



PHEON

The magazine for alumni and friends of Sidney Sussex College

EDITION 37 SPRING 2017

40 YEARS OF WOMEN AT SIDNEY

Professor Sue Gibson OBE

***Forbes* success for Sidney grads**

**Sidney Engineer cooks up
a storm on the GBBO**



From the Master



The beginning of Michaelmas term 2016 marked 40 years since the first admission of women as undergraduates and we are celebrating this important moment in College history throughout the year. Of course women now naturally play an integral part in the life of the College, but at the time this was a profound change. Sidney was preceded only by Churchill, Clare and King's of the previously all-male colleges in admitting women, and the first to elect a female Master: Professor Dame Sandra Dawson. It was a great pleasure to welcome Professor Sue Gibson OBE (1978), as our keynote speaker at the launch event at the start of the year. You can read an abridged version of her fascinating and engaging history of Sidney from the perspective of one of the first women to

study here on pp. 7–9, along with Professor Rebecca Kilner's review of the day's events including the insights and experiences of our distinguished panels of speakers and the wide-ranging contributions of our female alumnae to our community and beyond (p. 5). Other articles provide insights into the evolution of the Sidney community in the last four decades including former Senior Tutor Donald Green's memories of the arrival of the first women at the College (p. 6), Bethany Randall's (2012) experience of playing in the first women's Varsity match to be held at Twickenham and the Boat Club's celebration of four decades of co-ed rowing on p. 15.

Several Sidney members have made high profile appearances on TV and Radio in the last year. On p. 12 you can read an interview with former Sidney Engineer Andrew Smyth (2009), whose progress to the final of BBC1's *The Great British Bake Off* was keenly followed by many of us here in College, while Carol Vorderman (1978) braved the jungle in *I'm a Celebrity* and Professor Dame Ann Dowling was cast away by Kirsty Young on Radio 4 (p. 11).

The dynamism and engagement of the College's alumni community is demonstrated by the wide range of events attended by Sidney members and by the variety of their publications and interests. Of course we continue to be grateful for their extraordinary generosity, without which Sidney would not be able to offer the standard of education and student experience we believe in.

Richard Penty
Master

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Sidney News

Sidney student stars in Cambridge Greek Play

Since 1882 the talk of the town has been the triennial Cambridge Greek Play, which is generously supported by John Osborn (Honorary Fellow, 1962). A cast and crew of students, from Classics and other subjects, combine with professional direction and design to take on the mammoth task of staging two Ancient Greek plays – in the original language. I had the honour of being cast in the 2016 productions of Sophocles' *Antigone* and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. I study Classics, which did put me at a slight advantage (I say slight because there are no spoken exams on my course). I had the chance to work with students from my department and the wider university, and with Helen Eastman, a professional director, and award-winning composer Alex Silverman (1998) who also studied Classics here at Sidney.

Performing in the Cambridge Greek Play was definitely the experience of a lifetime, especially since I was cast in the title role in *Antigone*, and had one of the best one-liners in the comedy *Lysistrata*. To feature in a double bill that was all about girl power – there was some serious editing to the *Lysistrata* script – was something quite special – quite mad, but quite special. It was an uphill struggle at times, fighting with the inability to retain any of the ancient Greek words, let alone their meaning. However, we all came together to put on a great show that had at its heart something I remain passionate about: the centrality of both classics and theatre to modern day society.

Evie Butcher (Classics, 2014)



The May Ball 2016

The 2016 May Ball in College had the theme 'Beyond'. Guests were transported to a distant galaxy where the scientific met psychedelic.

There were four stages, showcasing a whole host of musical acts. The headliner of the main stage, NAO, was an up and coming artist from London with a unique RnB and Electronic sound. Musical genres spanned Samba, Dubs, Jazz and Techno to name a few.

Food and drink were spectacular, and guests enjoyed a wide range of cocktails, and other drinks. Food ranged from personalised cupcakes, to sushi, and breakfast panini.

Attractions included virtual reality headsets, 'Zorbs' in a large pool of water, an arcade room, and a 'stunt bag' that guests could jump from a 7m high structure onto.

The May Ball was a great success enjoyed by all in attendance, as well as the organising Committee!

Sam Ellwood (Engineering, 2014 and May Ball President)

The Sidney Greats

This year we themed our Sidney Greats seminar series to join the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the admission of women undergraduates to the College. The lectures introduce important topics, works and thinkers right across the arts and sciences, and with the support of the College's Annual Fund the conversation continues over dinner. Sidney's first woman Fellow Professor Dame Ann Dowling opened the series, reviewing her pioneering silent flight initiative.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Clare Chambers from Jesus College to

introduce feminist political philosophy and former Fellow Professor Janet Todd to introduce Jane Austen's *Emma*. In Lent, Dame Fiona Reynolds, the Master of Emmanuel, profiled the extraordinary Victorian philanthropist, reformer and co-founder of the National Trust Octavia Hill. The series closed with Sidney's own Professor Rebecca Kilner on behaviour and evolution. You can listen to recordings of many of the Greats lectures delivered since the series launched in 2012 by visiting www.sid.cam.ac.uk/life/greats.

Dr David Beekingham, Fellow in Geography



Sidney grads make the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list

Two of Sidney's alumni have been recognised as names to watch out for after making the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Europe list. The prestigious list highlights Europe's brightest young entrepreneurs, innovators and game changers from thousands of nominations in ten sectors.

Toby Norman (2010), who was listed in the 2016 Social Entrepreneurs category, is the CEO of Simprints, a nonprofit tech startup backed by USAID, DFID, and the Gates Foundation to develop low-cost technology to improve patient identification and healthcare in developing countries. With the touch of a finger, Simprints uses mobile biometric scanners and a connection to a Bluetooth compatible phone to link people in developing countries with their medical records.

In January, Joe Gladstone (2012) was named in the list of the 30 individuals who *Forbes* believe are the stars shaping the world of finance. Now Assistant Professor of Consumer Behaviour at UCL's School of Management, Joe applies insights from behavioural economics and consumer psychology to help people make better choices with their money and regularly features in major media outlets.



Toby Norman



Joe Gladstone

On his inclusion, Joe said: "I am deeply honoured to be chosen as one of the top 30 people under 30 in Finance by *Forbes*. The list includes incredible talents and huge potential for the future. As the only academic on this list, I hope my research will have real-world impact by improving people's financial decisions and improving the wellbeing of society."

Awards and achievements

The eleventh Ewald Prize has been awarded to **Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS FMedSci** (Fellow in Natural Sciences) for his work as one of the worldwide leaders in crystallographic innovation. The prize recognises his determination of an exceptionally broad array of medically critical human protein structures and his championing of methods enabling drug design and discovery which began with his work on the structure of insulin with Dorothy Hodgkin.

Major William Eden (1994), received an MBE for services to Military Division (The Rifles) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Record producer **Dominic Fyfe** (1986) won Best Opera Recording for Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, conducted by Seiji Ozawa, at the 2016 Grammy® Awards in Los Angeles. This comes after winning the 2013 Latin Grammy® for Best Classical Recording for Nelson Freire's album *Brasileiro*.

Of the four Cambridge graduates in Theresa May's cabinet appointed in July 2016, two are Sidney members.

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP (1981) is the Secretary of State for Transport, while **the Rt Hon David Lidington MP** (1975) is the Leader of the House of Commons.

Professor Rosamond McKitterick (Fellow in History) has been elected as an Associé Correspondant Etranger of the Société Nationale des Antiquaires de France. The Société was founded in the aftermath of the Revolution in 1804 and has an exclusive membership of only 400, so it is a considerable honour.

Congratulations to **Toby Nangle** (1994), Global Co-Head of Asset Allocation at Columbia Threadneedle Investments, the winner of the 2016 Rybczynski Prize for the best piece of writing on business economics in the year. This prestigious prize, presented each year by the Society of Business Economists, was awarded to Toby

for his essay 'Labour power sets in neutral real rate'.

Professor Andrew Neely (Fellow in Manufacturing Engineering) has been appointed as the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise and Business Relations.

Allen Packwood (1989), Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours with an OBE for services to Archives and Scholarship.

In this year's New Year's Honours List, Chief Executive of Academies Southwest and executive principal of Kingsbridge Community College in Devon **Roger Pope** (1976) has been made a CBE for services to Education.

Joe White (1995), general partner at the startup accelerator Entrepreneur First, received an MBE for services to Technology Businesses in the 2017 New Year's honours list.

40 Years On

Professor Rebecca Kilner, Chair of the 40 years of women at Sidney working group, reports on the launch event in October

I recently re-discovered an episode of *Yes Minister*, the classic BBC comedy from the 1980s, supposedly about the inner workings of Government. The plot (of this particular episode) centres on a decision by Jim Hacker, the Minister for Administrative Affairs, to make 'Equal Opportunities for Women' his political legacy. He swings into action by targeting the lack of women in the Civil Service. Appalled, his Permanent Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby calls a meeting of his fellow Permanent Secretaries. Gravely, sadly, these white, public-school educated men of a certain age agree that they are all for equal opportunities in principle – just not in their particular Departments. "We simply want to see the right person promoted," says Sir Humphrey, "irrespective of his sex."

Despite the age of the programme, and its different setting, I suspect many senior academics might find this episode painfully familiar. Many of us spend hours pursuing schemes to ensure that women are well-represented on the permanent academic staff of our different Colleges and Departments. And yet change comes slowly, especially in the STEMM subjects and among the Professors. Sometimes it seems as though radical action is required to engineer more rapid progress.

This year, Sidney is celebrating radical action of exactly this sort: the 40th anniversary of the first admission of women undergraduates to the College. A year of festivities to mark this important achievement in the College's history began with a special event on 22 October – organised with tremendous verve and flair by the team in the Development and Membership Office. What a wonderful, inspirational day it was. Attended by current students, Fellows and alumni, including the men and women that matriculated in 1976, the day was filled with reminiscences, laughter, warmth and the strong sense of community for which Sidney is well-known.

In the afternoon were two panel discussions held in parallel, one focusing on Science subjects (chaired by me), the other focusing on the Arts and Humanities (and chaired by Professor Dame Sandra Dawson). Our panels included Baroness Young (first female Honorary Fellow), Dr Denise Reed (1977; Chief Scientist, Water Institute of

the Gulf, Baton Rouge, USA and first female president of the MCR), Professor Alison Blunt (1987; Professor of Geography, Head of School, Queen Mary University of London), Professor Joanne Martin (1978; Professor of Pathology and Director of Academic Health Sciences, Queen Mary University of London and Barts Health NHS Trust), Fiona Parkin QC (1989), Dr Neha Pathak (2006; Cosmopolitan Ultimate Game-Changer winner 2014), Diane Samuels (1979; playwright and author), Dr Sheila Lawlor (Former Research Fellow; Director of think tank Politeia), Sue Toft (1976; Head of Learning and Development, British Council), Rebecca Evans AM (1997; Minister for Social Services and Public Health, Welsh Government), Rachel Horne (1998; Business Presenter and Producer, BBC News) and Carol Vorderman MBE (1978). Each of these women gave extraordinary accounts of their experiences and lessons learned, engaging in lively good-humoured debate with each other as well as with members of the audience. An alumna told me afterwards that her face ached because she had smiled so much throughout the 90 minutes of discussion. Common themes that emerged from both panel discussions were the importance of role models to our pioneering women, particularly their mothers, a clear sense of what they wanted to achieve and their sheer determination to power on through any obstacle in their path.

After a short tea-break, we reconvened to hear a keynote speech from Professor Sue Gibson OBE (1978; inaugural recipient of the Royal Society's Rosalind Franklin Award), in which she cleverly and wittily retold Sidney's history from a female perspective, weaving it together with landmarks in her own distinguished academic career. Then, before dinner, we were treated to the world premiere of *Martha and Mary*, composed to mark the 40th anniversary by Sidney's Composer in Residence 2015-2016, Joanna Marsh (1989, former Organ Scholar), and beautifully sung by the College choir in the Chapel. The day concluded with a formal dinner at which we toasted the Class of 1976, and the Fellows who took the radical decision to admit women. I'm sure the positive effects of that decision were evident to everyone who came to this very special event: from the remarkable and diverse individual achievements of the many women who have attended Sidney in the last 40 years, to the enrichment of the College community as a whole.

Professor Rebecca Kilner, Fellow in Natural Sciences (Zoology)



The Early Years

It was in the 'sixties that lively discussions began in the men's colleges about the possible admission of women. There was great anxiety about it in governing bodies at that time. Fellows did not know how the colleges that they knew so well would be altered by the change. Many feared the worst! Anyway, perhaps it would be best to let other colleges try it first so that the remainder could see how they got on. Eventually Clare, King's and Churchill led the way by admitting women as undergraduates in 1972. Nothing untoward occurred, and, as Sidney was already leaning that way, we decided in 1974 that we should perhaps try a few starting in 1976. (Could we have thought that, if the first few turned out to be unsatisfactory, we need not have any more?) Unfortunately the issue was contentious, and two fellows felt the need to resign.

Once the decision had been taken, women were admitted to the fellowship forthwith, the first three being Lynne Brydon in 1975, Ann Dowling in 1977, and Helen Houghton in 1978. Also in 1975 four women were admitted as graduate students, namely Patricia Brown, Lynn Henderson, Lesley Jackman and Elske van Praag.

In 1999 Sandra Dawson was elected as Master. Sidney was thus the first of the formerly men's colleges to have a woman as master, and so it might be said that we embraced the change to being a mixed college with enthusiasm.

In that 'trial' year of 1976, we admitted 25 women as undergraduates out of a total of 103. They were accommodated together for that year rather than being spread around on staircases. It was generally felt in college that their presence was beneficial! They were lively and enthusiastic and had many musical, artistic and sporting talents. They improved the choir; in May Week of 1979 there was a hugely successful production of *Much Ado about Nothing* directed by Miranda Bethel, one of that first cohort of 25; they made exciting bumps on the river.



These are just examples of their contributions: clearly the change was a success. In 1977 40 women were admitted, and so their numbers progressed over the years.

The first formerly Sidney undergraduate woman to become an Honorary Fellow was Alison Brown who came up in 1976 and was elected in 2005. The first to be elected had been Baroness Young of Old Scone (2003) and this year two more have been elected, Ann Mather (1978) and Ingrid Simler (1982).

In due course all the formerly men's colleges became mixed. There could be no resisting the change because the competition for entry to the mixed colleges was much stronger than for the single sex men's colleges, a fact that was vividly revealed in their tripos results.

It was good to meet so many old friends from those early days at the celebratory event on 22 October.

Donald Green, Fellow in Engineering and former Senior Tutor

Funny what you forget

It was only when I dug out a couple of old copies of *El Sid* (edited by the late Alan Tobe (1975), a lovely man known affectionately as "Tobe Or Not Tobe") that I remembered the LLB student who said she'd been to more concerts, films and plays in seven weeks in Cambridge than four years in Ghent. Even allowing for the comparison with Belgium, it's a better description of the vibrancy of the newly co-ed Sidney than the po-faced report in the 1977 annual: "Life in College has continued on its accustomed course in its accustomed ways and they [the women] have made their full contribution to that life."

El Sid was the college newspaper, tapped out on a manual typewriter, copied onto A4 and stapled. There's a story by one of its talented hackettes in 1979 which reminds me that the running of the JCR bar was taken over by a committee of students, with Judy co-opted as sandwich maker. The sandwiches, it reported, were generally thought to be better

than the beer, of which the men had custody. Another issue closed with an apology that the Ladies' rowing report got lost behind the stereo.

In 1976, S staircase in Garden Court was still all male. We shared a row of basins and shaving mirrors in a macho-cold washroom at the end of the landing. On the ground floor, another Sidney woman, "Auntie" Jean Reddy, presided over the library. When she first told me that she used to sing at the Palace, I naively assumed it was a Cambridge dance hall.

For Michaelmas Term 1977, I moved out to digs in Abbey Road. S became a women's staircase. Two first-year undergraduates took over my old room, complete with embossed grey wallpaper and two-bar electric fire. I had no idea then how much I'd come to value their friendship. That's something I won't forget.

David Steward (Law, 1976)

Forty Years of Firsts: a history of widening participation at Sidney

Let's start at the beginning with the birth in 1531 of arguably the most important woman of all, Frances Sidney. In time Frances Sidney became a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth I, and at court, she was a respected adviser as well as being a patron of literature and music. In her will Frances left the sum of £5000, together with some plate to found a new college in Cambridge that she requested be called 'the Lady Frances Sidney Sussex College'.

Moving on rapidly to the nineteenth century, change was in the air in Cambridge: a college for women had been established in Girton by Emily Davies in 1869; and a residence for women was established in 1872 by Anne Clough and Henry Sidgwick (Newnham). The University responded quite quickly to these developments and in 1881 it was decreed that women would be allowed to study, sit examinations and have their results recorded; but it would be 66 years before they were "admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts", finally giving them equality with their male counterparts in 1947.

The late 1960s and 1970s were a period of highly significant change: in 1968 women at the Ford car factory in Dagenham went on strike over their pay paving the way for the 1970 Equal Pay Act; in 1975, the Sex Discrimination Act made it illegal to discriminate against women in the areas of work, education and training; and in 1976 the Race Relations Act made it illegal to discriminate on grounds of race in employment and education.

Back in Cambridge, all-male colleges began to open their doors to women, starting with Churchill, Clare and King's in 1972, and three years later, according to the now famous line in the Annual: "College history was made on Wednesday 18 June 1975 at about 2.20pm when Miss Lynne Brydon was admitted to a Research Fellowship and so became the first woman ever to be a member of the College".

And where were you as history was being made? To help jog your memory, whilst Lynne was starting her Research Fellowship, the UK was holding a referendum on continued membership of the Common Market (67% of voters wanted to remain); and across the pond in California, Universal Pictures were preparing to release a film directed by Steven Spielberg about a man-eating great white shark...

Later that year the first four female graduate students were admitted to Sidney. Autumn turned into winter, spring 1976 saw Jobs and Wozniak launch Apple Computer Inc, the summer brought a heat wave, and in the autumn of 1976, after improvements to bathroom arrangements, the first cohort of 25 female undergraduates matriculated at Sidney. Barriers were also being broken elsewhere, as for the first time women entered the Military Academy at West Point, as well as the US Naval and Air Force Academies.



I arrived at Sidney in October 1978, on the one hand excited beyond my wildest dreams and on the other hand terrified – not for the last time was I to experience what is now known as 'imposter syndrome'. I had been allocated a shared 'set' on Y staircase overlooking the chapel, and as I wasn't quite eighteen I'd been paired with another fresher who wasn't quite eighteen. Her name was Carol Vorderman. Carol describes the set nicely in her autobiography. She says, and I quote: "We became good friends, which was a relief, seeing as our quarters were pretty cramped. We slept in a tiny room in two metal beds and shared a small sitting room where we entertained and studied". Little was I to know that many years later I would find myself back in Y staircase with a TV cameraman to film a tribute to Carol for *This Is Your Life*.

Back to the start of the academic year and after endless sherry parties, and an early introduction to what expensively educated boys regarded as fun – ie an adventure that began at midnight with the removal of a park bench from Parker's Piece and ended some hours later with said park bench being hoisted on to the top of the Back Gate of King's College – life started to settle down.

Studying natural sciences meant my academic diet consisted of biology, chemistry, physics and maths. Richard Bowen was my supervisor for organic chemistry. Richard was



passionate about supporting his students as they developed the most rudimentary skill required of an organic chemist – ‘pushing curly arrows’. Unfortunately I’d never seen a curly arrow in my life before arriving in Cambridge, resulting in Richard’s generous deployment of red ink on my weekly offerings. But we were both determined, and by the end of Michaelmas term my curly arrow work was passable. I think there was no-one more surprised and delighted than Richard when I decided to continue with chemistry into the second year of the Natural Sciences Tripos.

There were, of course, endless opportunities for activities outside academic work. The boat club was particularly zealous in its recruitment of freshers, and I soon started to enjoy early morning ‘outings’ followed by a snooze in my nine o’clock physics lectures. One of our most memorable moments was when we took delivery of the first boat to be purchased specifically for Sidney women – up until then, the women’s crews had had to make do with heavy clinkers that were ‘hand-me-downs’ from the men. We were all thrilled to step rather gingerly into the delicate racing shell, untie the pretty bows on the shiny new shoes in the boat, and set off to see whether or not we could balance the boat – many had predicted that we wouldn’t be able to, but surprise, surprise, we could. And then there were the Boat Club dinners: on one memorable occasion, the men demonstrated what a good time could be had by removing a set of rugby posts from a rival’s distant pitch, transporting them through Cambridge in the dead of night and erecting them in the middle of Hall Court, thus providing a spectacle for all to enjoy en route to Sunday morning breakfast.

We all, of course, had busy social lives. We were falling in and out of love, we were coping with a seemingly endless flow of ornate invitations on thick card to sophisticated cocktail parties, we were worrying about who to accompany to the May Ball, and to top it all we had to cope with a Graduation dinner with so many courses that a ‘promenade’ was required mid-way through to enable everyone to continue eating.

My love of organic chemistry first instilled in me by Ian Fleming and Stuart Warren, and Richard Bowen here in Sidney, just kept on growing. I’ve found that there’s nothing quite as exciting as exploring the physical world, especially at the molecular level. And chemistry is becoming even more

exciting now that we have more effective techniques for examining, for example, the brain at a molecular level. For me, it has been a privilege to work with the next generation of researchers, developing their confidence to question convention and explore the unknown, perhaps the ultimate ‘transferable skills’. I still derive deep satisfaction from lecturing on functional group chemistry and helping first year undergraduates take their first faltering steps on the road to being experts at ‘pushing curly arrows.’

Many Sidney women I know have notched up significant firsts in the wider world, making a real difference. The Sidney community has supported many achievements over the last forty years. For example, Ann Dowling became a research fellow at Sidney in 1977. Since then Ann has continued to break through innumerable barriers and glass ceilings during her career, culminating – I would argue – in her appointment in 2014 as the first female President of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Highly significant in its own right, her appointment also throws down the gauntlet to the Royal Society which elected its sixty-second male President in 2015. Soon afterwards, Ann was appointed to the Order of Merit, the highest honour in the Commonwealth.

Sandra Dawson was of course the first female Master of Sidney, serving for ten years from 1999 until 2009. Sandra followed in the footsteps of 24 male incumbents starting with James Montagu. Beyond Sidney, Sandra has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, a non-executive Director of many influential organisations including Oxfam and Barclays,



and was inducted in 2006 into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame, a group of 80 women ranging from Prime Ministers and Presidents to Nobel Laureates whose achievements are simply breath-taking.

Sandra gave a talk a little while ago to the Cambridge branch of the Association for Women in Science and Engineering (AWISE). A member of the audience subsequently summarised Sandra's lecture in nine points, one of which I think is particularly relevant to this year's celebrations: "Sandra is passionate about embracing diversity in all its guises, not just gender, as diversity brings different views around the table and gets people to ask questions that really matter".

To bring us right up to date, I thought it would be interesting to compare and contrast the lives of students in 1976 and 2016. My research involved visiting quite a few student websites, but the most helpful proved to be the SSSU website, where I found personal testimonies from 14 students reading subjects from Computer Science to VetMed. So let's start with the differences: actually I struggled to find any – the best I could manage being the existence and popularity of Sidney's Silent Disco. And the similarities – well this was easy! All of the students spoke of the supportive nature of the College community using words like "friendly, fun, welcoming, nurturing, caring"; many spoke of their appreciation of the Fellows – "Sidney is famous for its Engineering Fellows" / "the Law supervisors at Sidney take a genuine interest in you" / "our Director of Studies is cool" (Philosophy) / "our Director of Studies is really friendly and helpful" (Psychological and Behavioural sciences). All of the



students mentioned participation in clubs and societies from the ever-popular Boat Club to subject societies such as the geographers' Chorley Society; and there was no end of praise for the joys of punting, Pimm's, May Balls, and the quality of College dinners. And, yes, the students were unanimous about Sidney's special location, summarised by a third year History of Art student with a haiku:

*"Little walled college,
You are opposite Sainsburys;
So very central."*

Looking to the future, and broadening just for a moment to the Higher Education sector in general there remain many challenges on the road to a fairer student experience. This year, Universities UK published the final report of its Social Mobility Advisory Group. This reminded us all that fewer students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds go to university, and when they do they tend not to do as well as their more privileged peers; the report also reminded us that a student's race, gender and disability may also affect their experience. The mental health epidemic amongst young people needs to be acknowledged and addressed by universities, focussing not only on the rapid identification of symptoms and access to professional support, but also on the underlying causes. Here I believe Oxbridge's longstanding commitment to the importance of clubs and societies in a student's wider development, and the Colleges' palpable sense of community have a lot to offer other UK universities and indeed schools.

To conclude, Sidney was at the forefront of the admission of women to previously all-male Oxbridge Colleges and it led the way in the appointment of female Masters to previously all-male Colleges. Today the College's clear commitment to make everyone welcome regardless of background, and the wide-reaching work of SSSU to support minority students, reveal that Sidney continues to lead the way, demonstrating that members of a fair and diverse community 'ask the questions that really matter' so that they can then go on to solve the problems that really matter.

So here's to the next forty years! May they bring still more success to this wonderful College and all of its members.

Professor Sue Gibson OBE, (Natural Sciences, 1978)





The first Women's Varsity Match at Twickenham

On 10 December 2015, I was lucky enough to be selected to represent Cambridge in the 29th Women's Varsity Match, which was to be played at Twickenham Stadium for the first time. Having trained intensely all season, we went in the game feeling fresh and ready, but considering its historic significance, also nervous, particularly at the prospect of taking to the stage at the home of rugby, in what had already proven to be a fantastic year for the celebration and further development of women's sport.

By the time we arrived at the stadium, we had managed to convert those nerves into energy and concentration, and we soon put our training field moves into practice on the pitch, finishing the first half 12–0 in the lead. We came out even stronger in the second, and by 60 minutes, the score was 26–0. At this point, I came on at scrum half, with instructions to keep the pace of the game. The hours spent in the gym started to pay off as Oxford began to tire, and the pace of our attack sped up: we scored a further four tries in the last 20 minutes, with Oxford never really looking likely to threaten. The final score was 52–0, a new record for the highest winning score.

Bethany Randall (Modern and Medieval Languages, 2012)

You're a member: the Sidney Sussex Society

I was asked to talk about my experience as one of the College's first 25 female undergraduates at the Sidney Sussex Society Christmas reception in 2006, which celebrated 30 years of women at Sidney. This was the first such reception I had attended and an excellent introduction to the pleasures of being a member of the Society. Shortly afterwards I was asked to join the committee, with a specific brief to see Richard Humphreys' splendid history of the College through to publication. (I am the co-founder of a book production company, Cambridge Editorial, which also helps to produce the College Annual.) Dick's book remains the best project I have worked on in the last 15 years and is still available from the Porters' Lodge and Development and Membership Office. I am currently treasurer of the Society, a far from onerous responsibility.

The aim of the Society is to connect fellow Sidney members past and present. As an alumnus or alumna of the College, your membership is automatic. The Society has a full social calendar with events held throughout the year. Each Christmas we hold a London reception, which attracts a broad cross-section of



Sidney alumni. The Society also arranges trips and excursions – recent examples include visits to the Scott Polar Research Institute, Boughton House in Northamptonshire, St John's Oxford (our sister college), Bletchley Park and Huntingdon races. All events are announced by email, on the College website and in *Pheon*, and are open to all members and their family and friends.

The Society also presents the annual Mike Phillips Memorial Award, in honour of the Society's first chairman, to reward outstanding undergraduates in sports or the performing arts. This year's award went to Henry Makings (Engineering, 2014) to recognise his success in pursuing blues in football and cricket.

Sally Simmons (English, 1976)



Sidney Fellow cast away by Kirsty Young

In July, Professor Dame Ann Dowling OM DBE FRS FREng (Fellow in Engineering) featured on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. An international expert on aircraft noise reduction, Dame Ann spoke about her pioneering career as the first female Professor of Engineering at Cambridge, the first female head of the Department, and the first woman to be elected President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and her passionate work to encourage more young women to pursue a career in the field. Dame Ann's eclectic selection ranged from Verdi's 'Lacrymosa' to 'Good Vibrations' by The Beach Boys. Second on her list was Thomas Weelkes' 'Give ear, O Lord' performed by Sidney Choir and conducted by Dr David Skinner. On her time as a Sidney fellow since 1979, Dame Ann described how "magical [it is] on a winter's evening to walk across one of the Courts in College, to see the lights on in the Chapel, and to hear the Choir rehearsing".

From the Italian Risorgimento to Brexit

In December, Professor Eugenio Biagini (Fellow in History) was a speaker on *In Our Time*, the BBC's flagship discussion series which explores the history of ideas. Chosen from over 750 proposals submitted by members of the public for Radio 4's 'Listener Week', the episode focussed on Giuseppe Garibaldi and the Italian Risorgimento, with Melvyn Bragg and his guests discussing the key protagonist in

the unification process and hero of Romantic revolutionaries around the world. Earlier in the year, Professor Biagini delivered the Jón Sigurdsson Memorial Lecture at the University of Iceland. After speaking on 'Democracy and the 'national interest': the making and unmaking of the UK, 1707-2016', he was interviewed by Iceland's national broadcaster RÚV about his views on Brexit.

Sidney team takes on *Only Connect*

A team of Sidney alumni made three appearances in the twelfth series of the BBC's *Only Connect*. Dean Reilly (2007), Mickey Alexander (2007) and Simon Gibbons (2008) competed as 'The Taverners' on the show hosted by Victoria Coren, which is widely regarded as Britain's hardest quiz show.

Carol braves the Jungle on ITV

Sidney alumna Carol Vorderman (1978) braved the jungle for this year's *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here* on ITV1. The former *Countdown* mathematician and first female honorary Group Captain ambassador to the RAF Air Cadets endured nearly three weeks in the Australian camp, where she had to walk a plank suspended from the top of a 32-storey building and took on the infamous 'Bushtucker Trials'. Shortly before appearing on the show, Carol joined us as a panellist at our celebration of 40 years of women at Sidney, where she reflected on her time here. This year promises to be an adventurous one for Carol: in May she will fly solo around in the world in an attempt to become the ninth woman in history to do so.



Sidney Engineer cooks up a storm on the Great British Bake Off

Andrew Smyth (2009) talks to *Pheon* about pies, pranks and the pressure of the tent

What first got you into baking?

I'd always been into food and it was my Mum and Gran who taught me the basics when I was much younger. They're both very good cooks. I really started getting more into baking once I had my own kitchen space and have been slowly expanding my repertoire over the past few years since leaving Sidney.

Did you manage to fit much baking in during your time here?

I only did the odd bit of baking at Sidney, partly due to my lack of organisation with regards to supervision work but also due to the ovens in the gyp rooms being a little temperamental... I did once try a chocolate microwave mug cake in first year in Sussex House – it tasted like a chocolate hockey puck. Steer clear of microwave cakes!

Any special memories of your time at Sidney?

I was first drawn to Sidney as a College because of the phenomenal friendliness of the porters; they were an absolute pleasure and reassuring presence throughout my four years. The 2010 May Ball would have to be a particular highlight when we had punting within the College walls. On a slightly more mischievous note, building a giant snowman on the lawn in Hall Court at 4am one snowy morning was great fun.

To us viewers, it looked like you put some of your engineering skills to good use in the tent – did the Cambridge degree come in useful?

I think the Cambridge way of thinking helped me in the tent: break down the problem to first principles and get the basics right. I think that stood me in good stead going into the competition. There was definitely a spot of engineering that helped as well with my Cambridge Bridge, rotating geared pies and Ferris Wheel of mousses! I think the Cambridge workload conditioned me to cope well under pressure. It seemed to help me stay calm in the tent but I did have the odd flap – my rosy flustered cheeks seemed to be a permanent feature throughout the process!

Where were some of your favourite haunts for food while you were here in Cambridge?

I sang with Magdalene Chapel Choir during my time at Cambridge, and every Wednesday after rehearsal we'd migrate up the hill to The Castle Inn for a bite to eat. Although it probably didn't help my waistline, their 'Castle Burger' was a comfort food favourite. Another tucked-away surprise was



the Rainbow Cafe on King's Parade: I was sceptical before I ate there but they have really creative, unpretentious veggie food.

Looking back to the Great British Bake Off 2016, what was your proudest moment?

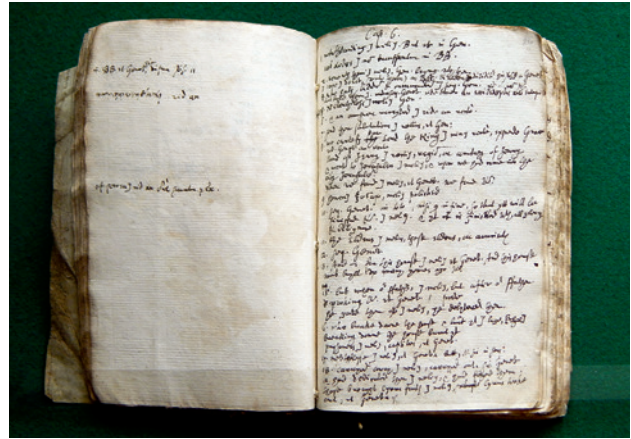
The best moment would have to be getting Star Baker for the first time in Week 7. It felt incredible, especially since Week 6 had nearly been my downfall. In terms of bakes, my geared pies were a real feat of baking engineering and I was chuffed to bring something new to the tent that people hadn't seen before. I think that's probably my legacy bake.

What's next for you?

I'm definitely keeping my options open! I've moved to four days a week at Rolls-Royce which is allowing me to have a decent balance between engineering and baking work at the moment. I'm especially keen to seek out opportunities in science and engineering presenting on TV as it's something I'd always dreamed of doing but never thought would be possible. I intend to enjoy every moment of 2017.

The Discovery of the King James Bible Draft

Sidney is fortunate to possess the papers of our third Master, the Calvinist theologian Samuel Ward, who was one of the scholars invited to participate in the compilation of the King James Bible in the early seventeenth century. These were sorted and catalogued in 1985 by Margo Todd, who described Ward MS B, a small notebook, written from both ends, bound in a discarded household inventory, as a “verse-by-verse biblical commentary”. In autumn 2014 Dr Jeffrey Miller, of Montclair State University, New Jersey, who had been asked to write about Ward’s theology in the context of the King James Bible, conscientiously worked through the papers and realised that Ward MS B was of more importance than a casual glance might suggest. He returned in July 2015 and confirmed that he had identified it as a first draft of a portion of the King James Bible translation. The teams of translators selected in 1604 had been enjoined to base their work on the Bishops’ Bible, the official Elizabethan version. Samuel Ward, then a Fellow at Emmanuel, had been appointed to the group which was assigned the Apocrypha. A large section of the notebook is devoted to a line-by-line analysis of 1 Esdras, in which improvements of the Bishops’ Bible readings (often denoted by the letters ‘BB’) are suggested. Ward frequently notes the original Greek in support of his translation. There are indications that Ward also referred to the work of the Biblical scholar Isaac Casaubon, perhaps at the instigation of other members of the Cambridge company. The notebook also contains a similar analysis of two chapters of the Book of Wisdom. Miller proposes that Ward



was originally assigned to translate 1 Esdras and subsequently asked to assist in the translation of Wisdom.

Following Jeffrey Miller’s account of his discovery in the *Times Literary Supplement* of 16 October 2015, reports of varying degrees of accuracy appeared in *The Times*, *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Cambridge News*, *The Jersey Tomato Press* (Montclair, N.J.) and *Church Times*. The Archivist was interviewed for Cambridge TV and Premier Christian Radio. Jeffrey Miller gave an account of his discovery on MSNBC and on the Wall Street Journal Video Channel. Thanks to the generous support of John Osborn (Honorary Fellow, 1962) the digitisation of the manuscript will allow us to make this discovery more widely accessible.

Nicholas Rogers, Bye Fellow and Archivist

PUBLICATIONS

At the age of 97, **John Harrison** (1938) has published *The Tailor of Hereford* (Logaston Press, 2016). This fully-illustrated study draws upon the detailed records kept by the long-established Hereford enterprise, providing an enthralling social history of the city.

Charlie Laderman (2009) and **Brendan Simms** (Professor in the History of International Relations, University of Cambridge) have just released *Donald Trump: The Making of a Worldview* (Endeavour Press, 2017), which should be “essential reading for anyone who wants to

understand the Trump presidency and what it means for the rest of us” (Sir Christopher Clark, Regius Professor of History, University of Cambridge).

Paul Mathews’ (1990) novel *We Have Lost The Pelicans* (Amazon, 2016) is the second in his comedy-thriller series following on from his #1 Amazon US best-seller *We Have Lost The President* (Amazon, 2016).

James McNeill QC (1970) is the general editor of *A Practical Guide to Charity Law in Scotland* (W. Green, 2016).

Exploring Doubt: Landscapes of Loss and Longing (Darton, Longman

and Todd Ltd, 2016) by **Alex Wright** (1984) is described as “a profound study of the deep relations that bind place, people and Christian believing...” by Professor Graham Ward (Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Oxford).

Under the pen names **Katharine and Elizabeth Corr**, sisters **Katherine Penney (McSweeney)** (1989) and **Elizabeth Lumb** have published the dark magic thrillers *The Witch’s Kiss* (HarperCollins, 2016) and sequel *The Witch’s Tears* (HarperCollins, 2017).

Development and Membership News

Stunning new Organ for the Chapel

The formal inauguration and blessing of the College's new organ was held on Saturday 19 November. The spectacular Flentrop organ, the generous gift of Montagu Fellow and 1596 Foundation Member Patricia Brown, was commissioned for Sidney Chapel at the end of 2014. Weighing almost two tons, it was crafted in Amsterdam and arrived for assembly and installation in July.

The following day the organ took centre stage at a special recital by Professor David Titterington – Fellow-Commoner, Head of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music and expert advisor on this historic project – where those in attendance were treated to a diverse programme that showcased the versatility and beauty of the new instrument. Sidney now has one of the finest collections of keyboard instruments of all Oxbridge colleges. And now we have begun our appeal to endow the 22 members of the Chapel Choir, which is already well underway. The first gift (marked with a brass plaque in the choir stalls at the organ inauguration) was by David Harrison for his daughter Laura, who sang in the choir from 2012 to 2015. A recent gift from Patricia Brown will cover a further five choristers. We are so grateful for the generosity of our supporters, and look forward to further musical successes over the coming years.

Dr David Skinner, Osborn Director of Music



Alumni and Supporter Events

In June and September we were delighted to welcome back our matriculands from 1971 – 1973 and 1995 – 1997 for their Alumni Reunions. Over 220 alumni and their guests enjoyed catching up with old friends over afternoon tea and touring the College site to see recent developments to old haunts before congregating in Hall for a candlelit dinner. The Decade Reunion Lunch for those who matriculated in 2000 – 2009 was also held in September. It was a great pleasure to also welcome alumni from 1959 or earlier and their guests to this event.

Members of the Lady Frances Sidney Circle were treated to a lecture on twentieth century English art songs by Dr Ceri Owen (Research Fellow in Music), with musical accompaniment from Dominic Sedgwick, for their autumn gathering. The Sidney Sussex Society held its annual Christmas Reception in brand new surroundings on London's South Bank at the Doggett's Coat and Badge, in a festive affair with spectacular views across the Thames.

The 1596 Foundation

The 1596 Foundation was established to recognise the College's most generous benefactors. On 7 May 2016, Ruchanee Tuffnell was formally admitted as a new member at the Foundation Dinner in recognition of her generous and continued philanthropic support of the College. Prior to her induction in the Old Library, an engaging and timely talk was given by Sidney Fellow and Paul Mellon Professor of American History Gary Gerstle on the subject of 'President Trump? How the inconceivable became imaginable'.

The membership of the Foundation continues to grow apace. This year Peter Allen (1959), John Anderson OBE DL (1955), Chris Gill, Dr Clint Peddie (1977), Dr Dirk Pouli (1959), Mary Pouli,



Dr David Wong (1983) and Paul Zatz (1958) have been elected as members in appreciation of their generosity and support of the College.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all those who participated in the 2016 telephone campaign – your support is greatly appreciated and will have an immediate impact on life at Sidney.

We were delighted to receive such a high level of participation in this year's Alumni Survey. It is incredibly valuable for us to receive feedback on alumni events, preferences for receiving communications and memories of Sidney.

Double celebrations for SSBC at biggest ever Alumni Dinner

The Alumni Dinner held on Saturday 21 January 2017 saw a record 116 current rowers and former members of SSBC filling Hall to capacity. Alumni and students alike remarked upon their enjoyment of the panel discussion before dinner where we were treated to tales of 40 years of women in SSBC. The panel comprised: Dr Lesley Mayo (1976), one of Sidney's first female rowing Blues; SSBC's first woman to be elected Boat Club Captain Dr Susan Harding (née Turner) (1981); Double Henley gold-medallist Joanna Barnden (née Gibb) (1991); and Lisa Naylor (née Meegan) (2006) who was Captain of Boats in 2009-10. After dinner, Ian Fieldhouse (1975) presided over a fundraising auction which raised just under £2000 to support the Boat Club.

The afternoon saw the Naming Ceremony for the new Men's IV, presided over by Jane Phillips and members of the ex-Sidney Sussex Boat Club Association. The naming rights for this boat were bought with the generous proceeds from the SSBCA in memory of the late Mike Phillips (1963), the Association's founder and a passionate Sidney rower. The



naming rights for the new women's VIII were auctioned at the Dinner and we look forward to receiving the new boat which we are confident will propel Sidney forward to future success. It is thanks to the generosity of supporters of the Boat Club that rowing remains free for Sidney students, enabling every member of the College community to enjoy a fantastic sport at a unique time in their lives.

Martina Cheadle (Engineering, 2014 and SSBC Alumni Officer)

In the footsteps of the famous

Richard Burton, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur Evans — each laid part of the trail followed in the past year by members of the Sidney Club of Geneva, led by their indefatigable president, Dr Ajit Bhalla (Former Fellow). The Club celebrated New Year in Céligny (home and burial place of Burton). The Annual Dinner in May heard Professor Christopher Hill (Fellow in International Relations) speak on 'Multiculturalism, Migration and Foreign Policy: New Challenges for Europe', a topic that led to lively debate. In August, the Club visited Rosenlauri Gorge in the Bernese Oberland and the Reichenbach Falls, where Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty disappeared over the edge. As avid

readers of Sidney publications know, the researches of Dorothy L. Sayers have established beyond reasonable doubt that Sherlock was a student at Sidney. Dr Electra Gizeli, a former Fellow now working in Heraklion, played a large role in the Club's visit to Crete in September. A visit to the Palace of Knossos, was but one highlight. The Club looks forward to an equally active 2017: its events continue to attract many, not just from the immediate Geneva area, but also from far-flung cantons and countries, and including current Fellows of the College.

Professor Lindsay Greer, Fellow in Natural Sciences (Materials Science)



Sidney Sussex Society enjoy a Day at the Races

Not having heard of my propensity for tipping losing racehorses to the rest of the Fellowship, over 30 members, family and friends of the Sidney Sussex Society were kind enough to allow my wife and I to accompany them on a visit to Huntingdon Races last October.

Our day was brilliantly arranged with the help of 1596 member Mike Styles. The day began with a tour that included a visit to the weighing room, normally out of bounds to racegoers, and a stroll across the course to one of the massive open ditch fences. After lunch in our grandstand box we had a fabulous view of the racing, a great card being highlighted by Josses Hill's impressive victory in the day's big race, The Peterborough Chase.

Huntingdon Racecourse provided superb hospitality and we all had a great day watching the amazingly athletic horses and their brave jockeys tackle the daunting fences and hurdles.

Dr Colin Roberts, Fellow in Medical and Veterinary Science

Forthcoming Alumni Events

Monday 24 April 2017 ■ Thornely Society AGM and Lecture

The thirteenth Annual John Thornely Lecture, entitled 'Carry on, don't lose your head: Prerogative v Parliament from Cromwell to May', will be delivered by Poonam Melwani QC (1985). Generously hosted by Ms Melwani QC, Chirag Karia QC (1985) and Simon Kverndal (1977) at Quadrant Chambers, the Lecture will be preceded by the annual meeting of the John Thornely Society.

Saturday 20 May 2017 ■ MA Graduation and Reunion Dinner

All those who matriculated in Michaelmas 2010 are invited back to College to collect their MA degree. Booking is now open.

Saturday 1 July 2017 ■ Sidney Alumni Reunion for Matriculands of 1960–1963

The Master and Fellows invite those who matriculated in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963 back to Sidney for a formal dinner.

14–15 July 2017 ■ Sidney Sussex Society Visit to Durham University

The Sidney Sussex Society invites alumni and their guests to join them on a trip to Durham. This is a fantastic opportunity to tour the University and Castle, as well as visit the HG Wells exhibition at Palace Green Library and the Cathedral. Booking is now open.

Saturday 23 September 2017 ■ Sidney Alumni Reunion for Matriculands of 1998–2000

The Master and Fellows invite those

who matriculated in 1998, 1999 and 2000 back to Sidney for a formal dinner.

Sunday 24 September 2017 ■ Lady Frances Sidney Circle event

The autumn event for alumni and friends who have chosen to remember Sidney in their Will will be held in College. Details to follow.

Sunday 24 September 2017 ■ Decade Reunion Lunch 1959 and earlier

The Master and Fellows invite those who matriculated in 1959 or earlier back to Sidney. Alumni are very welcome to bring guests to this event.

Save the date

Monday 4 December 2017

Sidney Sussex Christmas Reception, The Doggett's Coat and Badge, Blackfriars

Dinner for those who matriculated in Michaelmas 2011

Thursday 7 December 2017

The Varsity Match, Twickenham Stadium

Saturday 30 June 2018

Alumni Reunion for Matriculands of 1986–1989

Thursday 5 April 2018

Choir at Westminster Abbey

Saturday 22 September 2018

Alumni Reunion for Matriculands of 1974–1976

Saturday 19 May 2018

MA Graduation and Reunion

Sunday 23 September 2018

Decade Reunion Lunch 1990–1999

Why not hold your next event at Sidney?

We are able to host a variety of events in our beautiful grounds, from private dining to weddings and from small meetings to large conferences. Our dedicated Conference Team's friendly approach and planning expertise will ensure that your event runs smoothly and is a memorable experience.

To find out more please contact the Conference Office:

Tel: 01223 338850 or 01223 339703

Email: conference@sid.cam.ac.uk

www.sid.cam.ac.uk/confer

Sidney Sussex College is carrying out a full review of its Statutes & Ordinances to ensure that the governance of the College complies with relevant national legislation and regulation, and with best practice in the sector. The College has commenced consultation on the proposed new Statutes. Alumni wishing to express their views on the proposed Statutes should access www.sid.cam.ac.uk for more information. The period of consultation will end on 24 April.

All information is correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to change. For more information please visit <http://www.sid.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events>.