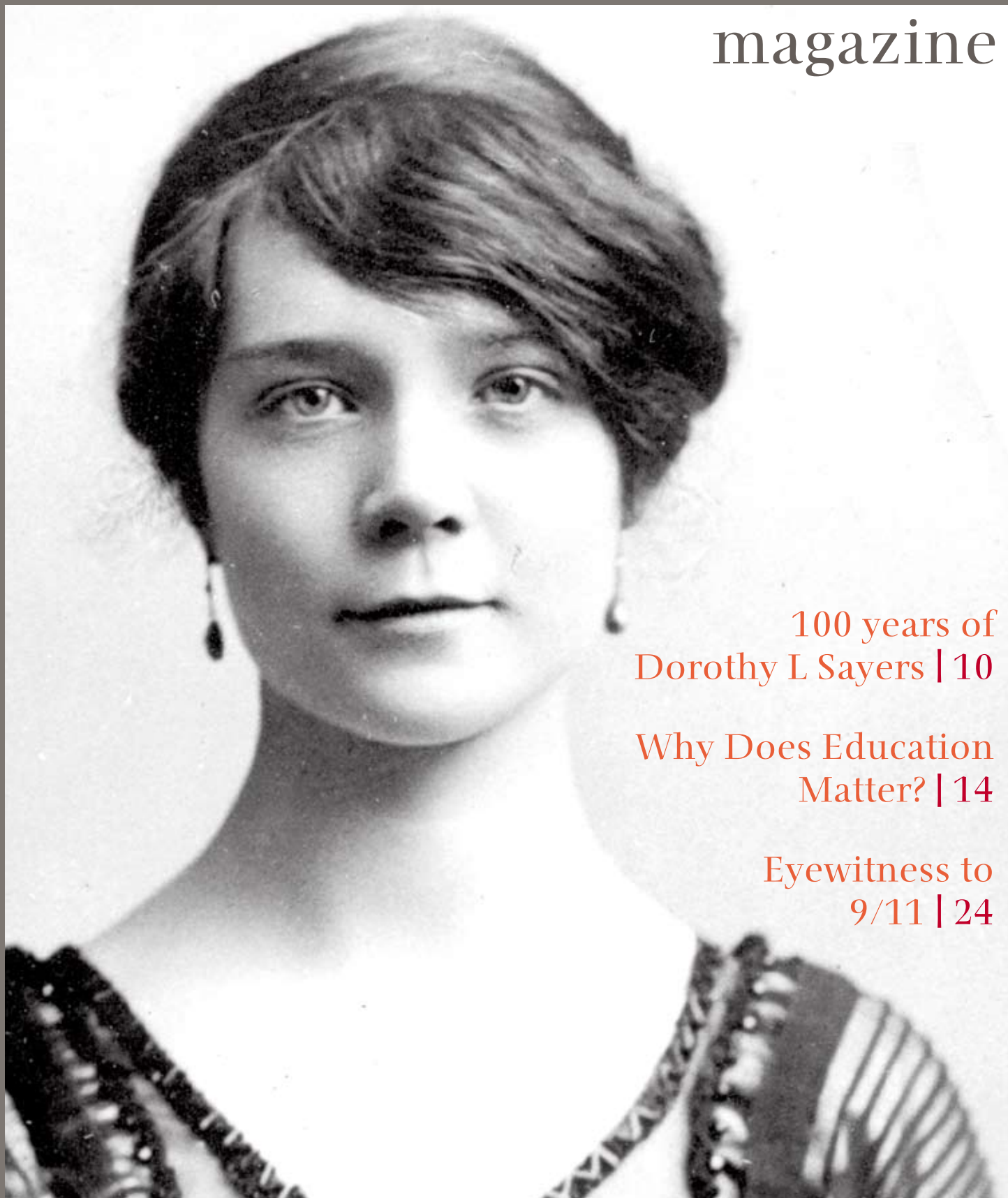
16 Mothers
for All

22 Somervillian
Skies

35 Burns Night
at Somerville

Somerville²⁰¹²

magazine



100 years of
Dorothy L Sayers | 10

Why Does Education
Matter? | 14

Eyewitness to
9/11 | 24

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Principal's Message | 3 |
| News and People | 4 |
| Author Profile: Kate McLoughlin | 6 |
| A Call for Contributions | 6 |
| Commemoration | 7 |
| JCR News | 8 |
| MCR News | 9 |
| One Hundred Years of Dorothy L Sayers and Somerville | 10 |
| Sue Dixson: Going Home | 12 |
| Alison Wolf: Why Does Education Matter? | 14 |
| Mothers for All | 16 |
| Finding Somerville on the Other Side of the World | 18 |
| Susan Hyland: A High Commission | 20 |
| Somervillian Skies | 22 |
| Heidi Olsen: The Day the Twin Towers Fell | 24 |
| Nina Byers: A Woman of Science and the World | 26 |
| Victoria Younghusband: Always a Somervillian | 28 |
| The Somerville Campaign | 30 |
| Events in Pictures | 32 |
| A Night in the Company of the City's Brightest | 35 |
| Alumni Events 2012 | 36 |



Somerville College
Woodstock Road OX2 6HD
Telephone +44 (0)1865 270600
www.some.ox.ac.uk

Front cover image: Portrait of Dorothy L Sayers c. 1910, reproduced with permission from the Bodleian Library

Magazine committee: Julie Hage (Development Director), Liz Cooke (Secretary to Somerville Association), Amy Croweller (Access and Communications Officer), Antoinette Finnegan (Annual Fund and Alumni Relations Officer).

WHY RESEARCH STILL MATTERS

In today's global economy, investment in research is not an intellectual luxury, but an economic and social necessity. Over the past few decades, the importance of research has risen up the political agenda, as governments recognise that our knowledge, ideas and capacity to innovate are key drivers of productivity and sustainable growth.

As governments grapple with ongoing economic uncertainty, as well as a world increasingly concerned with food security and the impact of climate change on food production, it is important that this commitment to long-term research does not wane. The challenge of driving a knowledge-based economy is one which must be addressed by government, the private sector and research institutions alike.

Continued investment in scientific endeavour will bring huge economic and societal benefits, from advances in animal welfare to ways of reducing carbon emissions in the supply chain. It is also vital in ensuring the UK maintains a competitive global advantage. The private sector has an important role to play. Increasingly, businesses and research institutions are taking a collaborative approach, working together to develop practical solutions on the critical issues of our age.

Tesco's support for Professor Marian Dawkins and Oxford University's Food Animal Initiative (FAI) in previous years is an example of such collaboration. The FAI continues to research and develop sustainable farm systems that provide visible benefits to animal welfare, the environment and human health. We have since strengthened our partnerships with research institutions. The Tesco Dairy Centre of Excellence, based at Liverpool University, brings together the whole of the industry to look at issues such as reducing the environmental impact of milk production and tackling lameness. Similarly, through our partnership with the Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) at Manchester University, we are looking at ways to help households reduce their carbon footprint, including assessing how food is wasted in the home and analysing consumer attitudes towards carbon labelling.

As a truly international business spanning 13 countries, Tesco is well placed to share research and expertise across the globe, from Beijing to LA. Just as Somervillians scattered around the world can draw on a rich network to share experiences and make connections, so Tesco too can use its global supply chain to exchange knowledge. This ability to learn from each other has helped us become champions of research, from our leadership of food safety issues in China to our innovative use of green technology in the US.

No doubt the coming year will present new challenges to the research community. However, through successful collaboration between government, private sector and research institutions, we can build a productive economy, a healthy society and a more sustainable world.

Lucy Neville-Rolfe, CMG

Executive Director (Corporate and Legal Affairs)



TESCO

We would like to thank Tesco for their support of Somerville Magazine since 2005.



ALICE PROCHASKA

Principal's Message

I wrote last year, in the first flush of being a new Principal, that Somerville is a glorious place to work. Now, half way through my second year, that still holds true. It is not just a place, of course, but a world-wide community. My sense of privilege at being a part of this community is undimmed.

Somervillians gather together from all over the world in Oxford and often also in London. I have met alumni at gaudies and reunions who travelled specially from as far afield as Jordan and New Zealand, not to mention North America and various parts of Europe, to reconnect with the College and their friends here. It can be especially gratifying to meet former students who drop in when they are visiting, sometimes for their first return in decades. It makes me feel proud to know that the College played a part in setting them on the path to their many interesting and sometimes extraordinary careers.

Close to home, there is a loyal group of Somervillians who attend College events regularly and help to connect the generations. One such event recently was a special screening for some 150 students and 50 alumni of the film *The Iron Lady*, after which the audience streamed back to hall for tea and discussion. I was struck by the fresh and relatively dispassionate perspective of the students for whom the Thatcher years are simply history. Equally striking was the intervention of one of the Somerville porters, Daniel Kurowski, who spoke eloquently about how, as a Polish citizen, he reveres the memory of her support for Poland's independence from the crumbling Soviet Union.

A few weeks later, the Somerville London group heard a talk by Tessa Ross, the Head of Film 4 and Executive Producer of *The Iron Lady*. Her career trajectory has been quite different from that of the Somervillian subject of her film, but a model in her own way, of the combined determination and talent that get Somervillians to the top of their professions. Another well-known model for students and alumni of all generations is the late Daphne Park. She was the subject of a special talk by the BBC's security correspondent Gordon Corera, author of a book on *The Art of Treachery*. Among our guests at that Literary Lunch was Daphne's fellow peeress, the redoubtable PD James, who brought with her a walking stick inherited from Daphne. To add to the parade of extraordinary Somervillians who have been celebrated in the College during the year, we heard an inspiring talk for the annual meeting of the Somerville Association from HRH Raja Zarith Idris, wife of the Sultan of Johor in Malaysia. Known in her home country as "the intellectual princess", Princess Zarith is the Chancellor of the University

of Technology Malaysia, and she also works indefatigably to improve the lives of the citizens of Johor, especially women.

A galaxy of visitors has given time to enrich the intellectual offerings of the College. Cindy Gallop, advertising executive and internet pioneer, came in from New York for a spirited discussion with a group of students in my sitting room, about how to promote Somerville's special qualities. The Nobel prize winner Dr Venki Ramakrishnan gave this year's Dorothy Hodgkin Memorial Lecture, an inspiring, brilliantly illustrated lecture about his prize-winning research into Ribosomes and Antibiotics.

This report on the year would be incomplete without a few words about our students. My interviews with them have added to my stock of knowledge about Oxford pastimes, from bridge and poker to sailing, horse-riding and ballroom dancing. The Somerville Boat Club is enjoying a banner year, with third-years Jenni Butler and Stephanie Peate winning blues in the Lightweight Women's Oxford boat, which beat Cambridge decisively at Henley. Voluntary work figures to an impressive extent, ranging from the continuing sponsorship of "Molly's Library" in Ghana, to work in the Oxford region with needy children and schools, prison inmates and many other groups.

Most of all, I love to hear about their passion for their subjects. One second-year history student is intrigued by the Glorious Revolution and finding it helps him think about modern government. One of our modern linguists is taking the unusual combination of French and Czech, and we conversed enjoyably about Czech literature which I have read only in translation and he, enviably, is beginning to enjoy in the original. A biologist introduced me to the "slow food" movement. Physicists and mathematicians have helped me understand the intellectual beauty of their subjects, even though I will never be able to do more than marvel at it. At least one Chinese student explained that she had opted to come to Oxford because she wanted to learn how to think independently. The student community is a mosaic of differences. Just as this magazine was going to press, we had the wonderful news that students at Somerville are the happiest in Oxford. This confirms what everyone always tells me – this College is special. It truly is a glorious place to work.

News & People...



Joanna Innes



Matthew Wood (right) and Dame Fiona Caldicott (second from right)



Oxford's winning Lightweight Women's team

Somerville News

Dame Fiona Caldicott

has agreed to lead a UK healthcare review of the balance between protecting patient information and its sharing, to improve patient care. She will be calling on an expert panel made up of clinical, social care, research and other professionals, as well as patients and service users, to determine the detailed scope and priorities for the review.

"It is timely to reconsider the principles of information protection and sharing," Dame Fiona commented. "It has become clear that there is sometimes a lack of understanding about the rules and this can act as a barrier to exchanging information that would benefit the patient. On other occasions, this has resulted in too much information being disclosed." The review will be independent of government and will report to the UK Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley.

Joanna Innes,

Winifred Holtby Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, has been awarded a three year Leverhulme International Networks grant for her project 'Re-Imagining Democracy in the Mediterranean, 1750-1860'.

The grant of over £110,000 will enable her to establish an international network linking scholars in Britain, the United States and France with historians and political theorists across southern Europe to explore the ways in which understandings of democracy developed in that region through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. She is now planning a series of workshops and conferences in Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Pisa, Athens and New York.

Professor Fiona Stafford's

book *Local Attachments: The Province of Poetry* has been awarded the 2011 British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize. Two prizes are normally awarded each year. Each goes 'to a woman of any nationality who, in the judgement of the Council of the British Academy, has written or published within three years next preceding the year of the award an historical or critical work of sufficient value on any subject connected with English Literature, preference being given to a work regarding one of the poets Byron, Shelley and Keats'.

Professor Stafford's book is published by Oxford University Press.

Matthew Wood,

Fellow and Tutor in Medicine and Physiology, has been awarded the title of Professor for his outstanding research in field of gene therapy for degenerative disorders of the nervous system and muscle.

Professor Wood leads a team of Oxford scientists who earlier this year hit the headlines, having developed a new method for delivering complex drugs directly to the brain, a necessary step for treating diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Motor Neuron Disease and Muscular Dystrophy.

He was also awarded a £2.5 million grant from the Health Innovation Challenge Fund last summer to support his research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), the most deadly form of the disease. It is caused by damage to the dystrophin gene and affects one in every 3,500 newborn boys.

Jenni Butler (2009, Classics) and Stephanie Peate (2009, History),

members of the JCR, recently represented Oxford in the Lightweight Women's race at Henley. The Oxford crew beat Cambridge by over a length.

Somerville comes top for student satisfaction

Somerville's students are among the happiest in Oxford, according to Oxford University's Student Barometer survey.

The survey of students across all Oxford colleges covered topics such as the quality of learning experience, support services, and whether students would recommend the university to potential applicants.

For all the latest news from College, visit our website:
www.some.ox.ac.uk/news



Harry Escott



Kate Williams



2011 Telethon callers Rachel Hutchings and Nick Cooper

Alumni News

Harry Escott

(1996, Music) wrote the score for Steve McQueen's latest film, *Shame*, released in January, a Film4 production whose Executive Producer was Tessa Ross (1980), which has picked up a number of prizes from the film festival circuit.

Dr Ellen McAdam

(1976) was appointed in 2011 as Head of Glasgow Museums, the largest museum service in the UK outside London. She is the first woman in the 135 year history of Glasgow Museums to hold this position.

Dr Kate Williams

(1993, English) has had her first novel, *The Pleasures of Men*, published by Penguin. Prior to this Kate had already published three historical biographies.

Noah Bulkin

(1995, Modern History) has been appointed Managing Director at Lazard Ltd, advising UK companies on acquisitions, where he joins Melanie Gee (1979, Mathematics), who has been with the firm's European and Global Transport, Logistics and Infrastructure teams since 2008.

Rachel Sylvester

(1988, English) was short-listed for the Political Journalist of the Year at the National Press Awards 2011 and was 'highly commended' in the category.

Lucy Neville-Rolfe

(1970, PPE) has been announced as the new President of EuroCommerce following her election at their General Assembly on 21 March 2012. She will take up her three-year mandate on 1 July.

Somervillians recognized by Queen's Honours

We are delighted to congratulate the following Somervillians on appearing on the New Year's Honours List:

Dr Maggie Gee

(1966, English), author, was awarded an OBE for services to Literature.

Maggie Fergusson

(Parham, 1983, History), author and Secretary of the Royal Society of Literature, was awarded an MBE for services to Literature.

Shiban Akbar

(1987, English MPhil) was awarded an honorary OBE for services to the community and voluntary services to the Muslim community.

Telethon News

2011 campaign raises £200,000

In September and October, 15 students came back to Oxford early in order to spend two weeks speaking with Somervillians all over the world. The telethon asks for support for the Annual Fund and we are thrilled to announce that this campaign raised £200,000, the highest amount ever raised in a telethon at Somerville.

As ever, the students greatly enjoyed their time calling their predecessors and Bethan Tanner (2008, Experimental Psychology) commented "the telethon was such a great experience to be involved in. I loved getting to chat with alumni about their experiences at Somerville and their lives since they've left. Over the two weeks I heard so many interesting stories!"

During the course of the campaign the callers spoke with 860 Somervillians, of whom 55% decided to make a gift, which is a great result. We were particularly thrilled this year to have Verena Timbull (2000, Human Sciences) running the campaign for us. Verena was a caller in the 2002 telethon and so it was great to have her back in the calling room. Calling took place in the bar again this year, although the new site-wide wifi, funded by generous contributions to the Annual Fund, meant that the callers were also able to take their laptops out into the autumn sunshine and call alumni from the main quad.

The Annual Fund provides essential income for student support, teaching and the tutorial system, and maintenance and development of the College buildings. If you didn't receive a call in 2011, we're already planning the 2012 campaign and so hope to connect with even more Somervillians this year.

Author Profile:

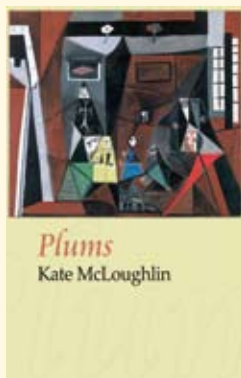
Kate McLoughlin



KATE McLOUGHLIN
(1988, English)

Dr Kate McLoughlin is a Lecturer in Modern Literature at Birkbeck, University of London. She is the author of several studies of the representation of war in literature, and also works on Modernism, comparative literature, women's writing and Jewish writing. Kate is an Associate of the Royal College of Music in piano performance. Her first book of poems, *Plums*, was published last year.

For this piece, I was asked, 'how did your studies at Somerville prepare you for life as a published poet?' If I answer that question honestly, I have to admit that at first, an MA, MSt and DPhil in English Literature inhibited rather than emboldened me as a creative writer. Early attempts at novels, discarded with the wistful realisation that I wanted to write something but had no idea how or what, still lie in drawers. Luckily, though, those degrees did prepare me for life as a lecturer and I



have found a creative outlet in academic English. My books and articles might seem dry and abstruse to the non-specialist reader, but I have lingered over every word of them, tried to make each better than the last and, in so doing, honed my craft.

And academic English was, unexpectedly, the spur to the first non-scholarly book that I have published: a book of poetry called *Plums*, which appeared at the end of 2011.

I had been marking exam essays on 20th-century literature by undergraduates at the University of Glasgow. You would not believe how many of these essays discussed a 28-word poem by the American writer William Carlos Williams called 'This Is Just To Say'. This is a 'found' poem, a note left by someone apologising for having taken and eaten another person's plums. Reading these innumerable essays, I began to imagine myself in the situation of the individual whose plums had been stolen. I began to get angry on their behalf. I began to wonder how that person might have written back to the thief.

Poetic responses proliferated in my mind. At that point, I went

on holiday to Barcelona and saw Picasso's 58 variations on Velázquez's famous painting *Las Meninas*. Struck by how Picasso pares Velázquez's rich details down to a few lines and patches of colour, I asked myself whether a literary equivalent might be possible in relation to Williams's poem. The result was *Plums*: a suite of 58 poems, 58 variations on Williams's original, the plundered fruit at their centre.

The publication of *Plums*, by a small press you won't have heard of yet called Flipped Eye, was a surprise and a delight. I have read from it at the Poetry Café in London and have further readings scheduled at Somerville on 30 April and at the Wirral Festival of Firsts on 8 July. My major creative outlet is still my academic writing, but I am also now working – slowly – on a second collection of poems and a memoir of grandmothers.

***Plums* is available from amazon.**

A Call for Contributions



JANE ROBINSON (1978, English)

I had such a rich response from Somervillians after requesting help with my previous book *Bluestockings* (which was the subject of a Literary Luncheon a couple of years ago) that I thought I'd try again.

My research for a new book commissioned by Viking Penguin, about the stigma of illegitimacy from 1918 to the 1960s, is posing some intriguing questions. What was it really like to bear, or to be, an illegitimate child then? All prejudice and shame, or are there stories of triumph and achievement, too?

I'm looking for personal/family reminiscences to help break the guilty silence surrounding the subject, and would love to hear from anyone with relevant experience.

Contact me via my website
www.jane-robinson.com

or **c/o Veronique Baxter,
David Higham Associates,
5-8 Lower John St,
London W1F 9HA.**

Any wish for anonymity will be fully respected.

Commemorating

Somervillians who have died (since 1 June 2011)

This year Somerville's Commemoration Service will be held in the College Chapel on Saturday 9th June at 2.30pm. This is an important event in the College calendar, which underlines the enduring relationship between Somerville and its former members.

The service opens with the traditional words of the College Bidding Prayer, in which we commemorate the College's founders, governors and major benefactors; it ends with the solemn reading of the names of members of the College and its staff who have died in the last year.

Close family and Somervillian friends of those who have died are especially invited to the Service, but all Somervillians are welcome to attend.

If you know of any Somervillians who have died recently but who are not listed here, please contact Liz Cooke at Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HD

Email elizabeth.cooke@some.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 270632.

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| Claire Angela Beauvais | née Burrows (1976) on 20 March 2011 | Aged 53 |
| Lorna Margaret Bottomley | (1941) on 28 December 2011 | Aged 90 |
| Sylvia Bradford | née Crammer (1943) On 9 November 2011 | Aged 86 |
| Elizabeth (Liz) Clare Brice | (1975) on 23 August 2011 | Aged 54 |
| Christine Frances Brooke-Rose | (1946; Hon Fellow, 1997) on 21 March 2012 | Aged 86 |
| Margaret Anne Brown | née Smith (1944) on 26 August 2011 | Aged about 85 |
| Jennifer Constance Croft | née Jackson (1968) on 8 October 2011 | Aged 62 |
| Hilary Anne Crook | formerly Gilbert, née Miller (1949) on 7 August 2011 | Aged 80 |
| Madeleine Devlin | née Oppenheimer (1928) on 22 March 2012 | Aged 102 |
| Ursula Miriam Dronke | née Brown (1939), on 8 March 2012 | Aged 91 |
| Agnes Margaret Ann Dummett | née Chesney (1948) on 7 February 2012 | Aged 81 |
| Rosemary Margaret Garvey | née Pritchard (1937) on 17 August 2011 | Aged 92 |
| Beryl Ruby Alice Hobson | née Machan (1947) on 16 December 2010 | Aged 86 |
| Elizabeth Clarissa Wiclif Hummerstone | née Barker (1962) on 27 October 2011 | Aged 68 |
| Ruth Elizabeth Jameson | née Jarrett (1934) on 4 January 2011 | Aged 94 |
| Betty Rose Judge | née Jones (1948) on 5 December 2011 | Aged 81 |
| Claudia Mary Lennon | née Furneaux (1938) on 26 June 2011 | Aged 91 |
| Elizabeth Jean Longmate | née Taylor (1947) on 29 June 2011 | Aged 82 |
| Elizabeth Margaret Monkhouse | (1930) on 27 December 2011 | Aged 99 |
| Janet Katharine Nash | née de Gruchy (1965) on 26 August 2011 | Aged 65 |
| Valerie Edith Nix | née Brown (1948) on 14 November 2011 | Aged 82 |
| Virginia Pasley | née Wait (1956) on 2 September 2011 | Aged 74 |
| Rhoda Susanna Reid | née Allison (1959) on 29 February 2012 | Aged 72 |
| Jonathan Roberts | (2010) on 25 June 2011 | Aged 20 |
| Nancy Rowlinson | née Gaskell (1948) on 3 January 2012 | Aged 81 |
| Mary Russell Vick | née de Putron (1940) on 1 March 2012 | Aged 89 |
| Barbara Joyce Shuttleworth | née Nathan (1940) on 15 June 2011 | Aged 89 |
| Hester Margaret Gatty Smallbone | née Parrington on 15 March 2012 | Aged 87 |
| Katherine Walsh | (1969) on 21 March 2011 | Aged 65 |
| Cynthia ('Cyndy') June Whiffin | née Mingham (1965) on 24 January 2012 | Aged 66 |

JCR News



EMILY IREDALE
(2010, English)

The College has various travel awards available, which every year enable Somerville undergraduates and graduates to travel the world to further their studies. Emily received a travel grant towards the cost of a trip to India to teach at the Pansheel Tribal School. This grant was funded by Anne Clements, mother of Fiona Clements (1990), in memory of her brother, John Bishop.

Teaching on the Subcontinent

Going to Pansheel School was like nothing I have ever done. The children who are educated in this school would have no opportunity for education otherwise, as their parents are really too poor to be able to afford either the school fees or the bribes to get their children into any other schools. You can sense the vivacity of the place as soon as you walk through the gates and the atmosphere is totally different to some of the other institutes that we visited in the area, mainly orphanages funded by American church communities. Whereas in those places we were constantly faced with doctrinal messages and a loaded atmosphere, in the Pansheel school the children would run up to us smiling and waving at all times (even when all you wanted to do was hang out your washing!). I was truly welcomed there, by every child and every adult.

Teaching the children was hard work, as their understanding of

English is limited (not surprising considering that they are being taught Murati, the state language, and Hindu, the national language, and English, all on top of their tribal mother tongue!) but infinitely rewarding. Leaving a classroom followed by choruses of a song you've just taught to between 30 and 40 children, slowly watching them gain confidence with the foreign words and tune, is a joy.

Largely we taught the teachers, knowing that anything we taught them would be passed on to the children in time, whereas if we focused solely on teaching the children what we taught them would leave the school in several years' time. It was challenging, especially thinking about English from a foreign language perspective (so many of the subtleties of English make little sense!), and occasionally frustrating, as many of the mistakes that the teachers made were simply habits, tricks of their

speech which they understood were wrong grammatically when you explained them, but that form a groove in their language which is easy rather than right. Nevertheless I think that we did help, leaving behind grateful teachers, some exercise books and hopefully a deeper understanding of some of the stumbling blocks of English.

Living and working alongside the children, seeing their tribal villages and the differences between the mud huts there, so very basic, the only light available being that which filtered through the wicker roofs, compared with the resources, space, light and especially food made available to them at the school, was simply incredible. I feel honoured to have been allowed to share this experience with the teachers and the children and would like to thank the donors who helped to make it possible.

'The day of the hard-copy prospectus is over.'



TIM WILLIAMS
(2010, PPE)

In February, alumna Cindy Gallop (1977, English) returned to Somerville to show current students how to transform the way we communicate with prospective applicants. Tim Williams was one of the students in attendance.

When choosing which college to apply to, pupils today don't ring up and order a prospectus. They google Somerville and the first thing they see about us is the website, so we've got to make sure it stands out and embodies what the College is about – offering something different.

Compared to other college websites, Somerville's is one of the best – it is updated fairly regularly, there are blogs by the Principal and Fellows and good explanations of why someone should apply.

But it's top-down – written by College staff in a fairly dry fashion. 'So what?' you might be thinking. 'All other college websites are the same.' That's true but, as former advertising executive and Somervillian Cindy Gallop told

students in February, Somerville is different; great things happen here. The student body, not grand buildings, is at its heart, and that needs to be reflected in how we appear to applicants.

As Oxford Media Society President over the past year, I've heard from execs and journalists at the top of their industry and the words on all their lips were 'Twitter', 'Youtube', 'Tumblr', 'blogs' and 'user-generated content'. The day of the hard-copy prospectus is over.

To use horrible tech talk, we are a student-generated College in need of a student-generated website. It should be splashed with photos of what students are up to, links to blogs, embedded videos and twitter feeds written and updated by students. Put simply, it cannot

afford to be boring.

Imagine a website full of links to a 'Somerville Fashion' blog – encouraging fashion-conscious pupils to interact and comment on our stuff – and to our new Wo/men's Institute and sports teams. If you weren't at the recent Torpids rowing contest, there was only one way to follow the action – on Twitter. I tweeted pictures of Teddy Hall's crashed boat to over 400 people.

It should not be up to College staff to make this change – student-generated content needs students to generate it. Following Cindy's talk this term, I think the JCR knows what it needs to do. The imperative now is for us to turn these ideas into reality. Watch this space.

MCR News



APRIL ROSS
(2011, Greek and Latin Languages MSt)

April Ross hails from Canada, having graduated from the University of Waterloo with a joint honours degree in Classical Studies and Geography. She is delighted to be studying at Somerville this year.

A Day in the Life

Frequently my day begins before the crack of dawn, when I drag myself out of my bed and run down to the river for an early morning rowing outing. I had never rowed before I arrived in Oxford, but the rowing committee had cleverly designed a 'try-it-out' day that incorporated every student's Achilles heel — free food — so I was drawn down to the river to give rowing a try, and ended up enjoying it so much that I stayed even for the early morning practices. This year the women's team has proved very competitive, with many eager freshers joining the team from a range of athletic backgrounds. The novice crew won two of their three races in the Christ Church regatta in November, and both women's boats garnered five bumps between them in Torpids this February!

During the day I work on my coursework and reading. I am so fortunate that Somerville has a well-stocked library; I am reading for a fairly specialized

topic in classical geography, but the library frequently has some of the more obscure titles I require. Although I do not take any courses or lectures with the Classics tutors at Somerville, I have nevertheless found them extremely encouraging and supportive of my degree, and we sometimes get together over coffee to discuss my plans for the DPhil or how my papers are progressing. It is wonderful to have senior academics at Somerville interested in my success and giving me advice for life as an academic.

Of course, everybody needs study breaks, which is why I head over to the dining hall for lunch and dinner. A number of other MCR students who live both in and out of College frequently come to one or both of these meals to catch up with friends. The MCR itself has become a popular place to hang out, drink tea, and socialize with other graduates. We are a tightly-knit group, and the different interests and pursuits of

its members — both academic and extracurricular — make for some very interesting conversations.

After dinner I generally rush off to a rehearsal or event held by the University's Gilbert and Sullivan Society. During Freshers' Fair I was disappointed to find that most music societies in Oxford were not looking for pianists... except for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society! Following a fantastic production of Pinafore in Michaelmas term that was orchestrated for only two pianos, I joined the Society's committee and have taken on the role of de facto official rehearsal pianist, which keeps me occupied pretty much every single evening of the week.

Between my musical, athletic, and academic pursuits, life at Somerville has proven both challenging and rewarding. I look forward to continuing my studies at Somerville so that I can keep rowing before dawn and playing piano until all hours of the night!

MCR Football: Alive and Kicking



HUGH WOLGAMOT
(2009, Engineering DPhil)

The 2011-2012 academic year (or football season) is believed to mark the first time Somerville has entered a team in the MCR football league. This had been talked about for some time, but with the increasing size of the MCR and the enthusiasm of a core group of able footballers, it finally became a reality. The start wasn't easy — there were some tense negotiations with the league, and even the groundsman at our home pitch claimed not to know that Somerville had admitted male students, despite the men's JCR team having played on the same pitch for years (NB: the MCR league is ostensibly male only, but in the best Somerville tradition we flouted the regulations by fielding women in every game).

There were also a few issues once we started playing — despite people declaring their intention to turn up, we had a number of incidents of oversleeping and getting lost en

route, while on the pitch we had some naivety to overcome (throw-ins, offside, fitness, defence and attack being particular areas of concern). However, the season has been great fun. Many goals set at the start of the season have been achieved — we have scored a goal (in fact, many), we have now purchased shirts, to be passed on to coming generations of the MCR's finest, and, most importantly, we have won a game — the glorious triumph over Green Templeton II in the final match of the season.

The team mirrors the MCR's tradition of being welcoming and open to all — this is indicated by our fielding players from at least 10 countries over the course of the season. We look forward to next season, when we will undoubtedly carry all before us — watch this space!

One hundred years of Dorothy L Sayers

This year sees the centenary of the young Dorothy L Sayers coming up to Somerville as the Gilchrist Scholar to read Modern Languages – an event which the DLS Society is commemorating by holding their annual conference at Somerville in August. In preparation for this and several other groups that have requested a ‘DLS’ tour of the College, Anne Manuel, the College Librarian and Archivist, has been digging out photos and documents from the archives about Dorothy L Sayers’ time at Somerville.



DR ANNE MANUEL
College Librarian and
Archivist

Dorothy L Sayers (she insisted on the L) was an outgoing and sociable student who quickly became well known as a flamboyant but popular character in College. She was a founder member of the self-styled Mutual Admiration Society – a sort of writers’ circle for Somerville students to which entry was restricted by invitation and submission of work. Always a stylish young woman, her dress sense came to the attention of the Principal Emily Penrose, who one morning at breakfast, dispatched fellow student Vera Farnell, (anticipating her future role as Dean from 1924-47) to ask DLS to tone down her dress, which featured a scarlet three-inch wide headband and a pair of dangle parrot-in-a-cage earrings!

Dorothy L Sayers was interested in all the creative arts, singing regularly in the Bach Choir and writing, directing and acting in College dramatic productions. Her pièce de résistance was the *Going Down Play* for 1915 – *Pied Pipers*. The *Bicycle Secretary’s Song*, which she wrote for the production, mercilessly parodies her own role in the College to the tune of ‘I’ve got a little list’ from *The Mikado*. According to the helpful notes written in the play script, DLS had transformed the role of Bicycle Secretary from a put-upon thankless minor prefect role to one of enormous power and prestige – clamping down on offenders without mercy. Her own role in the *Pied Pipers* was a caricature of another flamboyant character – Sir Hugh Allen, director of the Bach Choir, and on whom DLS had a crush.

THE BICYCLE SECRETARY’S SONG.

TUNE : ‘ I’ve got a little list.’—*Mikado*.

It’s well to be methodical where culprits are concerned,
So I’ve made a little list, I’ve made a little list,
Of all the folks in College who deserve to be interned !
I’ve got them on my list, they never will be missed ;
All those who breakfast on the Cher at six o’clock a.m.
And say they thought the general rule did not apply to
them ;
All those who borrow bicycles without their owner’s leave.

All those who leave their bikes about say twenty times a
term,
I’ve got them on the list, I’ve got them on the list,
And say they had a label that wasn’t tied on firm !
They never will be missed, they never will be missed—
Who let your notice stare them in the face a week or more
And then complain they never saw ‘the beastly thing’
before !



Dorothy L Sayers as Sir Hugh Allen

and Somerville



Opening of Darbishire Quad in 1935 - Dorothy L Sayers is in the front row turning round to talk to someone behind her.

Dorothy L Sayers left College in 1915 to work in an advertising agency in London (where she found inspiration for one of her Lord Peter Wimsey novels, *Murder Must Advertise*) but she remained in contact with her old College and returned regularly for Gaudies. She became chairman of the Somerville Students Association in 1935 – the year that the new East Quad (now Darbishire) was opened. The Vice Chancellor, Lord Halifax, performed the opening ceremony at that year's Gaudy and the whole event became the basis for her famous novel *Gaudy Night*, which is set in

the fictional Shrewsbury College – a thinly disguised version of Somerville.

In all she published 12 detective novels, most featuring the character Lord Peter Wimsey, before turning to writing plays (including *The Man Born to be King*) and finally translating Dante's poetry - two volumes of *The Divine Comedy* were completed before her death in 1957 at the age of 64. Dorothy L Sayers' ashes are buried beneath the tower of St Anne's church in Soho, London, where she had been churchwarden for many years.



Dorothy L Sayers (third row, on the left) in 1915. Photo taken at Oriel College where Somervillians had been moved to make space for convalescing soldiers during the First World War.

Going Home

Sue Dixon (1971, Modern Languages) sometime member of a prayer group for communist countries, frequenter of the Orthodox church in Oxford with its beautiful singing and spiritually uplifting atmosphere, on her journey to the East.

SUE DIXSON
(1971, Modern
Languages)

Luton Airport, 2011. 'Going anywhere nice?' asked the passport officer. 'Home!' I exclaimed. 'Where's that?' 'Bulgaria.' 'Why there?' 'Animals, land, space, only 8 million inhabitants...' 'Enough' – he sounded envious.

My civil partner and I moved to a small village in central Bulgaria three years ago to realise our dream of starting a smallholding. We wanted to live life closer to nature – experiencing the seasons, growing our own food, using our hands and shaping our own land. We wanted to learn not only Bulgarian but also the language of what goes on under the surface of a different way of being.

How do I describe my home in this beautiful, if rough and ready, land at the far-flung edge of the European Union?

Home is a country which was under Ottoman rule for 500 years, then endured/enjoyed over 40 years of communism. Home is a people fiercely proud of its Cyrillic script and its revolutionary heroes of

the 1870s – whose praises are sung annually by the local choir we have joined. Home is where one of our neighbours recently 'came out' to me as a communist but where another villager supports the far-right. Home is where many people do not care who is in power as long as someone finally sorts out the water supply – once cut off for 77 days.

Home is the sound of dogs barking, jackals howling at night, the stream roaring past our land when the snows melt, the cry of buzzards and the dulcet tones of ubiquitous chainsaws – without which life here would be impossible as all heating in the villages (and many towns) is wood-based. There is no flicking of switches to put on the central heating. Winter is a time of survival and most Bulgarian villagers sleep in their living rooms to keep warm by their petchka, the woodburning stove, on which they also cook.

Home is our three dogs, Pippa, Hannah and Dan, and two cats, Lucy and Jack, all of whom give us so much love and not just when food is involved!

“

We wanted to live life closer to nature - experiencing the seasons, growing our own food, using our hands and shaping our own land.





Our first dog Pippa was severely malnourished when we found her but is now the waggiest dog we know! Hannah was thrown out of a car outside our house and Dan likewise was dumped in our road. Even with large patches of hair missing, Dan preferred fuss to food as we nursed him back to normality. Yet home is also where Bulgarians keep their dogs on a chain, maybe never walking them and only feeding them stale bread.

Home seems to be a law unto itself and where 'Elf and Safety' is practically non-existent. Instead common sense usually prevails and people take responsibility for their own actions, often with a range of tools which would be either banned from use in the west or consigned to an anthropological museum.

Home is where we eat eggs from our own hens and we milk our own goats. We come face to face with the cycle of birth and death, realising that drinking

milk has more to do with producing and slaughtering kids to keep goats in milk than dropping a carton into a supermarket trolley without a second thought. Home is where food comes from the garden and not an aeroplane...

Home is where our neighbours, immensely generous with their time and experience, share their produce, customs and way of life – now that we have learnt some of their language and can begin to scratch under the surface. Home is a poor country where our lives are so much the richer, though in many ways we now have less.

Oh, and home sometimes involves singing in a crumbling Bulgarian Orthodox church where, during the service, people light candles, chat and hand out food to celebrate name-days. Warm, human disorder, uplifting in its own unique way. Only occasionally do I hanker after the peace and solemnity of long ago in that certain church in Oxford.

“

Home is the sound of dogs barking, jackals howling at night, the stream roaring past our land when the snows melt, the cry of buzzards and the dulcet tones of ubiquitous chainsaws.



Why Does Education Matter?

RUTH THOMPSON
(1971, History)
talks to
ALISON WOLF
(Potter, 1967, PPE)

“

I'm the person
I am, and I have
the skills I have,
because of
Somerville.



“I was luckier than I deserved to be”, is Alison Wolf’s modest summing up of her work for the Government in overhauling vocational education for 14 to 19 year olds. Professor Alison Wolf (Potter, 1967) has a great deal on her plate. As Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management at King’s College, London, she is in demand worldwide for her academic and research reputation. Her book- and paper-filled office testifies to a life of multi-tasking.

Alison’s reputation is built largely on her work casting doubt on the causal link between growing numbers of people with educational qualifications and economic growth. *Does Education Matter?* (Penguin, 2002) was hailed as a book that took courage to write (she was, after all, an academic in the very system she took to task) and which caused – or should cause – politicians and policy-makers to stop and think. Her thesis, reduced to the essentials, is that “you can’t educate your way to growth”, but she is at pains to explain both that “you can’t run a modern economy that innovates without well-educated people and a strong research culture” and that she believes passionately in education.

Wolf’s work came to the attention of Michael Gove, now Education Secretary, and she got to know members of his team before the 2010 election. She had been especially critical of the lack of value (indeed the negative impact) of many vocational qualifications offered in further education, a sector which over 25 years has been “nationalised” and then subjected to a battery of changes. The result? “Heath Robinson is hardly in it.”

The Review of Vocational Education – the Wolf Report was published in March 2011. It recommends, in brief, that 14-19 year olds should study subjects that are valued by the labour market, not mandated by government quangoes; bogus equivalents of qualifications should be swept away; and that the system needs to reflect better the recent changes in the labour market for the under-19s.

Alison recounts with amusement how she was recruited. She hadn’t known whether

the politicians had been listening or not when she urged reform of vocational education. The Schools Minister’s office phoned while she was “on holiday, but working”, asking her to meet him. She imagined a general chat. On the one day in mid-August 2010 when both were available, she arrived at the Department for Education “with my suitcase, on the way to Gatwick” and met two Ministers, two special advisers and about eight civil servants. They thanked her for agreeing to do the review, and invited her to comment on a scoping document. “So I swallowed, and – look, to be honest, I just had to go for it, didn’t I?”

And go for it she did. “They left me to get on with it”, with the help of one “wonderful” civil servant and the ability to call on other Departmental support.

She declined the offer of an advisory group. Wolf thinks it was an advantage that as an acknowledged expert she was not likely to be “hugely controversial on either side”, and that the Government “genuinely didn’t know what they wanted to do”. She discovered wrongs of which she had been unaware that needed to be put right: notably that agencies at arm’s length from Government had “stuck GCSE point values on everything that moved” among vocational qualifications. As a result, “children were being lied to” about the value to employers of their qualifications.

Unusually, Alison wrote her report herself and was impressed that Ministers read it. She was willing to talk about the extent to which her draft recommendations were interfered with “because they weren’t. I was really pleasantly surprised when they said they would do it all”, she says. She kept within her brief and was not tempted beyond the DfE’s remit into post-19 education – though she happily goes on record to say that the split of responsibilities for education between two Government Departments is “completely demented”.

Would Wolf do it again, and if so would she do anything differently? “I wouldn’t try to combine it with my ordinary job”, she smiles. “And only if I felt that I was going to be trusted by Ministers the way I was

this time.” Otherwise, “it could either be very thankless or very pointless. And I wouldn’t do it unless I was once again going to stay involved after I’d handed the report in”.

I asked where Wolf hoped policy might be in five or ten years’ time. She believes that attempts to create equivalence across qualifications will disappear. She is delighted with the Government’s commitment that anyone without at least GCSE grade C in Maths or English at 16 must go on studying these subjects: “that was the recommendation I really, really wanted”. More ambitiously, Alison hopes that the present plethora of short courses with credits will go. “I am optimistic that the nature of post-16 programmes will really change”, towards something more holistic and more akin to what a prospective university student is offered.

Alison Wolf says that “I’m the person I am, and I have the skills I have, because of Somerville”, which provided “the sort of higher education that really made my brain hurt”. What’s more, “people who get [elite higher education] should feel privileged and feel obliged all the rest of their lives to put something back in”. If her report achieves her stated objective that “vocational education for 14-19 year olds really does serve the purpose of creating and maintaining opportunities for all young people”, Wolf will surely have done that.

“

Her thesis, reduced to the essentials, is that “you can’t educate your way to growth.”

The Review of Vocational Education – the Wolf Report is available to view online:

www.education.gov.uk/a0074953/review-of-vocational-education-the-wolf-report

Mothers for All

Destitute women raising children orphaned by AIDS, male prisoners and waste paper don't immediately suggest any useful synergy. However, all three have successfully come together in Botswana and South Africa through a non-profit initiative called Mothers for All.

LINDA SCOTT
(McCourt, 1975,
Human Sciences)

I helped to found this charity in 2008 and it is now turning over £50,000 worth of recycled paper bead jewellery every year – which is sold all over the world. The jewellery is made by over 70 female caregivers from around Botswana and 25 male prisoners from Worcester and Dwaarsrivier prisons in South Africa. The work provides a sustainable income for the caregivers and regular money to help over 30 AIDS orphans 'adopted' by the male prisoners from their local community.

Ten years ago I was living on a game farm on the Limpopo River, in Botswana, when I started my research in HIV/AIDS as part of a master's degree in Nutritional Medicine at the University of Surrey. I found out about this part-time degree through the Somerville Magazine – as it is directed by another Somervillian, Professor Margaret Rayman. A fellow Somervillian from the class of 1975, Christine Whaite, helped to make it all possible.

On moving to South Africa my research led me to a prison near Worcester in the Western Cape province where I met a unique group of male inmates (self-named as the 'Group of Hope') who were actively helping and interacting with children orphaned by AIDS from the nearby community. While male prisoners would not be considered ideal role models, the fact that they felt driven to help these children was both mind shifting and inspiring.

I then started a project researching South African non-profits working in the field of HIV and AIDS for the AIDSbuzz website where I came across woman after woman who had opened their tiny homes but large hearts to children orphaned by AIDS who had nowhere else to go. Numbering well over a million, a figure that cannot possibly convey the suffering involved, communities across the country continue to struggle to absorb all these children. The burden of care has largely fallen on women barely out of childhood themselves or the elderly – and both groups are ill-equipped to cope in terms of resources and job skills.

These two experiences proved life changing. As a mother of three, I felt sure that there must be a way to unite people around the world to pool their skills, resources and time to support these women and give them and their young charges hope for the future. So with my children and Jenny Dunlop, a teacher in Botswana, the Mothers for All charitable trust was set up – first in Botswana and then South Africa. This was made possible with a generous donation from the royalties of my daughter's bestselling book, *Twenty Chickens for a Saddle*, a memoir about being homeschooled in Botswana.

Our priority was to develop an income-generation project that was sustainable. The challenge was to find a product that would be both attractive and easy to transport, and that did not require a high degree of training or equipment to make and used materials which were freely available and cheap – a tall order! Recycled paper bead jewellery fitted the bill in every respect though.

Starting with a group of just five women in the town of Selebi-Phikwe the project quickly grew, with the help of a grant from Barclays UK, to include over 70 female caregivers throughout Botswana from the Tuli Block to the Kalahari and the Okavango Delta. A recent grant from the European Commission has enabled us to roll out a food-gardening programme to increase each household's food security and intake of fresh vegetables and fruit.

Improved income and food security have not been the only benefits. Some of the women have become trainers themselves and regularly travel around the country. A system of rotating group leadership means that everyone gets a chance to take responsibility for co-ordinating orders, quality control and delivery. The women have all developed support networks and new friendships and are constantly in and out of each other's homes, laughing, joking and complimenting one another on their beadwork. Several are making use of our dedicated training fund which helps the women and orphan school leavers to gain further education or job skills training.



Meanwhile in South Africa the 'Group of Hope' prisoners have also been taught to make paper bead jewellery to raise money for their orphans, who regularly visit their unlikely benefactors. I am also conducting a pilot HIV peer education training project with 12 of these inmates so that they can help to address the high HIV prevalence in South African prisons. This project has come about through another unlikely partnership between the MAC makeup company, Colombia University, UCLA and the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, which identifies and trains emerging leaders in the field of HIV prevention through the MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative Programme. Over US \$130 million has been raised by the global sales of MAC's Viva Glam lipstick, with 100% of the profits going directly into the MAC AIDS Fund.

By helping others, particularly vulnerable children, the prisoners have also redeemed their own lives, eloquently summarised by one inmate, "I am not just rolling paper beads, I am rolling opportunities for our orphaned children. Each and every bead contains them". The inmates also rose to the challenge of designing a necklace fashioned from a Somerville Magazine – in all probability a first.



Finding Somerville on the other

Richard Forrest (1994, Classics and Modern Languages) and Emily Forrest (Freedland, 1994, Law) share their experience of unwittingly following in a great Somervillian's footsteps.

“

Easter Island. That romantic speck on the map which seems to vanish into its own remoteness, and conjures up the image of those dark, frowning, stone heads.

We are sitting on the edge of a crater, looking down at the bright turquoise lake which fills it. A few fig trees give a sense of scale – it is over a kilometre across and covered with vast mats of reed, but from where we sit it looks like a lily-pond. Above us, frigate birds swoop and bank in the warm air. Across from us, and visible past a dip in the crater's edge, is the Pacific – stretching from where we are, uninterrupted, to Antarctica. Behind us is one of the world's longest runways, built by NASA as an emergency landing point for the Challenger mission. And beneath our feet, eight and a half thousand miles from home, is an extraordinary and wonderful bit of Somerville. Let us explain.

Our first conversation in the college bar in 1994 was about how much we wanted to see the world. In the years since, we have been lucky enough to be able to follow our itchy feet to some amazing places. It was in planning a trip to the deserts of northern Chile last year that we realised we would be edging probably as close as we ever would to Easter Island. That romantic speck on the map which seems to vanish into its own remoteness, and conjures up the image of those dark, frowning, stone heads. We could not resist the detour, and before we knew it, we were on our way.

Easter Island (Rapa Nui) peeps out of the South Pacific half way between Tahiti and Chile. Bizarre and beautiful, just fifteen miles across and largely barren, it has the power to drive your imagination like nowhere else. Populated by Polynesian explorers some time after 600AD, its story unfolded in total isolation until the Dutch arrived in 1722. During those years, a unique statue-carving culture evolved, resulting in hundreds of colossal stone figures being arranged across the island. Once the isolation came to an end, chaos followed – including landings by the Spanish and British, Peruvian slave raids, in-fighting, and a catastrophic collapse of the population from an estimated fourteen thousand at its peak to one hundred and eleven people in 1877. By the time the island was annexed by Chile in 1888 it was more or less a treeless wasteland, littered with toppled statues.

This was about as much homework as we'd had the chance to do before we found ourselves face to face with some of the statues, rising out of the slope of the volcano from which they were carved. Nothing prepares you for the intensity of standing in front of them, nor for the stimulation of being in a place which makes you want to ask quite so many questions. Questions about the statues themselves:



side of the world

why were they created? How on earth were they moved? Who do they represent? Why were they pulled down? Questions about the people who made them, and their remarkable existence. And more prosaic questions too: Why are there so many horses and why do they look like clones? Why are there dry stone walls which could have come straight from the Yorkshire dales? Why do some of the locals seem to think so highly of General Pinochet? Every question we posed had a quirky and unexpected answer which revealed another chapter of the island's history.



And then, the jackpot question. How do we know all the things we know about the island, if its indigenous people were almost wiped out? Our local guide gave the answer. An Englishwoman, Katherine Routledge, came in 1914 to study the island. She interviewed the last remaining people who had witnessed the island's original culture. She instigated the first comprehensive archaeological survey of the island, and documented everything she discovered. She was a great lady, our guide said, who studied at Somerville College in Oxford.

So there we were, in this absurdly remote place, paying tribute to an unimaginably bold Somervillian who came by sea to Easter Island nearly a century ago, with only the sketchiest idea of what she might find. Katherine Routledge's work without a doubt saved elements of the island's history from oblivion, and laid the foundations for much of the exploration which has taken place since. On the island she is nothing less than a local hero.

Back in the UK, we paid our respects in two places. First at the British Museum, where one homesick figure twinkles darkly under the museum's spotlights, showing his volcanic heritage, but otherwise tight-lipped as to his past. Then in the Somerville library, where the story of Katherine Routledge and her extraordinary life can be found, and where new generations of Somervillians can feel inspired by what might lie beyond undergraduate days.

“

So there we were, in this absurdly remote place, paying tribute to an unimaginably bold Somervillian.



Katherine Pease was a student at Somerville between 1891 and 1895, studying Modern History. In 1906 she married William Scoresby Routledge and sailed with him on their yacht to the South Seas. From 1913 to 1915 she worked on the Easter Islands with the tiny community of people who had survived 150 years of foreign invasions which had all but destroyed their culture. Her excavations of the famous Easter Island statues and her interviews with the local people managed to salvage what remained of the traditions, histories and belief structures that would otherwise have disappeared forever. She died in 1935 at the age of 69.



A High Commission

In December 2011, Susan Hyland (1983, PPE) took up the post of Political Counsellor at the British High Commission in Islamabad. Throughout her career, she has known that speaking the same language doesn't guarantee understanding – knowledge that will prove invaluable as she starts building her home in Pakistan.

The new Political Counsellor to the British High Commission in Pakistan is trying to make her new house feel like home. I watch from Oxford on skype as Susan Hyland walks through her rooms in Islamabad pointing out Multan pottery – a dark-blue vase and a blue-and-turquoise tray; Afghani glass candle-holders in midnight-blue and grass-green; papier-mâché eggs from Kashmir painted in gold flower patterns; a white appliquéd tablecloth; a pashmina delicate enough to be pulled through a ring. As Political Counsellor, Susan must get to know the people and issues of Pakistan. She regrets the fact that Pakistani government restrictions and UK concerns about people's safety put many beautiful and interesting parts of Pakistan effectively out of bounds for herself and her team. That is why filling her home with decision makers and commentators from all over the country is such a key part of her job, so the welcoming human touches have more diplomatic significance than first meets the eye.

The call to Islamabad came out of the blue, just before Christmas. Fifteen years into her Foreign Office career, Susan had risen to being head of the FCO's Human Rights department. This prestigious role had followed postings to the embassies in Paris and Moscow and stints in security policy and strategy in London as head of the NATO desk and as chief of staff to the head of the diplomatic service. Little persuasion was needed to entice Susan to Islamabad. Equipping herself with Anatol Lieven's *Pakistan: a Hard Country* as preparatory reading, and a few hours of basic Urdu at King's College London, she flew out and spent the festive season with the British Defence Attaché, his family and a couple of Pakistani novels (Mohammed Hanif's *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* and Ali Sethi's *The Wish Maker*).

This diplomatic high-flyer arrived at Somerville as a chemist, switching to PPE after her first year. She spent a postgraduate year at Yale taking philosophy classes and, back at Somerville, wrote a thesis on stoicism for the BPhil. I suggest that the politics element of her degree is now more important to her than the philosophy element. "My mind works like a philosopher's," she answers. "I enjoyed 'politics at Oxford' more than the 'politics of PPE.'" It was at the Union that she got to know the 'political animal': the instincts she acquired there have come in useful in understanding the personality and power politics of Pakistan.

I ask whether Baroness Park, Somerville Principal during Susan's undergraduate and graduate years and a noted diplomat herself, was an influence. "Daphne believed in being courageous, in getting things done. She valued academic work but her emphasis was on doing. She had no patience with people who only found problems."

How does Susan see UK-Pakistan relations? "The UK population is bound up with that of Pakistan. A large number of people in the UK have family links to Pakistan and care about what happens here." What does she see as the country's main challenges? "This is a crucial year for Pakistan. The forthcoming election will be the first democratic change of power. There are big challenges in the region – the country is intimately affected by what happens in Afghanistan and the departure of NATO forces in 2014 will have a significant impact. Pakistan's security is bound up with what happens in the region, and so is the UK's."

I wonder what she makes of the fact that American forces killed Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan. Her reply is careful. "There are parts of Pakistan where armed terrorist groups operate and it's hard for anyone to keep control. The fact that

Bin Laden was killed on Pakistani soil was difficult for Pakistan's political and military establishment and its people to come to terms with. It has complicated the relationship with the United States, and the mistakes that led to the very sad killing by NATO forces of the 24 Pakistani border guards in November 2011 made things worse. Both sides feel let down by the other. If some in the US see Pakistan as harbouring terrorists, many in Pakistan feel that their armed forces and people are making greater sacrifices than anyone in the front line of the fight against global terrorism."

Mutual understanding is at the core of Susan's diplomatic vision. She provides by way of example her attempt to create a piece of the Mediterranean on the upstairs terrace of her house in Islamabad. "Last Saturday, a string of on-duty and off-duty security guards, with guns on their backs or in shalwar kameez, hoisted potted olive, lemon and orange trees up my stairs. I followed on with pots of rosemary and chillis. The day after, the people who had been part of this procession decided that the smaller plants should be planted in my front garden, and this was done. I hadn't explicitly told them that all the plants I'd bought should remain upstairs, but I'd thought my intention was obvious from the fact that we'd carried them all upstairs. Why do I assume that the intentions and motivations behind foreign policy are any more transparent to both sides?"

As part of promoting such transparency, Susan will be keeping a blog on the High Commission website. Somervillians are welcome, she says, to look her up in Islamabad. If you do call in and find yourself admiring the olives and rosemary that have now been restored to the pots upstairs, you'll know that such household details – and the new understanding that lies behind them – are a microcosm of international relations.

KATE MCCLOUGHIN
(1988, ENGLISH)
talks to
SUSAN HYLAND
(1983, PPE)

“

Many people
in Pakistan
feel that their
armed forces
and people are
making greater
sacrifices than
anyone in the
front line of the
fight against
global terrorism.



Somervillian Skies

Q&A with Rob Leather and Etienne Smith

Rob Leather (1994, Physics) and Etienne Smith (1998, Biochemistry) both joined the RAF after graduating from Somerville. They are now flying the Typhoon, one of the world's most advanced fighter aircraft. Their paths crossed for the first time in 2011 on 29 Squadron, RAF Coningsby, where Etienne is currently an instructor.





The time at university goes by very quickly... If I could go back I'd tell my 18 year old self to embrace everything.

What motivated you to join the Air Force?

Rob: For me it was a mixture of naïve idealism and the needs of every twenty something to 'do justice and go and slay dragons' (the massacres in Serbia at that time and the subsequent RAF involvement satisfied both the will and means). Also, I'd spent a short period working in the City during a summer break, and the sight of the 'glum, grey suited men' on the trains was sufficiently disenchanting to make me think "What's the best job in the world?". I remember my tutor said both the City and the RAF were equally wasteful of an Oxford education!

Where did you begin your training?

Etienne: We both began training with Oxford University Air Squadron. Thereafter we completed our officer training at RAF College Cranwell.

Rob: Where Etienne won the Sword of Honour. I went on to be an instructor on the Hawk, and then joined the front-line for a three-year tour on the Jaguar, a low level ground attack aircraft.

Etienne: The RAF saying is "join and see the world" and they mean it.

Rob: Yes, one year I visited and flew in 18 different countries from Belize to Oman and Israel in just 12 months! I was then lucky enough to be posted to California on an exchange tour with the US Navy and flew F-18 Hornets for three years.

What have been your highlights since training?

Rob: Whilst in California my two notable achievements were gaining my carrier-landing qualification on the USS Carl Vinson and having my second child – with another Somervillian, Helen Saunders (1993, Psychology and Philosophy).

Etienne: After advanced fast-jet training, I was one of the first pilots to be chosen to fly the Typhoon, a single-seat, supersonic, high-G fighter used recently in the Libyan campaign. I was posted to 11 Squadron and after three years there, I was selected to be an instructor. I had the chance to fly with Rob in a two-seat Typhoon. A Somerville first we think!

So, how does Somerville prepare you for being a fighter pilot?

Rob: Rigorous learning, uncompromising standards, self-reliance, elitism – all are terms that could be applied to both, but the real similarity is to be presented with an environment in which there is both the obligation and the opportunity to challenge your own expectations of your abilities. Whether studying atomic physics or landing a jet on a boat, it is hard to imagine that either could be conquerable. (I have visions of my former physics tutor shaking his head, "But it is not you see...").

How do you remember Somerville?

Etienne: Very fondly. I had a fantastic time at Somerville enjoying both the academic

challenge of my degree studies and extra-curricular activities such as rowing for the College. It's only when you leave that I think you really realise how special the time at Oxford was. I'd love to do it all again!

Rob: Yes, the time at University goes by very quickly and I think the significance of your time there does not sink in until many years later. If I could go back I'd tell my 18 year old self to embrace everything and not rush into the world of work; it will always be there for you, while other things will not.

So, would you do it all again? What are you doing now?

Rob: Well, as the focus of a pilot is to continually self-improve, it feels like I have yet to do a day's work that I didn't relish. I remember being on a huge multi-national exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas. There were over 80 jets airborne, ground threats to deal with and I was flying at 600kts at 100 feet racing away from a bandit with my 1000lb live bomb that I had to deliver against a target within a five second time-window. Now that is fun and excitement that it is impossible to describe!

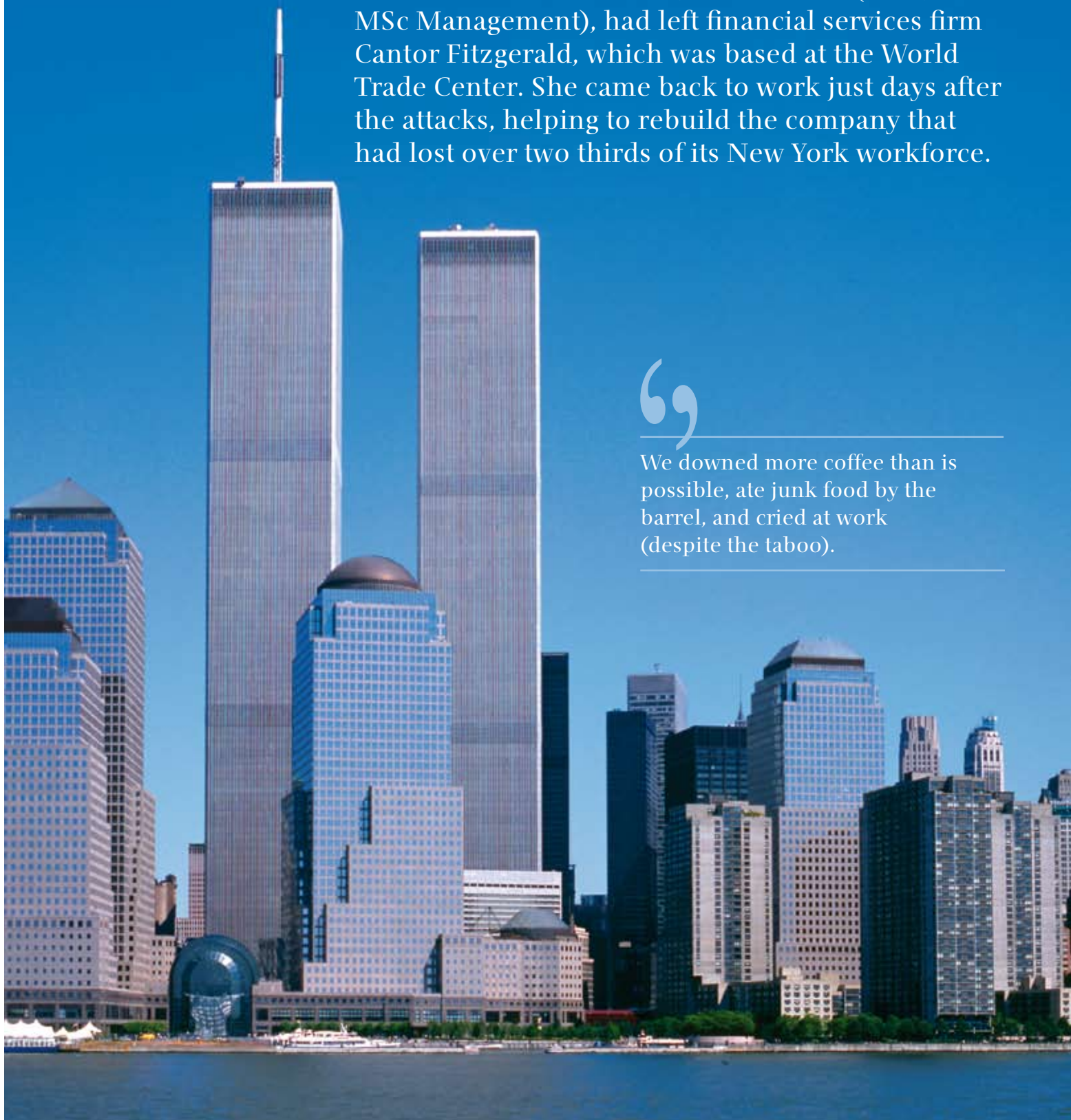
Etienne: We are both currently serving with the front-line on the Typhoon and have an active role in the Quick Reaction Alert capability of the UK Defence Forces, which includes scrambling to intercept Russian long-range aviation assets and, more wistfully, providing a protective shield over (Somerville's!) skies.

The Day the Twin Towers Fell

A few months before 9/11, Heidi Olson (1985, MSc Management), had left financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald, which was based at the World Trade Center. She came back to work just days after the attacks, helping to rebuild the company that had lost over two thirds of its New York workforce.

“

We downed more coffee than is possible, ate junk food by the barrel, and cried at work (despite the taboo).



9/11 changed it all. Not just for me, not just for New York, but for much of the world. I worked at Cantor Fitzgerald for 16 years – 6 years prior and 10 years after 9/11. I worked on the 101st floor of the World Trade Center. I like to think I wouldn't have died on 9/11 but everyone else says leaving the firm in April 2001 saved my life. 654 of my colleagues died.

Life is a series of near misses and direct hits. You know the sad stories – I lived them. Less told are tales of goodness and kindness.

I saw the World Trade Center fall – not on television, in real life, standing on the street. It wasn't true – it couldn't be. I had no idea this was a global event – this was my building, my company, my friends, my city and crazy f***ing fanatics ruined it. They filled me with fear, they stole my family's safety, they killed my friends. That clear day there were sirens and more sirens, and then it became still. By Wednesday, missing person posters appeared everywhere, and every second picture was someone I knew.

On September 11th I was helping locate friends, on the 12th we hoped for survivors, and on the 13th my husband Roger said, "go help, I've got the kids." Everyone in New York wanted to do something or anything. I was lucky, I had a place where I was needed and I could help.

The next days, weeks, months were a blur. No one kept a calendar. We worked every waking hour. Rebuilding the company would honour lost friends. Cantor Chairman Howard Lutnick asked me to build our trading floor at a temporary location at UBS, the firm's investment bank. Thus I was initiated into the tribe of traders. We downed more coffee than is possible, ate junk food by the barrel, and cried at work (despite the taboo). Sometimes we

laughed until coffee came out our noses. Some days, perhaps, we crossed out of the land of the sane. It was hard work.

Rebuilding is a story about generosity. I swam in the ocean of kindness. I arrived at UBS and entered an empty office floor – I was so alone I wept. I knew slightly more about building a trading floor than I knew about building a Space Shuttle. Just then a UBS banker appeared and asked what I needed. "Thank you, I need a UBS phone directory and to meet someone in your technology department." (I had no tech team – the small group of survivors were living at the Cantor/eSpeed Data Center running the electronic bond market). Five minutes later the tech team found me. By the end of day we had a preliminary plan. Urgently, I needed to organize the microphone/speaker system that links all nine trading floors into one virtual room and get phone boards for calling customers. At a deli I randomly ran into the former Cantor employee who set up the trading floor at the WTC. She said, "I'll come up and we can call the vendors." By the next morning the phone turrets were on their way and Verizon Telephone had deployed its premier team. The UBS facilities manager did magic: in record time they installed trading desks and rolled in dozens of chairs (for employees we hadn't yet hired). Office supplies materialized. A volunteer made phone lists for vendors and staff – another lifeline. Others sorted resumés so we could hire. Jars of pennies from lemonade sales, pictures from school children, baskets of muffins found their way to us. Psychologists offered us free therapy so we wouldn't crack up – most of us couldn't spare the time. A team wrote thank you notes on our behalf. Less than three weeks from the project start, we had a trading floor – a process that normally takes four months. New York was back in business.

I do not know all of the names or the thousands of tasks, but what people did was astonishing. Out of the crowd they came. Vendors, volunteers, employees and strangers gave from the heart. I am humbled to have witnessed and received so much kindness. My post-9/11 colleagues are amongst the finest people on earth. Cantor Fitzgerald has contributed more than \$45 million to victims' families and is now larger than it was in 2001.

The worst of times bring out the best in people.



I saw the World Trade Center fall – not on television, in real life, standing on the street.

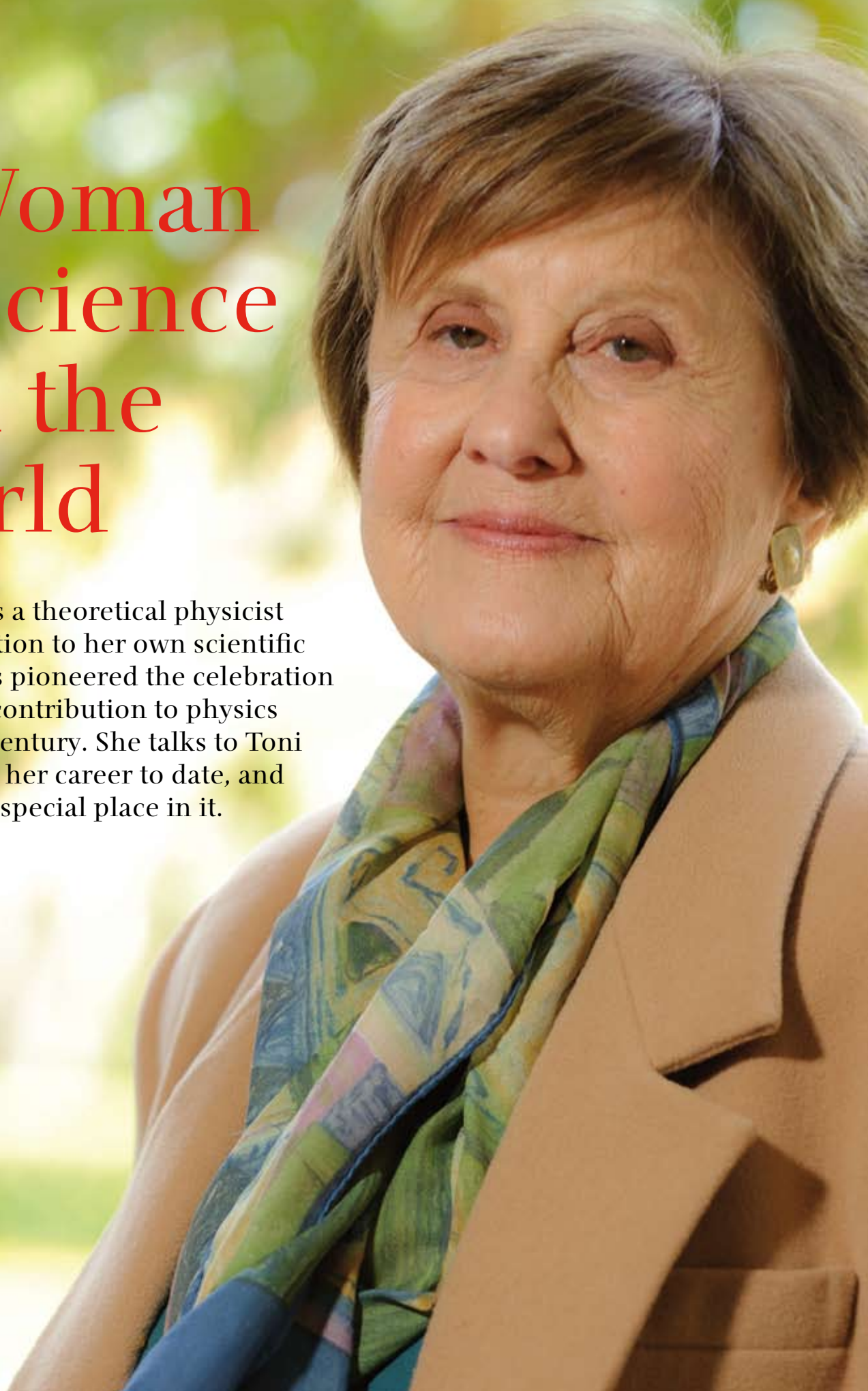


HEIDI OLSON (1985, MSc Management)

Heidi was Chief Operating Office, Cantor Fitzgerald Equity Capital Markets. She recently retired (with proverbial gold watch and speeches). She is working on a book.

A Woman of Science and the World

Nina Byers is a theoretical physicist who, in addition to her own scientific research, has pioneered the celebration of women's contribution to physics in the 20th Century. She talks to Toni Coffee about her career to date, and Somerville's special place in it.



‘A Woman of Science and the World’ – thus begins the Introduction to *Out of the Shadows: Contributions of 20th Century Women to Physics* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006), a collection of 40 wonderful essays about women who made important original contributions to science despite serious gender discrimination in their working lives, and often received no credit for their pioneering work. Co-editor and author of the Introduction is Nina Byers, theoretical physicist and Professor of Physics Emeritus at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and one-time Fellow at Somerville.

In 1967, on leave from UCLA, Dr Byers was elected by Somerville and Oxford University, jointly, as Official Fellow and Tutor in Physics and University Lecturer – the first woman to hold that position in the University Physics department. In 1968 she became Janet Watson Visiting Fellow and Tutor in Physics at Somerville and continued to teach and supervise graduate students for one term each year, in a joint appointment by Oxford and UCLA.

From her unique vantage point she could see the differences between the competitive nature of the male-dominated department and the mutual support and collegiality that prevailed in a society of women. It is a gap that still exists, she believes, and not only in the academic world. In 1973 she returned to California full-time (“alas”) and she has also taught at Stanford and Harvard, but the memory of her years within a community of accomplished women has resonated throughout her career as teacher, research scientist, advocate for nuclear disarmament, and champion of women in science.

“It was a great privilege to be at Somerville,” she recalls. Janet Vaughan was Principal, “a wonderful person and a great lady” and “the caliber of scholars and human beings that populated the SCR was truly distinguished.” Among those she remembers with great pleasure are philosophers Elizabeth Anscombe and Philippa Foot, literary critic Enid Starkie, biochemist Antoinette Pirie, mathematician Ann Cobb, and, of course, Nobel Laureate Dorothy Hodgkin, “one of the stars in the constellation of great scientists of our time, and all time.”

The chapter on Dorothy Hodgkin in *Out of the Shadows* was written by Jenny Pickworth Glusker, 1949 and Hon. Fellow. “The College had a glorious record of recognizing and supporting the work of female scientists,” she says, and that is an appropriate tribute to the person after whom it was named. “Mary Somerville was a fine scientist” who, at a time when writings about scientific advances were coming from France, wrote four important books.



Left: Newly-elected Fellow Nina Byers stands in line during the Queen's visit to Somerville in 1968.

Mary Somerville was one of the first two women admitted to the Royal Astronomical Society, and similar references appear throughout Dr. Byers' own life and work. She was frequently the only woman in her undergraduate physics courses, she was the only female Teaching Assistant in graduate school at the University of Chicago, and at UCLA she was for 29 years the only woman on the Physics faculty. Foremost among her research interests were elementary particle physics and the theory of superconductivity, for which she was honoured by the American Physical Society. She also takes great pride in her papers which brought to light the important discoveries of mathematician Emmy Noether.

Dr. Byers' career in physics was rooted in curiosity about the bombs which were dropped on Japan at the end of World War II, and issues related to nuclear power have been a continuing influence in her teaching and professional activities. Participation in social movements was a family tradition and she became engaged in the effort to stop and reverse the arms race while still in graduate school. From the beginning, she was opposed to the construction and use of nuclear weapons and she has refused to work on associated projects.

Among her many honours and awards is the chairmanship of the Forum on Physics and Society of the American Physical Society. It was an elected position and she received the support of her peers, she believes, primarily because of her work for disarmament. She has written major papers about the role of physicists in the still-controversial decision to drop the bomb in 1945 and still teaches a seminar at UCLA on Nuclear Power in which students are reminded that the world's supply of nuclear weapons has grown from two bombs in 1945 to more than 20,000 today.



The College had a glorious record of recognizing and supporting the work of female scientists.



Toni Coffee has been a regular contributor to Somerville publications for sixteen years. She divides her time between Oxford and New York City and is a graduate of Barnard College, the women's undergraduate division of Columbia University. She is a former editor of the Barnard Alumnae Magazine.

Always a Somervillian

SUCHANDRIKA CHAKRABARTI
(2001, English)
talks to
VICTORIA YOUNGHUSBAND
(1973, Classics)

“

She has particularly fond memories of the support she received from her Moral Tutors at Somerville, Nan Dunbar and Lesley Brown.

Victoria Younghusband's story shows that you never really leave Somerville. Now a Partner in the Financial Markets Group at City law firm SJ Berwin, she is also one of the founding committee members of the Somerville City Group. However, Victoria actually left Somerville in 1975 without gaining her degree.

Victoria came up to Oxford to read Classics in 1973. From the start, her experience at Somerville was not quite like that of her friends. Her mother had died in an accident when Victoria was 19, and, as a result she often left College at the weekend to see her widowed father back at home in London.

She does remember Somerville as a relaxed environment, a place for making lifelong friends and gaining a good education. The literary side of Classics absorbed her the most – Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* was a particularly memorable text – while the philosophy element appealed to her love of solving problems.

In the summer term of her second year, Victoria fell pregnant, and moved back to London in 1975 to begin a law degree at Queen Mary College (now Queen Mary, University of London). She has particularly fond memories of the support she received from her Moral Tutors at Somerville, Nan Dunbar and Lesley Brown. However, between marriage, tending to two small children and starting a law degree, she didn't get the chance to visit Somerville again until the Centenary celebrations in 1979.

Starting again so soon at another university gave Victoria a unique chance to compare her law seminars to the rigours of the Oxford tutorial system. With five other people in her tutorials at Queen Mary, Victoria missed the 'take no prisoners' dimension of her Classics tutorials.

The process of reading essays aloud – a nerve-racking job when Nan Dunbar had once declared, "Golly, that was exhausting!" – and then arguing her point of view prepared Victoria well for her law career. The intensity of tutorials, with just one or two other people in the room, certainly honed her debating skills and gave her the confidence to present her work to a critical audience, be that tutor or client.

After the law degree, Victoria completed her LPC at The College of Law in London, and, aged 28, started her articles – her training contract – at Stephenson Harwood, in 1982. She went on to qualify in 1984, and to be made a partner in 1989.

In 1991, Victoria moved to Hong Kong to work on corporate finance, listings and takeovers. The work

was challenging and time-consuming, with Saturday mornings being considered a normal workday. One benefit of working outside her comfort zone was dealing with clients whose first language was not English. This meant that she had to become very precise with her wording, and even more careful with document presentation, which was helpful when she came to write articles and book chapters for both lawyers and laypeople.

The mixed excitement and fear involved in travelling through early 1990s China remains vivid for Victoria, with one incident involving a missing aeroplane ignition key and the most turbulent flight of her life convincing her that perhaps four-and-a-half years away from home was enough. Her children, Teresa (now 36) and Arthur (now 34), were at boarding school in England during this time, and she found that long-distance mothering had become too difficult.

In 2003, back in London, Victoria became a member of Tony Blair's Better Regulation Taskforce (later Commission). Her four years in this role brought her closer to the makings of policy. The difficulties of deciding who polices an industry and how appealed to her problem-solving nature, and dealing with the issues of making legislation workable gave her an insight into how outsiders view the world of banking.

Victoria's work at SJ Berwin these days includes teaching and pastoral roles. She looks for and encourages the abilities to hold one's own and to inspire confidence in the listener in her trainee solicitors. Also, after being held to such high standards in her Somerville tutorials, she is quick to see when her trainees are being a little intellectually lazy, and is keen to get them to fulfil their potential without puncturing their confidence. She maintains relationships with the young lawyers who pass through her office, and is always happy to hear how past trainees are doing.

Now, as one of the founders of the Somerville City Group, Victoria is glad she has been able to give back to the institution that she thinks of as grand, and yet also as a place that nurtured her during a difficult time in her life.



VICTORIA
YOUNGHUSBAND
(1973, Classics)



After being held to such high standards in her Somerville tutorials, she is quick to see when her trainees are being a little intellectually lazy, and is keen to get them to fulfil their potential without puncturing their confidence.

The Somerville Campaign:

Building on a great momentum



JULIE HAGE
Development Director

The generous support of more than 1,100 alumni and friends toward the first phase of the Somerville Campaign has transformed our College community; those of you who have had a chance to visit the new Radcliffe Observatory Quarter buildings will know exactly what I mean.

The 68 students who have been living in the buildings during the past two terms have voiced their enthusiasm in multiple ways: Alice Westlake (2010, Engineering) expresses with compelling clarity how her experience of living in these new fit for purpose rooms has “allowed me to focus more on my studies and taken away the problems that finding and living in private accommodation can cause”.

More than 36% of our alumni have supported the Campaign and £17.5 million has been raised so far (April 2012). This truly remarkable generosity has given us confidence as we embark on the next phase of our ambitious £25 million Campaign to secure the College's future, raising significant sums for student support and fellowship endowment.

Increasing student support

The recent press coverage of the higher education challenges in the UK has included an article in the *Sunday Times* by our alumnus and Development Board member Sam Gyimah (1994, PPE), MP for Surrey East, encouraging all graduates to give philanthropic support to universities as a means to securing fair access and excellence. Sam came to Somerville from a state school and feels that the help he received from the College was vital in encouraging him to continue his studies: “I struggled to pay my rent, but the College offered me a long term loan to help me do so. I’m conscious that, in these circumstances, a lot of students would not even have taken this leap of faith to

apply in the first place. Knowing that the institution wants people like you and that the support is there when you need it can make a big difference”. [www.samgyimah.com/news/blog/calling-all-alumni].

At Somerville, students have for decades benefited from support from generous alumni who have endowed a bursary or donated a sum towards scholarships, and we now intend to build on this tradition by raising a minimum of £4 million towards our student support fund. With the tripling of tuition fees from September 2012, the “leap of faith” required when applying to Oxford is significant, and we see it as our role to attract additional funding and publicise the opportunities for support as

widely as possible in order to ensure fair access to the brightest students.

£2.2 million has already been raised by 918 alumni and friends towards student support. The response to and diversity of our appeals is incredibly heartening, from the Appelbaum family who support a deserving UK student every year, to the Caldicott Bursary which helps a Clinical Medicine student to meet the costs of their long course. These examples of generosity towards Somerville students, joined by many, many more, demonstrate how access and excellence can be supported in tandem if we have a healthy student support fund backing our efforts.

Bursaries and graduate scholarships

In the last year, 25% of current students have been provided with financial support. This places Somerville in the top five within the collegiate university, and would not be possible without all of the many donors each year to the bursary fund and to graduate scholarships.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the family and friends of the late Vanessa Brand, who studied history at Somerville. Without the support from the scholarship they established in her memory, I would not be able to study as a doctoral student at Somerville. Their generosity provides me with the opportunity to pursue my studies in an unparalleled intellectual environment — an enormous privilege, for which I am truly grateful.”

JACQUES SCHUMACHER (2010, History DPhil)

For further information on how you can support Somerville, please contact Julie Christiane Hage:

Tel: **+44 (0) 1865 280596**

Email: **julie.hage@some.ox.ac.uk**

For the latest Campaign figures, please visit the Somerville website: **www.some.ox.ac.uk/Campaign**

Securing academic excellence

Currently, fewer than 60% of our teaching posts are endowed and the burden of covering teaching costs is significant, corresponding to around £500,000 every year. Many of you will know that a special opportunity for securing our tutorial fellowships has become available to us: the Oxford Teaching Fund, which offers matched funding to endow posts across the collegiate University, particularly in the humanities. We are delighted that we now have the opportunity to secure Philosophy and French, two core posts in the College's distinguished humanities group, via this route.

The target is daunting; we need to raise £1.2 million per post in cash and pledges by September 2013 in order to attract £800,000 in matched funding. However, the prospect of securing these posts in perpetuity is extremely attractive, and if we succeed in doing so, this will alleviate funds to pay for the College's teaching in other subjects. It is therefore a great encouragement that alumni and friends have pledged more than £500,000 toward the Philosophy appeal and a number of significant legacy pledges have been earmarked for the French Fellowship. We hope that many of you will contribute to these efforts in the coming year to help us unlock this unique opportunity.

Endowing Fellowships

The fundamental impact of the tutorial teaching on students is beyond doubt. The recent Modern Languages Day (March 2012) offered a dynamic contribution to our efforts towards securing the French post and we were delighted with the opportunity to honour one of our most distinguished benefactors, Dr Christina Roaf, with a Foundation Fellowship in acknowledgement of her support for Modern Languages over the past 45 years.



Dr Christina Roaf



Ayla Busch

Lesley Brown's teaching career in Philosophy, Classics and PPE has prompted many of her students to give to the Philosophy appeal, and to express how significant the educational experience was for them. Ayla Busch (1989, PPE) explains: ***"As individuals, we seem to be living in different mind frameworks that are shaped by society, our families, our experiences and values. Studying Philosophy has helped me to understand those frameworks better and thus relate to people in a much more connected way. Being able to think out of the box, having the tools to question anyone's thoughts, being able to see problems from an eagle's view and being aware of boundaries of conduct or the meaning of actions – all of these are very relevant to my daily personal as well as my professional life."***

We are planning an event for all alumni with an interest in Philosophy later this year, featuring a key note speech by Lesley, as a means to rally everyone who feels they are able to support us in our efforts.

Advancing Somerville's tradition of global research

While most of our current fundraising income derives from alumni and friends in the UK and the US, we are also seeking to increase our engagement with international partners further afield, with a view to attracting support for the College's research excellence and increasing scholarships available to international students. Alumni working in Asia and the Middle East have been instrumental in opening doors to significant philanthropic contacts as we seek to secure funding for the College's research base in these regions of the world. In brief, the generosity and resourcefulness of Somervillians never fail to impress.

The Power of Regular Giving

Regular gifts have an enormous impact on the College, as they allow us to plan ahead with confidence and make the most of all donations. Regular gifts allocated to the Annual Fund provide support for three vital parts of College life: tutorial support; buildings and facilities; and bursaries. We hope that even more Somervillians will join this growing community of regular givers.



As I reflect on my educational experiences, I always look back on my time at Somerville with particular fondness. With the constant challenges to the funding position of British universities, colleges and their students, we should all do what we can to help Somerville remain the special place that we remember.

DAVID BROOKS
(1997, Modern Languages), Annual Fund donor

Events 2011-12

KDJ English Day

14 May 2011

This day was open to all who read English at Somerville since 1961 and was a celebration of Professor Katherine Duncan-Jones's 70th birthday.

Right: Heather O'Donoghue (MacKinnon, 1974, Mediaeval English), Katherine Duncan-Jones, Fiona Stafford and Philip West. "Katherine's day on Saturday was a real joy. Thank you for all you did to arrange it, get us there and make it such fun for us all." Sarah Wedderburn (1971, English)



Michala Butterfield Lunch

18 June 2011

Michala Butterfield (née Emmett) came to Somerville in 1995 to read Law. Since Michala's tragic death in 2008, the Emmett family and their friends have been raising funds for the Michala Butterfield Bursary Fund. In June, family and friends came to a lunch in College to remember Michala and also to celebrate the family's achievement in fundraising for the bursary. Anahita Hoose, one of the students currently being funded by the Michala Butterfield Bursary, also attended the lunch.

Left: Jane Loader (Aspell, 1995, Biological Sciences) with members of Michala's family



Gaudy 2011

2-3 July 2011

Matriculants from 1935 to 1955 were invited to College for a weekend of events including talks, a black-tie dinner, a garden party, and the opportunity to tour the ROQ site.



Opening of the ROQ buildings

17 and 18 September 2011

The weekend of 17 and 18 September was a very special one as it was the official opening of the new ROQ buildings. More than 280 donors to the project came to the celebration and were among the first people to see the completed new buildings.

Left: The Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes. **Middle:** Jane Steedman (1966, PPP) and Eva Blyth (Frary, 1954, Mathematics)

Right: Sian Thomas Marshall (Thomas, 1989, Biology) and Katie Thomas (Baxendale, 1990, Theology) beside the Donor Wall



1961 Golden Reunion

20-21 September 2011

The 50th anniversary of the arrival of the year of 1961 was celebrated with a weekend of reminiscing and events.

"The 1961 reunion was such a success. I certainly thoroughly enjoyed myself, as did all my friends from that time. It was particularly good to meet and talk to people who I hardly knew at College and now can't wait to meet again at a future reunion."

Jackie Wilson (Herbert, 1961, Mathematics)

Left: Francisca Garvie (1961, Modern Languages), Maya Slater (Bradshaw, 1961, Modern Languages) and Mary Clemmey (1961, Natural Sciences)

“

I had an AMAZING time. Thank you so very much.

CAROLINE CRACRAFT
(Pinder, 1961, History)

Celebration for Lesley Brown

24 September 2011

Many of Lesley's former pupils returned to College to celebrate her retirement after 42 years at Somerville.

"Lesley Brown's retirement lunch was an example of Somerville at its best. It was a wonderfully warm occasion, bringing together Somervillians of all ages to swap stories, share experiences and celebrate Lesley's stalwart contribution to the College over the decades". Ian Mulheirn (1999, PPE)

Right: Ian Mulheirn and Lesley Brown



Private screening of *The Iron Lady*

15 January 2012

200 Somerville students, staff and alumni gathered together to enjoy a private screening of *The Iron Lady*, followed by a lively panel discussion of the film over tea in Hall.

Far left: Ginny Stacey (1962, Physics) and Judith Marquand (1954, PPE) wait in line for the private screening

Left: The queue of Somervillians eager to take their seats



Media Network Evening

18 January 2012

We were delighted that Tessa Ross (1980, Oriental Studies), one of the most distinguished figures in the film world, agreed to speak about her career, Film4 and the British Film Industry.

Left: Speaker Tessa Ross (right) with Rebecca Jones (1985, History)



Literary Lunch

21 January 2012

Our speaker and guest of honour was the BBC's distinguished Security Correspondent, Gordon Corera, in whose latest book, *The Art of Betrayal: Life and Death in the British Secret Service*, Baroness Daphne Park plays a memorable part. He spoke about the career of Daphne Park, and its significance in the context of women's role in intelligence and the place of Africa in the work of the SIS.

Left: Gordon Corera

The House of Commons

2 February 2012

Hosted by Sam Gyimah (1995, PPE), MP for Surrey East, the first Somerville City Group event of 2012 was a fabulous black tie dinner in a private dining room at the House of Commons.

Far right: Nicola Ralston (1974, History), Nicola Blackwood (2005, Music), Alice Prochaska, Sam Gyimah (1995, PPE) and Therese Coffey (1989, Chemistry).

Right: Guests enjoying dinner at the House of Commons



Winter Meeting

25 February 2012

Our guest speaker at the 2012 Winter Meeting was Princess Zarith Idris of Johor, Malaysia (1979, Oriental Studies), who spoke on the subject of what Muslims in Malaysia have in common with other communities around the world.

Far left: Guests at the Winter Meeting

Left: Princess Zarith Idris



Modern Languages Day

11 March 2012

This wonderful celebration of the Somerville School of Modern Languages, past, present and future, included speeches from our Modern Languages Fellows along with Eleanor Fuller (Breedon, 1972), who is now the UK's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe. We were also delighted to present Dr Christina Roaf with a Foundation Fellowship in recognition of her many years of generous support of the College.

Above left: Guests at Modern Languages Day **Above right:** Eleanor Fuller



New York Reunion

14 April 2012

Cindy Gallop (1977, English) generously offered to host this year's reunion in her iconic New York 'Black Apartment', as part of the Oxford University Reunion in North America.

Left: Cindy Gallop with Alice Prochaska at the New York reunion reception



I really enjoyed the party at Cindy's, and it was inspirational to hear the other Somervillians' stories and to feel their connection to the College.

NANCY BROWN
(Freeman, 1980, PPE)

A night in the company of the city's brightest

Praise of Somerville is truly great when it comes from someone outside of the College community. We were therefore delighted to read the description by the Oxford Mail's 'Man About Town' and Features Editor, Jeremy Smith, of his experience as a guest at Somerville's Burns Night celebrations – so delighted, in fact, that we asked if we could reprint it.



BY JEREMY SMITH
Image © Katie Paul

Damn, if only my gene pool had been different. Damn, if only the synapses in my brain fired off a little quicker. And double-damn that I got hooked on movies at an early age instead of University Challenge.

Indeed, how different my life might have been had I just stopped trying to be cool (a feat that even today eludes me) and concentrated on my studies instead. For the past 50 years I have had to make do with a so-so brain but a hugely impressive ability to always do and say the wrong thing, at the wrong time, to the wrong people, in the wrong place. A gift maybe, but after dining out at Somerville College to celebrate Burns Night, I can declare I'd trade in all of my more noble triumphs for just one crack at making it as an Oxford University graduate.

It was my first ever invite to a formal college dinner, and maybe I am a tad uncomplicated because to me it represented an event of almost night-before-Christmas significance. No A-levels, no college, no Open University night schooling, yet here I was about to attend a dinner with the type of brains that normally go on to become captains of industry, prime ministers and heads of youth programming at Channel 4 and MTV.

Yes, it's fair to say, my head was swimming. But do you know what? I wasn't disappointed. Not a bit of it. It was everything I had wistfully thought it would be – lots of formality, lots of tradition, a smattering of Latin, a lone bagpipe, and the kind of dinner guests

who can be best summed up as young and fun. There were trainee doctors, teachers, physicists, journalists and yes, it could have felt like heady company but it didn't.

I'd feared there might be Hooray-Henrys, some La-deedahs, and a gaggle of 'dahlings' to out-manoeuvre round the condiments, but I was the bigoted one. Margaret Thatcher may well have been a former alumna, but everyone I met seemed like a younger brother or sister to Professor Brian Cox – TV's new pin-up boy for science.

I got drunk – okay, amusingly intoxicated – laughed almost non-stop and left three hours later feeling like if I achieved nothing else with my life, I could at least say I'd once dined, as a guest, at Oxford University.

And it is extraordinary, if you really think about it, that we live in a city populated by some of the biggest, brightest brains in the world. Thankfully, it's only when I'm shopping in Sainsbury's or Tesco and I watch these brains attempting to prepare a meal for their house that I realise just how human and normal they are.

Like us in fact, just having eaten more fish...

This article was originally published as 'A night in the company of city's brightest' in the Oxford Mail on 30th January 2012.

Alumni Events 2012



All events are in College unless otherwise stated. For further details please contact Liz Cooke at elizabeth.cooke@some.ox.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0) 1865 270632.

Somerville and its alumni volunteers run a wide range of events and activities to help Somervillians keep in touch with each other and with the College. We hope to welcome you to one of our events this year. If you have feedback on our existing events or would like to suggest a new event, please contact: development.office@some.ox.ac.uk

June

- 9 Commemoration Service
- 22-23 1962 Reunion
- 23 Garden Party
- 23-24 Gaudy for 1956-66

July

- 19 Somerville London Group tour and dinner at Strawberry Hill House

September

- 14-16 Oxford University Alumni Weekend
- 15 Alumni Weekend Formal Dinner in Hall
- 27 Somerville London Group: Sir Mark Stanhope

October

- 6 Campaign Concert with Emma Kirkby (1966, Classics) at the Ashmolean Museum

For the latest information on events please visit: www.some.ox.ac.uk/AlumniEvents