



Bin Brook

ROBINSON COLLEGE MAGAZINE

LENT TERM 2006

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From Robinson to Pembroke

Tired with London, but not with life, my interest alighted upon an article in the newspaper. An old boy of Pembroke House in Kenya was recalling his school days with tantalising vim. I wrote a letter to the headmaster and in due course found myself transported and teaching in East Africa.

Pembroke House (named after the founder's Cambridge College) is situated in Gilgil, fairly centrally within Kenya and just below the equator. Gilgil itself is a splendid blend of junkyard and market; further enlivened by blithe goats, stolid cattle and helpful Kenyans. Once you've piloted the potholes and juddered over the effectively pedestrianised railway tracks, you will your vehicle up the hill and exchange jambos with the gate askari to be let into a world that deserves to be called idyllic. Just as I was beginning to accept the humming birds threading past the jacaranda blooms and the understatedly dubbed Magnificent starlings, planes roared in dropping boys and girls off for the beginning of the school year. Predominantly from upcountry families, the children are strikingly at ease in the company of adults in contrast to many of their English counterparts. Marbles (properly 'nyabs') are hotly contested in the Christmas term, garters are worn, caps are doffed and the Beano is passed around the dorm. Lessons were ended and begun by a prefect tolling the school bell, lending a cheerful unpredictability to the exact span of a period. Being a small school, everyone was in the sports teams. My under nine hockey team manfully grafted elements of kendo and rugby to their purposes. Between the rains, as the pitches became drier and drier, goal mouth scrambles would see entire groups of players swamped by dust and obscured from sight (and jurisdiction).

The first time I took the cross-country team on a dawn training run, three zebra bolted across our path, within touching distance. I enjoyed too many memorable wildlife experiences to recount; living amongst the animals was one of the most enthralling aspects of teaching in Africa. Though I can't claim to have killed a snake with my bare hands, I did bludgeon one with a hockey stick when the boys caught it with a mop in the dormitory. To find out whether the coup de grace was appropriate, snake-

expert Digby fetched his glasses and told me it was a cobra, but not a spitting one. On being asked how he knew, he replied plausibly, "Well, it didn't spit at me." I even had the privilege to see leopard. Staying at a farm where a worker had recently been mauled, my host was hurriedly summoned to the trap that had been set. Inside the cage was one of the most mesmerising manifestations of anger I have ever seen. We needed to cover the cage with stalks of maize to provide shade; as Jim and I approached the trap from opposite sides, the leopard seethed from end to end with daunting alacrity. It was relocated, but would have had to face a fatal confrontation with whatever cat was already resident there.

Death was part of life in Africa. It is simply a part of the conversation. Whilst I was there, several acquaintances lost people well known to them. The strident newspapers were filled with fatalities each day, from traffic accidents or violence. Though even Nairobi seemed no more intimidating than London, car-jacks did occur, homes did get raided. Kenya is by no means a no-go destination, but there are elements of 'frontier' that are irresponsible to ignore. I bought a doughty and venerable (30 years old) Range Rover from an Italian lady on the proviso that I continued to coax and coddle it in Italian (Classics is useful). Margaret proved herself an excellent if thirsty companion, but whenever I was lost or stuck it would only be a short while before somebody popped up (this was exasperating when you needed the loo). Perhaps I was fortunate in their always being helpful, but I would unhesitatingly characterise Kenyans as friendly.

Twelve was the record number of pushers to help me on my way, achieved on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya. I climbed Africa's second highest peak twice, and once with a party of the (thirteen year old) sixth formers. I'm not sure what the risk assessment form for such a venture would look like in England,

but the experience of watching the sun rise over snow on the equator again would be worth it. Two days walking through forest that gave way to heath and bizarre equatorial alpine plants took us to Shipton's base camp, where chubby hyraxes provided extra company. Though we bullishly carried our own packs (unlike the effete expeditions from Nairobi and the coast) an armada of porters in cannibalised kit escorted us with our provisions. Some of them wore plastic bags inside their trainers as they cheerfully hefted industrial gas canisters and umpteen rucksacks tirelessly on ahead. Even though Pembroke is itself at over 6600 feet, a few of our party succumbed to altitude sickness on the final ascent. On my maiden foray, I felt the same effects and still remember the savour of oxygen and the return of strength with every stride that I took down the mountain.

My other brush with illness involved walking wearily to the bathroom and collapsing into utter inertness for three-quarters of an hour. It transpired that I had typhoid. The closest I had ever come before to a medieval-sounding disease was having a yellow fever inoculation and this pride carried me through the next few days' fatigue. The weight loss was redressed with relish: the diet I enjoyed in Kenya was healthily carnivorous.

There are many other memories of teaching in Kenya; from real camels in the nativity play, to the boys keeping poisonous spiders in their lockers; from removing a bat from a mosquito net, to fleeing before a baby rhino. But most vivid of all are the memories of the people I met there. All of them are smiling. You could do far worse than writing the headmaster a letter.

Simon Head (1995) is now teaching at St. John's Beaumont in Old Windsor (mrshead@stjohnsbeaumont.co.uk)

Chapel Chair Celebrations and Commemorations

The refurbishment of more than a quarter of the chapel chairs has now been sponsored by Members and Friends of Robinson College. Plaques have been installed at the donors' request to remember late members, to celebrate the birth of the members' children or the life of members' friends and families and, of course, to commemorate graduations. The inscriptions to date read:

Serena Aylward, Choral Scholar, 2003-6
Roger Bailey
Benedicite Omnia Opera
Commander George Coupe, 1924-2004
Peter Carlton Jones
Sophia Chong
Marcus Chong
Max Chong
Robin James Egerton

In loving memory of Jack and Dorothy Garvey
Marianne Hinnells
Mr and Mrs G Ironside
In loving memory of Deborah Keily
Basil Shone
Andrea M Smale
Angela M Smale
Raymond L Smale
Reamonn Smale-Charmes

Danielle Smale-Charmes
In loving memory of John and Betty Smith
Dr Alex Yui Hui

If you would like to support the chapel and celebrate a special person or event, please complete and return the form at the centre of this edition of Bin Brook.

Annual Robinson Reception

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Friday July 14th 2006

6.30pm – 9.30pm

Suggested Gift – £64 per person

Includes Champagne & Canapés

Robinson College is delighted to have the opportunity to host the Annual Reception in the Locarno Suite, one of the Fine Rooms at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London. This is an exclusive opportunity to view rooms not normally open to the public. Thanks extend to our sponsor, alumnus Daniel Workman (1997) who, because of his work at the Foreign Office, helped to secure our booking. To welcome guests to Annual Reception a Robinson pianist will be playing the Grand Piano that is situated in the Locarno Suite.

We do hope you will join us for what promises to be a truly splendid evening.

History of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office

The first Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was appointed in March 1782, but the first purpose-built Foreign Office was not begun until 1861. It was completed in 1868 as part of the new block of Government Offices which included the India Office and later (1875) the Colonial and Home Offices. George Gilbert Scott was responsible for the overall classical design of these offices but he had an amicable partnership with Matthew Digby Wyatt, the India Office's Surveyor, who designed and built the interior of the India Office.

As you approach the Locarno Suite you will walk up George Gilbert Scott's Grand Staircase of the Foreign Office, looking east. The murals on the first floor surrounding the staircase are by Sigismund Goetze, who painted them at his own expense throughout the First World War. Presented to the Foreign Office in 1921, they depict the 'origin, education, development, expansion and triumph of the British Empire, leading up to the Covenant of the League of Nations'. The two great ormolu and bronze chandeliers were produced by Skidmore's Art Manufacturers Company of Coventry, while the mosaic pavement on the ground floor was executed by Minton-Hollins to designs in the antique style by Scott.

The Locarno Suite

The Grand Reception Room of Scott's Reception Suite is known as the Locarno Suite. Its modern name derives from the formal signature and sealing here of the Locarno Treaties, initialled at Locarno in Switzerland in 1925 and designed to reduce strife and tension in Europe. The room is now used again, as originally conceived, for conferences and ministerial and government functions.

The Reception costs to College are £64 per head and any gift towards these costs is gratefully received. Please complete the Gift Aid Form if you are a UK tax – payer as this will increase the value of your gift to College.



Please book using the enclosed form or register your interest with Development Office to receive a booking form. To experience a virtual tour of the Fine Rooms visit www.fco.gov.uk

Event List

13th May

MA Congregation Dinner

24th June

Summer Steinway Concert

14th July

Annual Reception

Locarno Suite, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
6.30pm – 9.30pm

23rd/24th Sept

Annual Robinson Reunion

Matriculation Years 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981

Saturday 23rd

4pm-5pm Welcome Tea – Tea/Coffee and pastries
6pm College Bar opens
7pm Drinks Reception
7.30pm Dinner

Sunday 24th

9.30am-11am Sunday Brunch in the Garden
Cafeteria

Robinson College Choir Tour to Northern England 3rd – 8th July 2006

We're delighted to announce that the Robinson College Choir will be touring the North of England at the beginning of July.

You can join them on the following dates and for those who are unable to be at any of these services in person, there is an opportunity to hear a live broadcast from Emmanuel Church, Didsbury at 9.45am on Thursday 6th July on Radio 4.

Monday 3rd July

5.45pm **Evensong** in Sheffield Cathedral

Wednesday 5th July

5.30pm **Evensong** in Ripon Cathedral

Thursday 6th July

9.45am **BBC 4 Daily Service** live broadcast from Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, presented by Rev'd Dr Maggi Dawn (Chaplain and Fellow, Robinson College) with music by Robinson College Chapel Choir

Friday 7th July

5.30pm **Evensong** in Manchester Cathedral

Saturday 8th July

4.15pm **Evensong** in Chester Cathedral

From Whisky to Bananas? The story of a Chemical Engineer working in Fair Trade

Hi, my name is Tracy Bonham and I studied Natural Sciences and then Chemical Engineering at Robinson back in the late 1980's. So what am I doing now travelling to Africa to visit fair trade basket makers and mango farmers? Well, it's a long story.....

Those of you that knew me at college will remember that I was very involved with the running of Student Community Action (the group that co-ordinates student voluntary work). I even did a one-year sabbatical at SCA after leaving Robinson in 1990, before moving up to Glasgow to work as a Chemical Engineer in the whisky industry (far tastier products than either the oil industry or pharmaceuticals!).

After 13 years working with Diageo, I had moved from project engineering to more general projects management, and last December I finally moved on – there can't be many of my year who have only had 3 jobs and 3 addresses since leaving college!

I spotted the advert for a Projects Manager at Shared Interest in August 2004 and thought it sounded great – using all my project management experience in small social enterprise going through significant expansion. Shared Interest is the world's leading fair trade finance organisation. They use money invested by people like you and me to provide loans to fair trade producers in the developing world and their buyer organisations. I have been a member for 9 years – inspired



by the way they use the money I invest time and time again to support fair trade producers and buyers all over the world.

My new role is really varied – I have carried out a review of the organisation's network of voluntary representatives (members who promote Shared Interest – a few years ago Rowena Moore (1987, née Mainprice), and I were amazed to find ourselves as 2 Robinson Alumni amongst the 20 or so reps!); I helped set up the organisation's sister charity (Shared Interest Foundation) and I have developed proposals for our first overseas offices. I have spent 3 weeks in West Africa speaking at a conference and then visiting fair trade producers and have been privileged enough to spend several days with one of the big Italian fair trade buyers including speaking at their share holders meeting in Assisi – my previous visit to Assisi had been as part of my college Inter-rail trip 18 years ago! Made me feel old!

So what do I do in my spare time these days? Well, having done 6 years as the church Treasurer, I now run the church Traidcraft Fair Trade stall, I have cycled round Turkey and run two 10ks for charity and I still enjoy travelling as much as possible – off to Australia in a few weeks time to meet up with another ex-Robinsonian.

With the UK representing one third of the global Fairtrade market and with so many people having taken part in this year's MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY coalition, it's certainly an

exciting time to working in trade justice. I'd really encourage you to have a look at our website to find out more about the finance aspect of fair trade. Please consider investing – it's an opportunity to make your money make a real difference and the money is still yours! You can invest anything from £100 to £20,000 – the financial return is not big but the social return is huge!

www.shared-interest.com
tracy.bonham@shared-interest.com
0191 233 9128

What is Shared Interest?

Recognised by the DTI in 2003, Shared Interest is a leading social enterprise based in the UK making a significant impact on fair trade organisations around the world.

- Working in almost 40 countries and directly impacting on 68,000 producer lives
- Providing credit to 79 fair trade organisations world wide
- Working with many large fair trade buyers, including Traidcraft & Café Direct, and their partners in the field
- £6-9m finance out in the developing world at any one time (varies seasonally)
- Over £19m share capital, raised from ordinary individuals in the UK

Online Alumni Directory

Do you need to track down your old Robinson friends for that special event or anniversary, or for professional advice?

Over the next few months, alumni amongst our readers will be receiving a letter containing a user name and password for the new Online Directory. This replaces the printed Directory produced in the past and will allow members who have activated their accounts to search for and contact one another for social or professional reasons.

When you receive your letter, it will give instructions as to how you may log on via the Robinson website and activate your account, selecting how much or how little information you wish to make available to other alumni, or subsets of alumni. If you do not activate your account, others will only be able to contact you by emailing or writing to you c/o the Development Office staff, who will pass the letter or email on via the last contact details held for you, as is the case now.

If you do not receive your account letter, or if we do not hold up to date postal contact details for you, please contact the Development Office with your address so that it may be sent out correctly.

Undergraduate Bursaries and “Top-up Fees”

Readers will have read in the press about the advent of “top-up fees” in English Universities from the beginning of the next academic year. Under this new funding regime, Universities will be able to charge undergraduate fees of up to £3,000 per annum. Unlike current fees, these will only be payable after graduation once an individual is earning at least £15,000 per annum, rather than at the beginning of each academic year in which the student is studying. This means that the “Top-up Fees” make better financial provision for all students whilst they are actually in residence, but that their fee debt upon graduation will be higher.

The new fees will be used by Universities to support undergraduate teaching and learning resources within the central University. In conjunction with the introduction of these fees, the Government is re-introducing some student grants according to household income, so that students from lower income households will receive some Government maintenance funding during their studies. Student maintenance loans will also remain available.

Robinson, like all the Cambridge colleges, is anxious that these new fees (paid in tuition fees to the University, not the College) should not deter potential students from applying and that the support grants are sufficient to cover the costs of living and studying in Cambridge. The colleges, the University and the Newton Trust (which was endowed by Trinity College) are working together to improve the Cambridge Bursaries Scheme, so that students admitted to Robinson and all Cambridge colleges have access to sufficient funding to enable them to take up their places and to gain all that a Cambridge education has to offer.

The table below illustrates the support that will be available to students in terms of Government grant, Cambridge Bursary and Student Loan, in today's figures, according to family residual income. Family residual income is the student's family household

income after allowances for factors such as the number of younger siblings in the household and other relevant matters. The illustration assumes that the total maintenance needed for one year is £6,000 (it is possible to live on less than this, especially with parental support in vacations, but most students spend at least this amount) and that each student takes only as much maintenance loan in addition to grant and bursary as needed to make up the £6,000 total support. The maximum Cambridge Bursary will be £3,000 per annum.

The new Cambridge Bursaries Scheme is shaped so that the bursaries for students from less well-endowed colleges, like Robinson, are subsidised more heavily by the Newton Trust and the University than those from the wealthier colleges. Indeed, the wealthiest colleges will pay the full costs of bursaries for their eligible students. The University is a new partner in the scheme, using some of the new “Top-Up Fee” income to contribute towards the enhanced bursaries. However, Robinson will still need to make a contribution towards each Robinson student bursary awarded through the Cambridge Bursaries Scheme.

This year (the last before the advent of “Top-up Fees” and the introduction of the revised Cambridge Bursaries Scheme), 53



Robinson students are receiving a Cambridge Bursary, funded jointly by the Newton Trust and Robinson College under the current scheme. 14 of these awards are provisional, awaiting further information from the students' Local Education Authorities, so the total amount of the awards is to be confirmed, but the total amount of awards in 2004/5 for 63 students amounted to £49,050 funded jointly by the Newton Trust and the College. Robinson already has some bursary funds in place on which to draw for the current and the new scheme, but we need to increase these funds to allow for the higher level of awards under the new scheme and also to monitor if the number of students claiming bursaries increases over the next few years, as this will obviously affect the sums of money that we need to provide to eligible students in future years.

Donations for Robinson College student support will help us to meet the needs of next year's and future students. Such donations will help to ensure that these young men and women follow in the footsteps of our alumni, in all walks of life, and to enrich the communities within which they choose to live and work.

If you would like to make a gift towards student support at Robinson, please use the donation form in the centre of this edition of *Bin Brook*. Thank you.

Residual Family income	Grant p.a.	Cambridge Bursary p.a.	Loan – maximum available	Loan assumed taken	Total Support p.a.	Maintenance Shortfall		
						Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
£15,580	£2,700	£3,000	£3,205	£ 300	£6,000	–	–	–
£21,565	£2,160	£2,600	£3,205	£1,240	£6,000	–	–	–
£27,000	£1,350	£1,400	£3,205	£3,205	£5,955	£ 45	£ 45	£ 45
£32,745	£ 650	£ 500	£3,755	£3,755	£4,905	£1,095	£1,095	£1,420
£37,000	–	–	£4,405	£4,405	£4,405	£1,595	£1,595	£1,920
£42,000	–	–	£3,302	£3,302	£3,302	£2,698	£2,698	£2,698

Fellowship News

Members of Robinson will be pleased to hear that John Williams and Christopher Forsyth have both been awarded personal chairs in their fields and are now Professor of Engineering Tribology and Professor of Public Law, respectively.

Mr David Kerr, who will be familiar to many Members and Friends of Robinson as our Senior Bursar for over a decade, retires this month (March 2006). However, everyone in the Development Office looks forward to enjoying his company as an Emeritus Fellow of Robinson at many College events in future.

We welcome Mr Ross Reason, a Magdalene alumnus and husband of Jane Reason (née Price, 1982), as the new Finance Bursar (as the post will be known in future).



Portrait of David Yates on canvas in the artist's studio

A portrait of the Warden, David Yates, has been hung in the Hall at College. Painted by Mark Roscoe, who was born in Australia but trained and now lives and works in Scotland, it shows the Warden on Bin Brook Bridge with Robinson's gardens in the background. It joins other recent additions to the art on display in the Hall – *Double Monument*, a gift from the artist, Alan Davie; and *The Bullfight*, a signed Francis Bacon print donated by a member of the Fellowship. All these works are on view for diners in the Hall and the Pegasus Society Dinner, MA Dinner and Annual Reunion Dinner will all provide good opportunities for non-resident Members to see them this year. The College has also been fortunate to receive a gift of 18 works of art, mostly by John Piper, from the late John St Bodfan Gruffydd, which will be hung in various parts of the College in due course – more details of this wonderful collection will be available in a future edition of *Bin Brook*.



Robinson and Selwyn unite to win the MCR league

Robinson and Selwyn joined forces again this year for MCR football, putting together a team for the 1st division league. Performance during the early part of the season was second to none, in no small part due to our team captain Mark Dwyer (Selwyn) and vice-captain Jonathan Green (Robinson). Regular training sessions and a great team spirit ensured that we came away with a victory every Sunday. However, the league title was not yet assured – Jesus were also building on early momentum and remained unbeaten. In a bitter-sweet twist of fate, the crucial match between the two teams was the very last of term, and with all to play for.

The showdown final match was electric, and for us at least, it started like a dream. Early in the first half a Jesus hand ball inside the box led to a penalty, which was duly converted. Five minutes later, Jesus lost the ball in midfield, which we capitalised on. The ball came quickly across to the right wing, was crossed into the Jesus box, and headed into the back of their net.

In the second half Jesus played the long ball well, and we struggled to clear. Jesus came back to 2-1, 2-2 and then, fifteen minutes from the end, and despite some excellent saves from our keeper, Jesus went ahead to 3-2. We needed a draw to win the league, but our team didn't give up hope. Three minutes before time, a great move by the midfield and the left wing set the ball up on the edge of the box. The Jesus defence dashed to recover, but it was too late – the ball sailed into the top right corner, leaving their keeper wondering where it came from. The game finished with draw at 3-3, making the combined Robinson and Selwyn team top of the first division.

Alastair Beresford (1996)



Fen Ditton Dash and the British University Sports Association Cross Country Championships

On a frosty Sunday morning in January, some 50 students raced along a stretch of the Cam, representing their colleges in the Fen Ditton Dash.

The race, only in its second year, enjoyed rather more clement weather than its inaugural blizzard in 2005, but the iron footbridge once again gave the illusion of having grown between the first and second laps for the footsore competitors.

Matt Sims of Robinson came in second, 38 seconds behind Will George of Jesus, helping the College reach third position overall, just one point behind Girton.

Matt went on to the British University Sports Association Cross Country Championships on 6 February, when he was part of the Cambridge University Hare and Hounds Men's team, which came 6th overall with 152 points in the Men's Long Race.

New additions to the College Gardens and Courts

Three new trees and a commemorative bench have been added to the College grounds in memory of Paul O'Grady (2001) and June Sharp, mother of aluma, Lynda (1999).

The trees were selected by friends and family members from a list and plan drawn up by the Head Gardener for the ongoing enhancement and development of the gardens. The plan builds upon the legacy of the private Edwardian gardens that pre-date the College and upon the work of John St Bodfan Gruffydd in bringing these together to form the beautiful grounds that Paul and June knew and loved and that we are privileged to continue to enjoy.

Frances (née King, 1983) and William Baker welcomed their new (and third) daughter, Clementine, to the family on 14 October 2005. She weighed 8lb 6oz and is little sister to Alex, aged 7, and Georgia, aged 5. Frances is now the Property Director at River Island, the fashion retailer.

Kate Byth (1986) is on a 2-year international assignment with the pharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca, based in Boston, USA. This comes straight after her maternity leave as her daughter, Lucienne, was born in January 2005 (a sister for Alexander, who will be 3 in March). She's working in R&D in the field of cancer research and would love to hear from any Robinsonians in the area (contact the Development Office on development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk to be put in touch).

Mark Ledbury (1986) and his wife Helen are very happy to announce the birth of their son, Christopher, born on 7 December 2005, in Massachusetts, where Mark and Helen now live.

Quentin (1990) and Hannah Drewell are delighted to announce the birth of their son Xavier Alexander Richardson Drewell, welcomed screaming into the world on 17 October 2005.



Conor Nixon (1990) and Elizabeth Nixon are delighted to announce the birth of their second child and first daughter, Sophie Emma (above), on January 26th 2006 in Washington D.C., weighing 7 lbs 5 oz.

James Hartley (1992) and Sarah Davis (1996) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child. Their daughter, Tanith, arrived on 16 December 2005.

James (1992) and Tiffy Harrison have recently celebrated the 1st birthday of their daughter Joely. Whilst Joely has a limited vocabulary of only 2 words currently, James and Tiffy are quite confident that she enjoyed her big day!



Paul Eden (1992) and Freddie Eden (1992) (née Mulliner) have a baby son. Daniel Joseph Eden (above) was born on 22 August 2005, weighing in at 8 pounds 13 ounces.



Nik Holgate (1994) and his wife, Kate (née Fox, sister of Jennifer Fox (1995)), welcomed James William (above) into the world on 30th December 2005. He weighed in at 9lbs 6oz and Nik says he is clearly a future rugby player!



Paul Kent (1994) and wife, Alison, are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Molly Amelia (above), on 7th July 2005. Paul recently left his position as a Director in the Corporate Finance division at Citigroup to start up a new financial services boutique, Doric Asset Finance.

Paul Corthorn (1995) and Katherine Borthwick (2000) are delighted to announce their engagement, having met in Robinson MCR in 2000. Paul is currently a lecturer at University College Oxford and Katherine is a postdoc at the University of Manchester.

James Taylor and Sophie Annesley (both 1995) were married on 14th May 2005.



Matt Luscombe (1996) and Jo Hammond (1998) (above) were married on 17th September 2005. Matt says "We obviously had a great time, and I think there were fifteen of us there who had been at Robinson."



Antonia (née Collins, (1996)) and James Rubin are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Grace Rubin (above), on 20th Jan 2006.



David Scott (1996) married Eleanor Toye (King's) on December 17th 2005 in the Robinson College Chapel, with the Reverend Dr Maggi Dawn, College Chaplain, officiating. Afterwards, there were drinks in the garden restaurant, with dinner in the Hall and dancing. Many of the guests were Robinsonians and Richard Sharp (1996 and now a Robinson Fellow) was the best man. The photograph (above) was kindly provided by their friend Dan Talmage.



Professor Charles Thomas (Robinson Fellow 1980-2005)

All members of College were distressed to hear of the sudden death of Professor Charles Thomas at his home on the 16th December 2005. Charles had formally retired as Professor of Algebraic Topology in September 2005 and he was looking forward to planned future academic visits with his wife, Maria, to the USA. Throughout his academic life Charles has been admirably supported by Maria and their three children, Charles, Greg and Hanna. It came as a great shock to all, that Charles should die so suddenly, but mercifully peacefully, and we send our sincere condolences to the family at this premature death.

A funeral service was held in the College Chapel on the 23rd December and Charles was buried at Brinkley Woodland Cemetery, Cambridge, near another ex-Robinson Mathematics Fellow, the late Professor Ali Fröhlich. Charles' academic world involved high level pure mathematics concerned with differential geometry, manifolds and cohomology; all subjects that would not even be familiar to many other mathematicians or scientists. He was the author of many papers and several texts on his research interests. Charles involved himself with College life very much through his undergraduate teaching and as wine steward. He supervised loyally and interacted globally with other academics that could appreciate his branch of mathematics. Charles will be greatly missed by the College and Fellowship. He was a true academic with a broad interest and intellect outside his subject. A memorial service will be arranged at a later date. Malcolm Mackley, Deputy Warden

Daniel Frank (19/11/1980-19/10/2005)

Robinson friends of Dan Frank were shocked to hear of his sudden death in October at his office at *The Catholic Herald*. Many rallied round, both to support his family at his funeral and also at a Commemoration Evening held at his old school in Finchley on 21st January 2006. Family and friends shared their memories of Dan and his influence on their lives in words and music and, despite the underlying sadness of the occasion, shared much warmth and laughter. We were privileged to witness the talent of his friends and members of the Robinson Choir performing music from Sinatra to Blue Grass to traditional choral pieces in his honour and to hear some very special memories of him from his parents, Tony and Lynn, and his sister, Jessica.

Some of Dan's Robinson friends will share their own memories of him in the next edition of *Bin Brook*.

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