



# Somerville Grapevine

The newsletter for Somerville staff

**1<sup>st</sup> week Michaelmas**  
**16<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Things were back to normal this week (well, ish)! I hope that returning to the rhythm of term and teaching has been not only straightforward, but welcome too. It feels like it has been even longer than 7 months since the college was alive again (and even longer since I had a delicious Somerville lunch). And while it would be remiss of me to say that everything this week has been perfect, I know that the number of students not taking the guidelines seriously is rapidly dwindling – a process helped along when necessary by the hard working members of the Deans Office!

This Wednesday marked the centenary of women being granted the ability to become full members of the University able to matriculate and receive degrees. We marked the momentous occasion with a fantastic broadcast featuring our Special Collections Assistant, the social historian and author Jane Robinson (who just yesterday published book #13, her biography of Josephine Butler), and hosted by JCR Women's Officer Maya Szaniecki. I'll add a little more on that below. There is an accompanying exhibition made by our Archivist Kate in Green Hall for staff to enjoy as well.

Speaking of matriculation, tomorrow a new generation of Somervillians of all genders will become official members of the University. In a week where all kinds of increasingly less enjoyable things have flashed across the headlines, I find it quite reassuring how we keep finding ways to respect our history and our traditions.

If you have any news, photo or notices to send to me, please pass them my way. Otherwise, I hope you have a great week! – Jack, Comms Officer

## Celebrating 100 years of Degrees for Women



This Wednesday marked 100 years since women were able to graduate as full members of the University, something which many of Somerville's members and supporters had fought hard to achieve.

As part of the celebrations around the University, we broadcast a live conversation between our Special Collections Assistant, the social historian and author Jane Robinson (who just yesterday published book #13, her biography of Josephine Butler), and the JCR's Women's Officer Mya Szaniecki. They

explored how the fight for degrees for women was won, what the first degree ceremonies for women were like, and what we can learn today from the giants in whose footsteps we



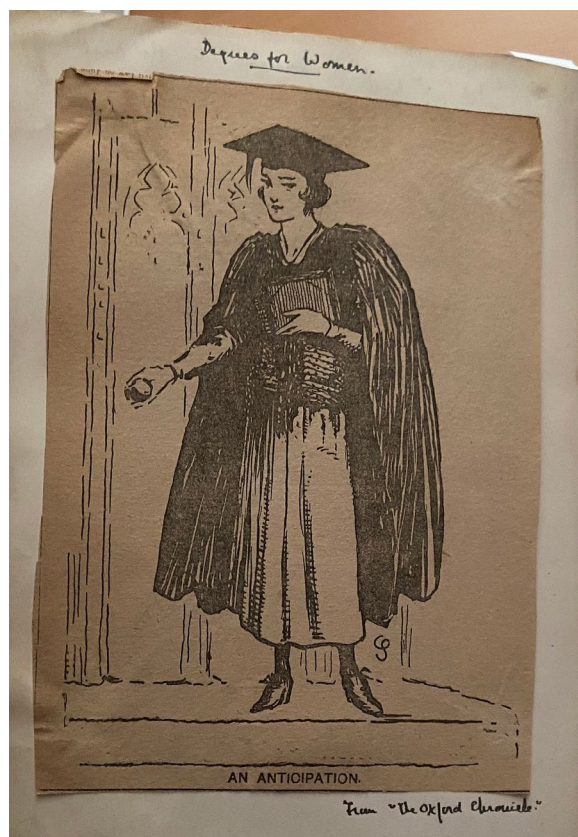
tread. You can watch over at <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/100yearsoxfordwomen>.

Our Archivist Kate has been working hard with other archivists around the university to commemorate the centenary. Thanks to funding from IT Innovation and support from across the University (including the History Faculty, the Bodleian and the ODNB), we now have a fantastic website for researchers interested in the history of women's education, with lots more content scheduled to go live over the next few months. You can check it out over at <https://www.firstwomenatoxford.ox.ac.uk/>.

She has also made a new exhibition in Green Hall. If you're working in college, go and have a look!



*Maya and Jane in action earlier this week*



## Photo corner

This week's photo from Director of Chapel Music, Will, is a bit of throwback to the autumn quadrangle last year. Things are a bit less spacious right now of course (although there's still plenty to enjoy in the gardens, not to mention the delicious lunches prepared in said temporary kitchen...).



## Notices

- **This weekend's Choral Contemplation broadcast includes a talk from Emeritus Professor Robin Dunbar**, the evolutionary psychologist who formulated the famous 'Dunbar Number' (the maximum number of people a social animal can maintain relationships with). Watch via the choir's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuy-5scbsWE9Mi-WegYLt5VA>, at 5:30 PM on Sunday
- Next **Monday 19th October at 7 PM**, join the **City Alumni Group** for our latest **Somerville at Home** event exploring 'Working from Home: The New Panacea?'. Our host Jane van Zyl, CEO of the charity Working Families, is joined by an industry panel to share insights and answer your questions. Register and watch: <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/WorkingFromHome/>

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