

Girton

newsletter

Development Newsletter of Girton College Cambridge

Spring 2010



In this issue...



Introducing the new Mistress

The new Mistress, Professor Susan J. Smith FBA writes, with a valedictory message from retiring Mistress and now Life Fellow, Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern FBA.

4



Power Feast

Current Girton Fellows in history, Ben Griffin and Alastair Reid write on the Power Feast, which was held in College in 2009 to commemorate renowned Girtonian economic historian, Professor Eileen Power.

6



Alumni Events

Reports from the 800th, 140th and 30th anniversary events, in Cambridge and further afield.

16



Books

Ruth Binney's (Chanter 1962) book on allotment gardening, and a review of Joseph O'Neill's (1982) novel *Netherland*.

20



College Sport

Report on Girton's first VIII at Henley Royal Regatta, news of Girton Alumni Sports Association (GASA), and more.

26

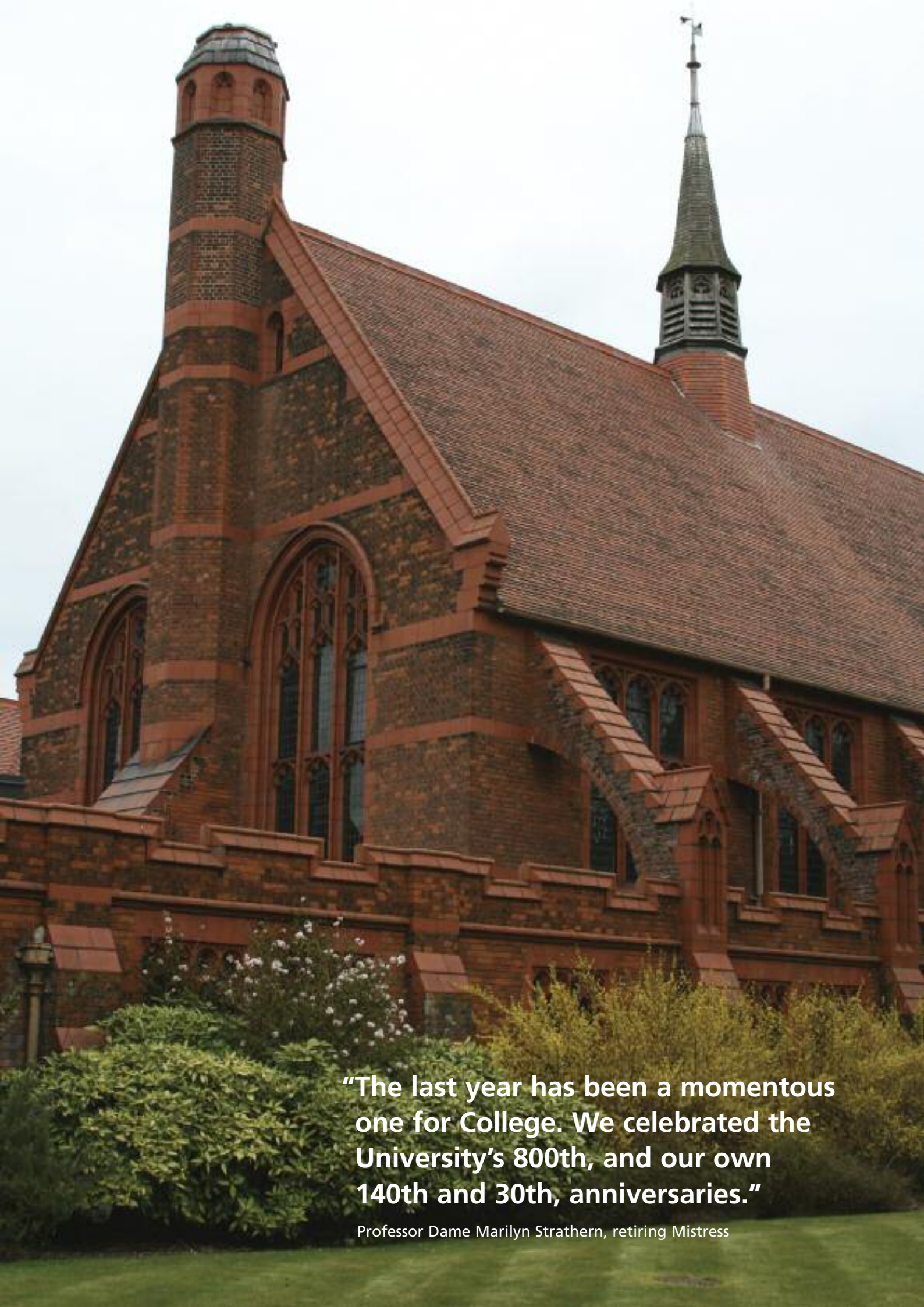
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Please see back page for forthcoming events



“The last year has been a momentous one for College. We celebrated the University’s 800th, and our own 140th and 30th, anniversaries.”

Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, retiring Mistress

From the retiring Mistress

Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern FBA

The last year has been a momentous one for College. We celebrated the University's 800th, and our own 140th and 30th, anniversaries; faced up to a financial storm; and made new plans with the energy and imagination that befits our proud history. We also said 'au revoir' to Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, who has exchanged the Office of Mistress for the role of Life Fellow. The 2009–10 Development Office Newsletter opens, therefore, with a reflection from the outgoing Mistress and an introduction to her successor, Professor Susan J. Smith.

In highlighting particular features and issues that bear on the work of the Development Office, the Newsletter has grown into a record of life in College on its own account.

College life should of course be taken as the life of Girtonians outside as well as within college walls. And as we have discovered over the last decade, the work of the Office is both diverse and broad in its scope. It takes under its wing the organisation of – and publicity for – many occasions and events, a point worth remarking in this quite, joyfully so, demanding year of the multiple anniversaries. I look back not just with interest on the still short career of the Development Office and all its doings, but with great appreciation of the way its work dovetails with that of the Roll and the Registrar of the Roll's initiatives.

However it does not organise everything! After all, the academic achievements on which it reports belong to the students and their teachers. Yet that is just a start – those achievements also belong to the tutors and, if one thinks about it, in a sense to

everyone else in College who supports them, from the library staff to those who are to be found in the kitchens or in the Lodge. And if one thinks about it a bit further, one realises of course that the work of the Development team contributes indirectly in a very important fashion. It helps build the infrastructure. This is true in relation to the immediate experience of many students, such as those supported through the bursaries that you will find noted here or with aspirations for an alternative to the present shed that serves as a sports changing room, but it is also true in terms of the longer term prospects for underpinning Girton's teaching fellowships with an endowment that will secure their future. The Teaching Support Fund that it has set up is very much at the forefront of the Office's endeavours, and embodies an aspiration close to my own heart. If one can wish a fund success, then I do so.

But I also have more general wishes for the future of Girton, embodied now in my successor, Professor Susan Smith. Everything augers well for her term in College, and I am sure she will receive the support it has truly given me, and above all the welcome I have had from so many Girtonians beyond College.



Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern FBA

The extremely difficult financial climate at the moment will not, alas, help, but here we are tremendously encouraged by the loyalty of our donors. That climate gives the value of the gifts they continue to make a special edge, and brings a special appreciation on our part. College is part of a good company. I am not sure that eleven years ago I would have believed anyone who said that a Development Office can help create a community, but I do now. So these are not inappropriate pages on which to say how much I have personally valued this extension of College's activities. Thank you indeed to you all.

Introducing the new Mistress

Last year the College welcomed Professor Susan J. Smith FBA as its new Mistress.

Professor Smith was Professor of Geography, and a Director of the Institute of Advanced Study, at the University of Durham. She studied at Oxford University, reading Geography at St Anne's College and completing her DPhil at Nuffield College. She held Research Fellowships at St Peter's College, Oxford; Brunel University; and the University of Glasgow, and was appointed to the Ogilvie Chair of Geography at the University of Edinburgh in 1990. She moved to Durham in 2004 where she played a key role in establishing the Institute of Advanced Study, whilst holding an ESRC Professorial Fellowship in the Geography Department.

Susan Smith has had a distinguished career both as a social geographer and in the interdisciplinary world of housing studies. Her work is centrally concerned with the challenge of inequality, addressing themes as diverse as residential

segregation, housing for health and fear of crime. Her current research focusses squarely on the housing economy: on home prices, mortgage debt and financial risk. Her writings address the uneven integration of housing, mortgage and financial markets, the unequal geographies of credit and investment risks, and the uneasy encounter between market dynamics and an ethic of care.

Susan Smith is an inaugural member of the Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a longstanding member of the Society of Authors. She became a Fellow of the British Academy in 2008. She is experienced in research management, strategy and assessment of all kinds, having served as a panel member for the last two UK research assessment exercises, as well as contributing in a variety of ways to the work of the ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust and other funding bodies.



Professor Susan J. Smith FBA

Commenting on her new role, Professor Smith said:

'Girton is a gateway to Cambridge for anyone who has a passion for learning and the enthusiasm to act on it. It is a privilege to have joined such a vibrant, caring, community of scholars. I am delighted to have the chance to help shape a future which promises to match, even exceed, the distinctions of the past. 'Help' is the operative word because the financial future is challenging. It will take all our resources to maintain the drive for equality, diversity, excellence and innovation that is at the heart of College life. But whatever the future brings, you can be sure that Girton will continue to be full of energy and excitement; that it will value all its members as individuals, and offer every individual the chance to realise their full potential.'



The Power Feast: a celebration of history at Girton

Ben Griffin and Alastair Reid

One of the most remarkable passages in Virginia Woolf's *A room of one's own* is the passage in which she reflected on all of the history books that had yet to be written.

Because history books never seemed to feature any women, preferring instead to linger on tales of kings, wars and prime ministers, the study of history, she wrote, 'often seems a little queer as it is, unreal, lopsided'. In contrast to the usual preoccupations of historians, Woolf wondered what the life of the average Elizabethan woman was like, but she confessed that to rewrite history so fundamentally was ambitious beyond her daring. Nevertheless she had a clear vision of who might be able to address this desperate need for information about women's lives in the past: why, she asked, 'does not some brilliant student at Newnham or Girton supply it?'

Woolf was already too late. By the time that her plea had been published Girtonians had already risen to the challenge, and a group of female scholars had begun to produce a series of pioneering studies that laid the foundations for women's history in Britain. At the forefront of this group was Eileen Power, who had been appointed Director of Studies at Girton in 1913. Power's book *Medieval English Nunneries* was published in 1922, and was soon followed by a series of path-breaking articles that transformed medieval economic history. At the same time as they challenged the exclusion of women from traditional historical accounts, these women also sought to establish a female presence in the newly professionalized academic discipline of history. Many of these

now-legendary figures have been commemorated by generous gifts to the College. In recent years a colourful rug for the new Archive reading room was donated by P. G. Lim (1934) in honour of the memory of M. G. Jones (1880–1955), an outstanding teacher renowned for her attention to detail, and Helen Cam (1885–1968), who managed to combine teaching and research in a particularly fruitful manner and became the first woman to be appointed to a tenured professorship in the arts at Harvard. They specialised in, respectively, the history of women in education and the history of medieval local government. Two other former Fellows have been commemorated by bursaries for undergraduates in financial need: Ellen McArthur (1862–1927), one of the genuine pioneers of British economic history; and Jean Lindsay (1910–96), who focused on early-modern Spanish economic history and was especially noted for her warm hospitality.

The magnitude of the achievement of the early Girton historians was fully appreciated by Eileen Power's sister, who in the 1940s endowed a feast in Eileen's memory, so that leading members of the historical profession could gather to honour her immense contribution to historical scholarship. It was in this spirit that in May of this year some of the country's most eminent historians travelled to Girton for the Power Feast 2009. Our guests included the authors of some of the

most influential and respected history books of recent years, including Professor Sir Tony Wrigley, Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch (winner of the Wolfson Prize), Professor Roy Foster, Professor Mike O'Brien (winner of the Pulitzer Prize), and Dr Lawrence Goldman (editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography*). They joined Girton History Fellows past and present to celebrate the study of history at Girton and the College's long tradition of inspirational teaching in history and world-leading research. The feast was a striking reminder of the enormous contribution that Girton historians have made to the discipline. The present Director of the Institute of Historical Research was a former Research Fellow at the College, and the guest list featured many distinguished academics who had started their careers at Girton. Also striking was the range of subjects that Girtonians have made their own: former Fellows include scholars of medieval religion like Professor Miri Rubin, historians of early modern poverty like Professor Steve Hindle, and historians of the Second World War like Professor Richard Overby (another winner of the Wolfson Prize). Girton students too have gone on to distinguished academic careers, and our guest speaker, Professor Pat Thane, helped to provide the student's perspective by drawing on her knowledge of the University Life Experience project that has set out to record the lives and careers of Girton graduates.



Professor Eileen Power (1889–1940)

When considering the history of history at Girton there is a great deal to celebrate, but as custodians of this tradition of excellence in teaching and research it is important to ensure that we are providing for its future. What then, is history at Girton like at the moment, and where is it going? The subject has for many years attracted one of the larger groups of undergraduates: averaging 8–9 each year, alongside increasing numbers of graduate students. Small group supervisions and close individual attention to written work remains at the centre of the learning experience, and this has allowed a long series of influential Directors of Studies and college-based teachers to make a distinctive impression on successive generations of students.

Interests in economic and social history and in the history of women have remained strong themes in the research and teaching of the College's History Fellows up to the present day. Betty Wood arrived at Girton in 1971 in connection with a university appointment to a Lectureship, later Readership, in American History. Her research interests have been in slavery, race relations and gender in the American South, revolving around a series of important case studies of Georgia and a recent survey of the whole field in *Slavery in Colonial America, 1619–1775* (2005). Throughout this work Betty has always been concerned to capture and communicate the realities of everyday life and on this basis has provided an

inspirational introduction to what for many was until then an unfamiliar area of history. Moreover, her intimate knowledge of the sources has opened up the subject in a distinctive way for many Girtonians undertaking third-year dissertations, some of whom have then been motivated to pursue their research as far as PhDs.

However, Betty has always been subject to the pull of her university responsibilities and in 1983 Alastair Reid was appointed to boost the distinctively collegiate side of the subject. Alastair's interests have been in the field of trade unions, industrial relations and the Labour Party and he is author of two of the standard modern surveys of the field, *United We Stand: A history of Britain's trade unions* (2004) and, jointly with the late Henry Pelling, the 12th edition of *A Short History of the Labour Party* (2005). Throughout this work Alastair has been determined to present trade unionists as real human beings and not just the representatives of grand social forces, with his supervisions on British social history also focusing on personal experience and making extensive use of first-hand testimony. As a college teacher he has been especially involved in helping students to develop the necessary study skills and confidence to think about historical questions for themselves, through a distinctive style of student-centred individual supervision alongside challenging small-group discussions. Over his time at Girton, Alastair has also held the posts of Tutor, Admissions Tutor and Secretary of the Fellowship in Arts Committee.

But as the History Tripos has evolved and offered an ever-widening range of options, it has been necessary to guarantee a sufficient number of Girton-based teachers to secure enough exchange teaching from other colleges. It has also become increasingly important to have more than one

Fellow involved in directing studies so as to be able to run general classes and to promote a sense of a distinctive Girton identity, within what might otherwise become a shapeless experience of meetings with specialists widely dispersed throughout the university. This has until now been greatly facilitated by two posts shared with Fitzwilliam College. First, Hazel Mills, who specialised in the history of women and Catholicism in nineteenth-century France, and who was able to supervise across a wide range of modern European history. More recently, Ben Griffin, who specialises in the history of masculinity and of feminism in nineteenth-century Britain, and who supervises across the whole range of modern British political history.

The College has also recently had the good fortune to be able to attach another University Lecturer, Samantha Williams, who directs the local history programme at the Institute of Continuing Education and specialises in the history of poverty and gender in eighteenth-century England.

The study of history at Cambridge has always involved not just the assimilation of factual information but also the development of a particular way of thinking about questions. This means that the heart of the history course at Girton remains the small group supervision. Unfortunately, in recent years this system has come under increasing threat. The demands placed on University Lecturers have grown

while resources have been cut, with the result that the colleges are increasingly forced back onto their own resources to provide College Teaching Officers. This is necessary to ensure that small-group teaching is available for all, and to ensure that students can receive the personal attention of a Director of Studies who belongs to their own college. In order to maintain a lively team of close colleagues and to provide the range and the focus of teaching to continue stimulating and supporting future generations of students, Girton needs to secure funding for the long-term support of a full-time College Teaching Officer in History. In this respect the College's long tradition of excellence remains impressive, but sadly fragile.



Academic results continue to improve

As small-group teaching is so important for success and supporting all our students, it is particularly pleasing that 2009 saw a great performance for Girton students.

Nearly all subjects achieved one or more Firsts overall, with some truly exceptional results. In Physical Sciences, there were 9 Firsts overall in the total of 20 students. Additionally a fourth year student, who did not achieve a First was nevertheless awarded the Tessella Prize by the Department of Physics for the best computational Physics project of the year.

Modern and Medieval Languages saw no students getting under a 2:1, with 5 out of 9 students gaining Firsts in part 2. In Economics, one candidate who gained a First was ranked 9th in the entire year, while another two were ranked within the top 7% in the year.

In music, 6 out of the 12 Girton students got Firsts this year, one of them gaining a starred First and the highest mark in her year for the Dissertation paper. Mateusz Borowiak won the University's Donald Wort Prize for the second year in a row; this is awarded to the candidate who shows the 'greatest proficiency' in his year-group in the Music Tripos. Mateusz performed at the 3 November 2009 concert at Goldsmiths' Hall.



The Girton architects had a very strong year, 2 out of the 5 obtaining Firsts. One of these represented the top over all mark in part 1b and the other second in the ranking for part 1a.

In History there were 3 Firsts altogether, 2 in Part 1 and one in preliminary exams. The first-year came joint eighth

out of 186 candidates, and one of the Part I candidates came fourth out of 211 candidates.

This is just a selection of some outstanding results, but overall Girton has been shown to be one of the better-performing colleges in terms of improving grades throughout the undergraduates' three years.

Buster

You can now have your very own Buster...

Girton now sells a limited edition version of the College cat, Buster, as well as Girton squirrels and Girton teddy bears. £1 of the proceeds of every Buster toy sale goes to Buster's fund to help with his food and veterinary expenses. The toy is on sale at the Porters' Lodge or can be ordered over the phone by debit or credit card by calling **+44 (0)1223 766672**. Postage costs will be added at the time of ordering.



Girton: The Financial Story

The College is funded by a mixture of public and private resources. In common with many other higher education institutions, Girton's endowment has been affected by the economic downturn.

Endowment capital declined from £47 million to £39 million between 30.6.08 and 30.6.09. As at 30th June 2009, the College's net assets (total wealth) was just under £100 million, broken down as in the table below. As the invested endowment declined in value so too did the income from the endowment which College uses to fill the gap between the cost of educating students and income received from government fees and rents. In addition to this, a decline in conference income because of the recession affected the College's financial position.

Girton's assets

Assets	£
Buildings, furniture and fittings	£64 million
Endowment (Investment capital)	£39 million
Working capital	£7 million
Less creditors	(£10 million)
Total	£100 million

Income and expenditure:

The College's fee income is constrained by public policy; students are charged economic rates of rent, and conference prices include an element of profit, but conference income is constrained by term dates and College activities, which take priority. The expenditure table also shows depreciation of the College's buildings, of £1 million per year, which means the College runs an operating deficit in most years (but not normally a cash deficit). The budgeted deficit in the current financial year (2009–10), however, is £1 million before depreciation of College's buildings. This can be funded only by using up capital – a situation that is unsustainable in the long-run.

Income

Income source	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7
Fees (constrained by government)	£2.3 million	£2.1 million	£2 million
Student and conference income (rents, catering, rooms)	£3.5 million	£3.5 million	£3.2 million
Investment income (including income from donations/endowment)	£2.2 million	£2.8 million	£2.4 million
Total	£8 million	£8.4 million	£7.6 million

Expenditure

Type of expenditure	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7
Education	£3.2 million	£2.8 million	£2.8 million
Residence, catering (conference and student)	£5.8 million	£5.4 million	£5.3 million
Depreciation of buildings included in above expenditure	£1.3 million	£1 million	£1 million
Total	£9 million	£8.2 million	£8.1 million

The College's endowment – its investment capital, as shown in table 1 – is used to support the deficit College faces on its education account supporting 'core' functions, such as teaching posts, learning, research Fellowships and research expenses, as well as scholarships, bursaries, and prizes. Last year plugging the gap between education income and expenditure cost the College nearly £1 million. In addition to this, there are deficits on residence income and expenditure, as the College receives no state funding to maintain or improve its historic buildings, which makes alumni support for improvements critical.



Is Girton rich or poor?

Girton is stretched by educating more students than the (mean) average in Cambridge, and depends on a less than average-sized endowment to do this, therefore it has a lower than average endowment per capita. Arguably, Girton bears a disproportionate share of the cost of collegiate Cambridge, as it directly employs many teaching officers rather than relying on University-funded posts.

Comparisons can also be made internationally. Cambridge (Colleges and University combined) has an endowment of approximately £3 billion, whereas Yale and Harvard, institutions with which it directly competes, have endowments of £8.5 billion and £14 billion respectively, though these too have been affected by the financial crisis. In terms of per capita endowment, Harvard has £600,000 for each student, whereas Cambridge has £150,000. To remain at the forefront of education, Cambridge and its Colleges must continue to raise funds.

Alumni and friends continue to support Girton, just as they have done from the earliest days of the College. In fact such support is the key to our ambitions to expand the support for teaching, learning and research which previous donors have initiated. College is fully behind fulfilling its original access mission by enabling Girton to give better academic and financial

support to students. Donations also enable us to narrow the gap between Girton's per capita endowment and that of other colleges.

The future

In the current situation, Girton has undertaken measures to protect

teaching from the decline in income, but has had to make cuts in other departments and in maintenance to stop the erosion of its endowment. In addition to this, the augmented council is taking strategic decisions with regard to the site and other operations to reduce annual expenditure.

The challenge for the College, which has been made more acute by the financial crisis, is to continue to build up its endowment in order to sustain its current operations, as well as to make efficiency savings. Donating to the endowment or to endowed teaching posts is a vital part of the path to sustainability.

Projects Update

Teaching Support Fund update

Since the Teaching Support Fund was launched in October 2008, over £1 million (without matching) has been donated to support teaching and research.

Funds donated to support teaching in the priority subjects which are not covered by University appointed lecturers are matched at a 1:1 ratio by the teaching support fund. The fund has been established thanks to a £5 million donation from an anonymous donor; half of the fund is being used for matching teaching support funds.

The priority subjects are Economics, English, History, Law, Mathematics, Modern and Medieval Languages.

A significant contribution was made by Mrs Rosemary Lonergan, who heard about the matching scheme and generously donated \$100,000



Rosemary Lonergan

(£67,000) to support teaching in Mathematics through the Olga Taussky Mathematics Fellowship.

Rosemary is the widow of Professor John Todd, who funded the Olga Taussky Fellowship after Olga Taussky, his wife, died in 1995. Olga Taussky was a Research Fellow in Mathematics at Girton in the 1930s, and was the first female Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and was married to Jack Todd.

The Taussky Fellowship now has endowed funding of £650,000, and the total for mathematics overall is close to £1 million, which supports two posts; the Olga Taussky Fellowship in Applied Mathematics and the Lady Jeffreys Fellowship in Pure Mathematics. There is still a need to increase this to continue to fund two teaching posts sustainably in the future.

The Marilyn Strathern Fellowship

To mark the time in office of Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Girton is fundraising for an Arts and Humanities Fellowship named in her honour. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please use the forms within this Newsletter, or contact the Development Office. So far, over £300,000 has been donated for the Marilyn Strathern Arts and Humanities Fund to support research and teaching.

Girton Futures

In last year's telethon, we launched the Girton Futures Fund, an initiative which has been established specifically to promote liaison with schools and FE Colleges for access initiatives.

Nearly £10,000 was pledged in the telethon alone to support the fund, and one of the first projects to benefit will be a field camp run by Dr Liliانا Janik, Director of Studies in Archaeology and Anthropology. This will build on the resource College already enjoys with the Lawrence Room, and will link together the past and present of the College to encourage school-age children to think about applying to Cambridge and Girton.

The field camps, which are being pioneered throughout the University of Cambridge by Dr Carenza Lewis (Girton 1982), encourage youngsters from diverse backgrounds to explore the past through archaeological digs. Girton already has substantial documentation and materials from the burial site on the College grounds, excavated when the College was built in the 1870s, and it is envisaged that other exciting discoveries could be made elsewhere on the College site.

Telethon 2009 – ‘Who’re you gonna call?’ – Old Girtonians!

After a busy Lent Term ended, 14 students stayed in College over Easter to take part in the 2009 Telethon. They spoke to over 900 alumni over a period of three weeks, over half of whom decided to support College by making a gift.



Left to right: top: Anisha Sharma, Pavel Kantchev, N. Vincent Trakulphadetkrai, Harry Winstanley, Jessica Barker Wren, Anna Heaton, Jenni MacKenzie, Duncan Evans, Irina Anichshuk. Bottom: Isabel Winney, Georgia Wheeler, Deborah Margolis, Ed Button

In 2009 we raised a record amount of over £191,000 – that is £40,000 more than ever before! Many gave what they considered modest amounts, but collectively these donations have made a genuine impact (I have refrained from stealing a well-known supermarket’s slogan here, but it is certainly true).

Such generosity from so many Old Girtonians is very encouraging for College, as we continue to build for a sustainable future. All gifts will be spent according to the wishes of the donor. In last year’s Newsletter, we announced

that an anonymous alumnus has donated £5 million to Girton and £2.5 million of this has been allocated to establish the Teaching Support Fund, which will match gifts from alumni and other sources at a ratio of 1:1 for the long-term endowment of teaching provision in College. We were pleased to see such a high level of support for this fund amongst those called, as it will help to sustain the supervision system which so many benefit from.

Many alumni also supported the new Sports Pavilion Fund, student bursary



N. Vincent Trakulphadetkrai and Buster

funds, the College's endowment, the Girton Futures Fund (access), the Tower Wing Refurbishment Fund and many other funds during the campaign.

The response from most alumni contacted during the campaign was overwhelmingly positive, with many welcoming the chance to chat to student callers and hear about the latest College news and upcoming events. A number of student callers commented on how much they enjoyed hearing how College had changed over time through speaking to alumni, but also seeing that in many ways it is still the same (although men don't have to escape from ground floor windows after hours any more!). Our students found the campaign thoroughly rewarding, with Old Girtonians telling fascinating stories about what they have been up to since they graduated and the students also gained great career advice for instance. The call room buzzed with excitement and interest every calling session and it was great to see the friendships that formed between the callers, who ranged from undergraduates to postgraduates.

One of our callers, Vince, had a particularly lovely chat with one Old Girtonian, Madge Quinn and discovered that he was currently living in the same student accommodation as she had done when she was a student here, so he invited her around to visit for tea after nearly 30 years!

The College is enormously grateful to everyone who has supported this telephone campaign, your gift will make a real difference to students in College. If you would like to see more information on our priority funds or to see this year's student callers, please visit <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/annual-fund> or contact development@girton.cam.ac.uk to be sent more information.

Verity Armstrong,
Annual Fund Officer



N. Vincent Trakulphadetkrai and Madge Quinn (1982)

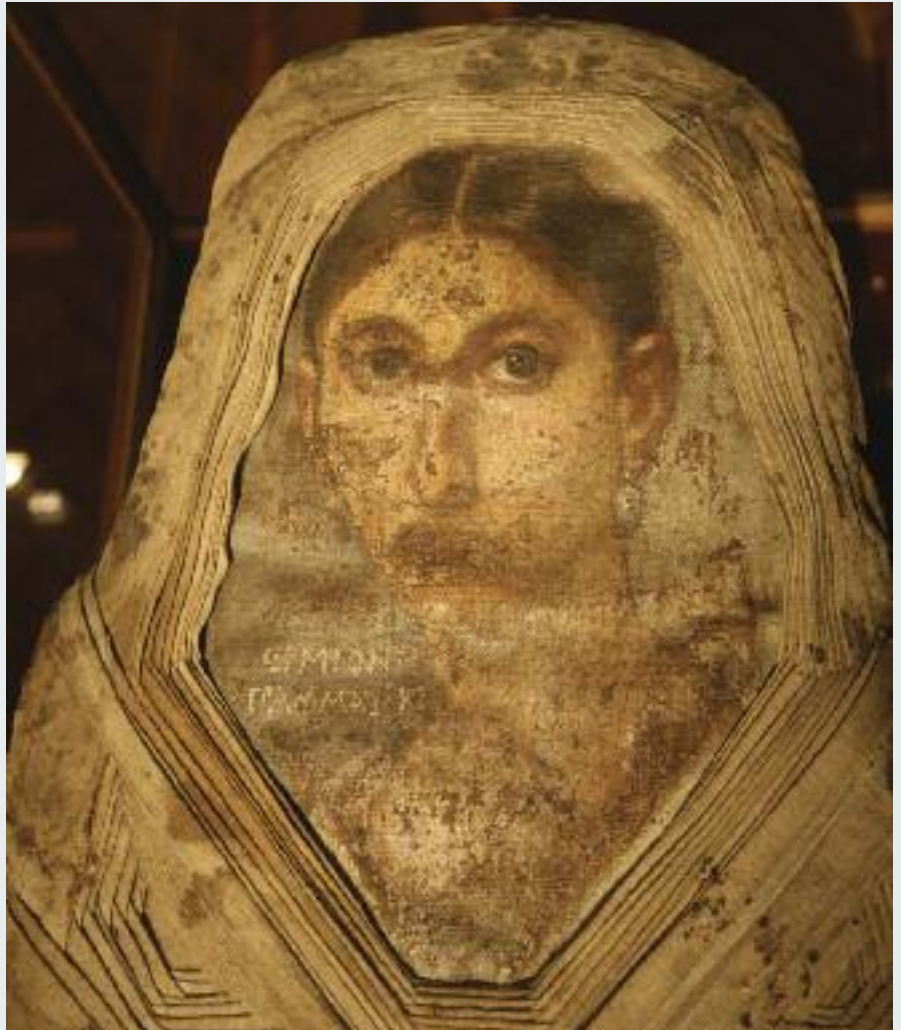
Friends of The Lawrence Room

Hermione is to get some friends ...

With the much appreciated help of Old Girtonian volunteers, Girton College's important collections in the Lawrence Room are now open to interested visitors on a weekly basis (for details see: <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/about/lawrence-room/>). As we move on to the next stage of our work, we plan to set up a group of Friends of the Lawrence Room, in the hope that those interested in the development of our collections will wish to continue their involvement in this project.

Following the success of our appeal that started in 2006 in memory of Alison Duke and the official opening of the refurbished displays in 2008, during the last two years work has continued on our different collections. Hermione, the Girton lion and their companions are all now clearly displayed in their new cabinets, with explanatory boards and labels to help the visitor appreciate the display. Our holdings have recently been enriched by the generous donation of a group of early Mesopotamian eye idols from Dr Joan Oates. In addition to the regular labels, we now have large-print leaflets available. The full e-catalogue of our holdings, already photographed and listed, is almost complete; web-posting is forecast for next year. The input of different experts from within the university has helped us to expand our knowledge of different sections, and we continue to be grateful for such aid.

In April 2009, we organised a small reception to introduce our collections to the relevant teaching officers within the University. We hope that as the



Hermione Grammatike, Girton's 1st century AD portrait mummy

academic interest of our holdings becomes better appreciated, they will be further used for research, and not just by Girton students. There is much still to do with on-going conservation needs, environment controls and the development of our collections. If we can keep up the impetus of recent years, the future is a promising one for this part of Girton's heritage.

Lawrence Room Committee

If you would like to join the Friends of Girton College Lawrence Room along with any of the other Friends groups visit <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/alumni-roll/friends-girton/> or contact Verity Armstrong on **01223 338990** or v.armstrong@girton.cam.ac.uk to request more information and a donation form.

People's Portraits 2008

Each year, we welcome a new addition to the People's Portraits exhibition housed here at Girton College on long-term loan from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. It was with great enthusiasm that we received two new portraits at the 2008 People's Portraits Reception.

There was a very good turn-out at the Reception and we were delighted to welcome Dr Charles Saumarez Smith CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts since autumn 2007, to speak and unveil the two new portraits. Dr Saumarez Smith has been the Director of both the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery. Furthermore, he is no stranger to Girton, for his mother, Alice Saumarez Smith (née Raven) matriculated here in 1933.

The first portrait to be unveiled was 'Girish Sethna, the note-taker' by Alastair Adams PRP, the newly-elected President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. Alastair has won the Daler/Rowney Award for Best British Painting at the National Acrylic Painters Association Annual Open Exhibition three times. Alastair Adams comments about his latest creation, saying,

"Girish is a writer with a background in art history and curation. In the painting he is depicted as both a note-taker and life model for Loughborough University. He fits well with the role of life model as life models often have a diversity of intellectual and cultural backgrounds that draw them towards artistic practice, either facilitating or partaking. As note-taker, Girish works for the Disabilities and Additional Needs



Saied Dai RP, Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Alistair Adams PRP at the People's Portraits reception

Service at the University. This enables him to sit in on many lectures on a range of subjects, most of which he finds fascinating and some of which require a little more concentration than others. As such the painting is of a university worker but highlights the diverse range of employment practices involved within in the creative industries and reflects the unique character and background diversity often to be found behind the role of the life model."

The second portrait was 'The Hairdresser' by Saied Dai RP and we were also honoured by the presence of his two sitters. Saied Dai was elected as a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in 2004. He has since won the prestigious Ondaatje Prize for Portraiture in 2006. Saied Dai talks about his painting, saying,

"The subject of the Hairdresser is in reality a metaphor for the Artist and the Muse. The painting depicts a scene where all activity has finally ceased, but for the contemplation of the Artist and

his work. A complex composition is set up involving multiple mirror images, resulting in ambiguities between the actual and its reflected equivalent."

If you have not seen the People's Portraits exhibition yet or, indeed, you have not seen it for some years, then please do visit, as it is forever evolving into an even more fascinating exhibition, and has been described as a 'hidden jewel'. For more information please visit <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/about/peoples-portraits-exhibition/> or contact Verity Armstrong on **01223 338990** or v.armstrong@girton.cam.ac.uk.

Friends of the People's Portraits

We would like to announce a fantastic opportunity for Friends and Patrons of the People's Portraits. If you donate £1,000 to the exhibition, helping with its maintenance and publicity, you can receive a postcard-sized drawing of yourself by Daphne Todd PPRP or Andrew James RP, both members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

140th anniversary and 800th anniversary events

College has celebrated its 140th in style, beginning with the Founders' Memorial Lecture given by Professor Henrietta Moore, Professor of Social Anthropology at Cambridge, in February 2009.

The next event marked International Women's Day and was a stimulating discussion on 'Gender in the state, the workplace, and the family' which took place at the London School of Economics. We were delighted that our Visitor, Baroness Hale of Richmond spoke on her experience as the first woman Law Lord and as a judge at the Court of Appeal and the High Court; and she was joined by Dr Ben Griffin, a History Fellow at College, and Dr Mia Gray, Fellow of Girton in Geography and Assistant Director of the Institute of Gender Studies. This was a popular and intellectually stimulating discussion highlighting how women's experiences have altered (or not) in the last hundred years, in the spheres of the state, the workplace and the home, it being the hundredth anniversary of International Women's Day in 2009.

Dr Griffin focused on the 'Politics of Paternity' and how these were reflected in legal changes as attitudes to women and women's rights changed. Dr Gray's talk centred on how social networks have become more and more important in the workplace, and how these impact differently on the lives of men and women. Lady Hale spoke of how



Alumna Dr Ruth Whaley (1974) receiving her Barbara Bodichon Foundation Fellowship, prior to the Anniversary Dinner, with the then Mistress, Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern FBA

her perspective as a woman had diverged from that of her male Law Lord colleagues.

The talk was followed by a lively debate and questions, which carried on at a drinks reception later in the evening.

There were also two Anniversary Dinners at College, taking place in July, where Girton welcomed back its donors to the Development Campaign. At the

first dinner we were honoured that HIH Princess Takamado of Japan was able to join us, along with Dr Ruth Whaley, who received a Barbara Bodichon Foundation Fellowship that day. At the second dinner College was pleased to unveil a new portrait of the College's Visitor.

The anniversary celebrations were also international as reported on the following pages.

International Alumni Gatherings

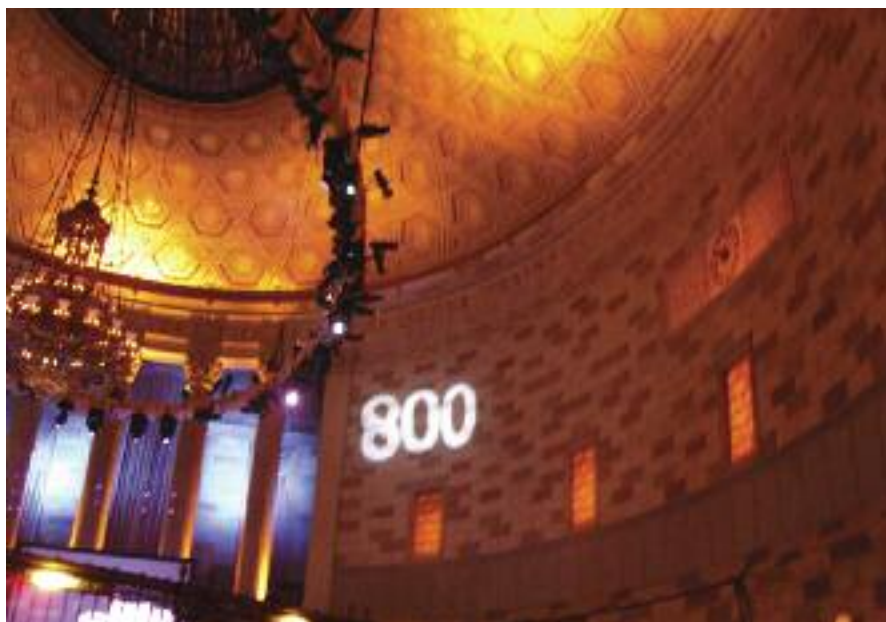
Girton in New York for 800th Gala

Girton's new Mistress hosted her first series of international events in the US in December 2009. At the first event, a reception and lecture held at the Harvard Club, New York and generously sponsored by Ruth Whaley (1974), Girtonians were joined by alumni from Selwyn College and Downing College. The festively decorated Gordon Reading Room provided a cosy setting for the lecture given by Selwyn Fellow Professor Colin Humphreys CBE (Selwyn 1989 and emeritus Goldsmiths' Professor of Materials Science). Professor Humphreys gave an entertaining account of his research into LED lightbulbs and their fascinating applications, a fitting subject given that the theme for Cambridge's 800th anniversary was 'illuminating the world'. Attendees were also thrilled to see the Empire State Building had been lit up blue that night in honour of the University's anniversary.

The following evening Cambridge in America hosted an 800th gala dinner and after-party in the impressive Gotham Hall, New York. The guests, who included many Girtonians, heard from



The Empire State Building was lit in blue in honour of Cambridge's 800th Anniversary



A spectacularly illuminated Gotham Hall for the 800th anniversary gala event in New York city



Ms Jane Portal (Bowerman 1974) and Professor Robert Anderson at the 800th gala dinner

Sir David Frost and Stephen Fry and were entertained by the choir of Clare College and the University Dancesport Team. The evening also included a light show, featuring quotes from notable Cantabrigians, that was projected on to the immense wall of Gotham Hall and was narrated by Katherine Upton (2006). Images from the event and full text of the light show narration can be found on the Cambridge in America website (www.cantab.org/content/view/674/217/).



Professor Susan Smith speaking at the Harvard Club reception in New York



Dr Kathleen Beckingham (1964) and Ms Anne Tan (1963) at the gala dinner

Goldsmiths' Hall Concert

The year of special events to mark Girton's 140th Anniversary was brought to a close with a special concert at Goldsmiths' Hall, London on 3 November. Proceedings were opened by the Visitor, Baroness Hale of Richmond, who introduced the new Mistress, Professor Susan Smith, at her first College event outside Cambridge.

The concert itself was a feast of Mozart, performed by Girton musicians, and the London Mozart Players (leader: David Juritz). The first half was given over to concertini, for which the London Mozart Players, conducted by Martin Ennis (College Director of Music), were

joined by two highly talented Girtonian soloists: firstly, Mateusz Borowiak (Girton 2006), for Piano Concerto in E flat, K.271 ('Jeunehomme'); and then Charles Siem (Girton 2005) for the Violin Concerto in G major, K.216.

After the interval, the College Choir, reinforced by some of its recent graduates, took centre stage for a performance of the 'Coronation' Mass in C major, K.317. The choir was directed by Dana Marsh (Director of Chapel Music), and delectable solo work was performed by Katherine Hambridge (soprano), Miranda Heldt (soprano), Lucy Goddard (contralto), Aidan Coburn



Girton choir at the Goldsmiths' Hall

(tenor), and Christopher Law (bass). The evening concluded in more restrained tones with a rendition of the motet *Ave Verum Corpus* (K. 618).

The evening also saw the official launch of the choir's latest CD, *The Feast Celestial*, which is available for sale online via the Choir Website.

US Events

As well as events in Asia, there were parties to celebrate the anniversaries in the USA.

The Mistress hosted a reception in New York at the former 'speakeasy' 21 Club in Manhattan. We were pleased that 25 alumni from the New York area were able to attend, some with their partners.



Marilyn Strathern with alumni in Boston, MA in May 2009



Left to right: Dr Chris Cannon (1993), Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Dr Samit Chakrabarti (1994) at the 21 Club in New York

We also are grateful to Dr Una Ryan (Scully 1963) for hosting a wonderful farewell lunch for the Mistress at her home in Boston for alumni in Boston and

Cambridge, MA, and to Valerie Warrior (1955) for helping to organise this. Around 25 Girtonians and their partners attended on a blisteringly hot day in May.

Girton in Singapore

The Mistress was delighted to meet a number of Girtonians when she visited Singapore in March 2009.

Her visit coincided with a reception for all Cambridge alumni living in Singapore, which was given by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Alison Richard) at Raffles Hotel. The Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, was the guest speaker, and many Cambridge alumni were present.



Back row: Samuel Venn, Deputy Development Director. Front: Wong Ford Long (2003), Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Thian Eng-San



The following day, the Mistress hosted a more informal drinks party for Girtonians and their guests in the Axis Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Thanks to everyone who the Mistress and the Deputy Development Director were fortunate to be able to meet there. The current Mistress, Professor Susan Smith, will be visiting Singapore in 2010.

Back row, left to right: Koh Buck-Song (1982), Rosa Koo (1970), Samuel Venn, Dr Bijayalaxmi Mohanty, Professor Sanjib Panda (1987). Front row: Li Mu (2005), Susan Leong (1982), Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Tan Yong-Nang (1980), Tan Xing-Yin, Chan Boon-Hui (1988)

Hong Kong Reception

The Mistress met alumni in Hong Kong in March, at both a Girton reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, and at the Friends of Cambridge University in

Hong Kong reception to mark the 800th Anniversary, at which the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alison Richard, was also present.



Left to right: Mrs Michelle Cheung, Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Ms Jessica Young (1983)

Girton in Australia

Following the various College and University events in Singapore and in Hong Kong, the Mistress travelled to Sydney.

Our thanks go to Gabrielle Graham (Kerr 1955) and her husband Doug for kindly hosting a wonderful luncheon party for a number of Girtonians and the Mistress at their home in Castle Cove on 27 March 2009.

Books

The Allotment Experience

Ruth Binney

A soar in demand for allotment plots has been reported in recent times, with long waiting lists in some areas. For those lucky enough to have an allotment plot or indeed a garden, the question is 'where to begin' when growing your own fruit and vegetables?

One Old Girtonian, Ruth Binney (Chanter, matriculated in 1962) knows a thing or two about allotments and has written a book full of tips and techniques to help the rest of us get back to our roots. Her book, 'The Allotment Experience' is based on Ruth's own first-hand experience. We thought we would ask Ruth a series of questions to discover more on the allotment experience.

Q. Why do you think there is an upsurge in demand for allotments?

A. It is partly due to the recession, as people are beginning to realise the value of home-grown fruit and vegetables when food prices are higher. Also, people are reassured by knowing exactly what has been used to grow the fruit and veg. they consume.

Q2. What are the benefits of having an allotment or vegetable patch?

A. Well, firstly there is the simple delight of growing things yourself, and the satisfaction that this provides. Specifically with allotments, there is the social aspect too.

Q3. Is it a sociable pastime or is it competitive?

A. It is sociable; people can share tips and advice. Of course, there are a few 'ace cultivators', who specifically grow fruit and vegetables to compete in shows and they can be very competitive, but generally it's sociable.

Q4. Do you grow any of your fruit and veg. for shows?

A. I am the Secretary of our Local Horticultural Society, and we have a couple of shows so I sometimes submit something for those, but generally I grow fruit and veg. to eat and enjoy in that way.

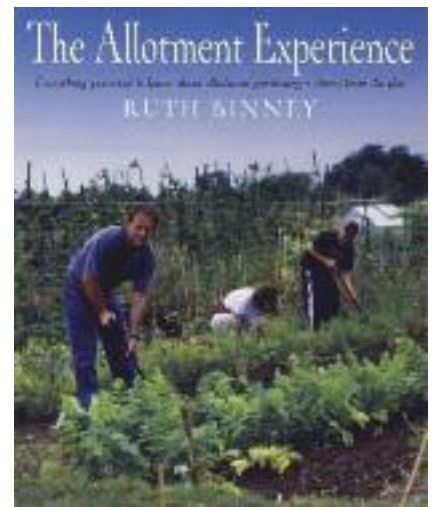
Q5. Have you ever won in the competitions you have competed in?

A. Well, I have won first prize for my autumn raspberries, rhubarb and some herbs too.

Q6. How long have you had an allotment and how did you get into cultivation?

A. I have had an allotment for 26 years now, as we got our first allotment in 1983. We initially acquired an allotment in Chiswick as a 50th birthday present for my husband. It was overgrown so we had to start from scratch, but working on it was very therapeutic.

Q7. What is the easiest fruit or vegetable for beginners to grow?



A. You can start with vegetables like radishes, spring onions as these come up quickly, and mange tout (but are best germinated indoors or in a cold frame). Easy fruit to start with includes autumn raspberries and rhubarb. You could also try spinach, rocket and coriander when first starting out.

Q8. What is a good size allotment for a busy person?

A. I think about 5 rods is a good size (a full size plot is 10 rods), and of course if you are really busy you could consider sharing your plot.

Q9. How much time do you need to cultivate an allotment plot?

A. You need to visit your plot on a regular basis, for instance 2 or 3 evenings a week during the summer and of course some time spent there most weekends. If you do not put the

time in, you will find weeds quickly growing and the plot will face a downward spiral of decline.

Q10. Do allotments get inspected by any authorities?

A. This depends on who owns the land, but quite often there are inspectors who supervise inspections once a year and if your plot has been neglected you will be issued a warning. If you fail to heed the warning then your plot will be given to someone else in the queue.

Q11. What have been your highs and lows on the plot?

A. One of the most frustrating times on the allotment plot was when I'd planted some brassicas and these were growing beautifully, but I forgot to put netting over them and the crop was destroyed by pigeons! A similar thing happened to my broadbeans. We went to collect the broadbeans to eat and found all the pods had been split open by squirrels. This sort of thing can be hard to prevent unless you barricade your plot!

One of the highest points of my time on allotments was when we had the most wonderful asparagus bed, which was just fantastic for cooking with and eating. I love cooking and to harvest

fruit and veg. from your own plot, and then a few minutes later cook with it, gives you such amazing fresh, delicious dishes. You really can't get any better. I organise my allotment so that every week of the year I will be able to harvest something to eat from it.

If you have been inspired to start growing fruit and veg. and would like to read more tips and advice from Ruth, her book is called 'The Allotment Experience' (Spring Hill is an Imprint of How to Books Ltd, ISBN 978-1-905862-26-9) and it is available at all good bookstores priced at £10.99 or at www.howtobooks.co.uk.

Gentlemen and Players: a review of Joseph O'Neill's *Netherland*

Joseph O' Neill's (Girton 1982) novel *Netherland*, published in 2008, was long-listed for the Man Booker prize and strongly tipped to win.

However, much to everyone's surprise, it did not even make the short list. Now all that disappointment is inconsequential, as the novel was recently identified by Barack Obama, in the New York Times Magazine, as his current read, and deemed 'an excellent novel' in his BBC interview with Justin Webb. Fair enough really, since O'Neill had, in January 2009, sent a message to Obama, which you can still see on http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/world_news_america/7821443.stm. Nevertheless a writer could happily die and go to heaven on such reportage. Obama's endorsement alone ensures record sales. And as far as literary acclaim is concerned, the novel has gone on to win the Pen/Faulkner award and the Kerry Group fiction award in 2009.

Joseph O'Neill read Law at Girton, and practised as a barrister for ten years before taking the leap into writing full-time. He relocated to New York with his wife, Vogue editor, Sally Singer, and lived with their three children in the Chelsea Hotel – of bohemian repute (think Arthur Miller, Andy Warhol, Leonard Cohen – to name but a few of its residents). He has written two other novels, *This is the Life* in 1991 and *The Breezes* in 1996. In addition he wrote *Blood-Dark Track: a Family History* in 2002, which won book of the year from both The Economist and The Irish Times. O'Neill was born in Cork in 1964 to an Irish father and a Turkish mother. His childhood was mostly spent in the Netherlands, and he was a boarder at the International School in The Hague.



Frances Gandy, Librarian and Curator

Netherland's narrative runs on two plot lines, both of which have at their centre Hans van den Broek, a Dutch equities analyst. The first strand concerns his family and the immediate impact on their lives of the events of 9/11. His wife, Rachel, appalled by the Bush administration's response, decides to take their son to England. The marriage begins to fracture. Already forced to leave their apartment by the events in Manhattan, Hans now finds himself cut adrift – his family gone and his

“For all of its apparent artificiality, cricket is a sport in nature ... Which may be why it calls for a naturalist’s attentiveness: the ability to locate, in a mostly static herd of white-clothed men, the significant action. It’s a question of looking.”

previously-familiar world unrecognisable. The impact of 9/11 and the impact of the marriage disintegration are thus irrevocably linked, and the necessity to make some sense of the one is connected with finding a way forward with the other. The second strand of the book follows the friendship Hans strikes up with Trinidadian, Chuck Ramkissoon, through a shared love of cricket. Hans discovers a sub-culture of cricket being played in the rough parks of Staten Island, with teams drawn from a plethora of ethnic groups. Chuck has an ambition to establish cricket as the great American sport, to build a world-class stadium in Brooklyn and get rich in the process. The scale of Chuck’s vision is mesmerising to Hans, but he gradually learns that Chuck’s real life is based on violence and scams. Chuck meets a savage death in the end, just as Hans is putting his family life back together.

The immigrant experience is at the heart of most American fiction in one way or another. Back at the beginning of the twentieth century, those fresh off the boat in John Dos Passos’ *Manhattan Transfer* jostled to shed their previous ethnicities, shouting ‘I want to be an American’. *Netherland* explores how the erosion of difference and the ease of transit and communication in our twenty-first-century world produce their own crises of identity. It demonstrates how the events of 9/11 not only destabilised the way in which Americans saw themselves – as perceived by others, but also challenged former identities – of what it meant to be ‘an

American’. The book examines the meaning of home and homeland, and how, once left, an originary home (however defined) eludes our grasp.

The cricket game acts as a metaphor for this conundrum or twist of perspective. It is unexpected, since we think rather of baseball as the iconic game for American fiction, as in DeLillo’s *Underworld* or even Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*. Cricket in the shabby fringes of Manhattan and on small scratch pitches is an image as anomalous and disjointed as Hans feels in his looking-glass world. But the beauty of the game prevails, not least through the lyricism of O’Neill’s impeccable writing. He writes of cricket like Thoreau wrote of Walden’s ponds.

For all of its apparent artificiality, cricket is a sport in nature ... Which may be why it calls for a naturalist’s attentiveness: the ability to locate, in a mostly static herd of white-clothed men, the significant action. It’s a question of looking.

For the duration of the game, the disparate, multi-ethnic players, like the crew of Melville’s *Pequod*, are ‘federated along one keel’, the keel that comprises the game of cricket. But like that notorious salty crew, they are all at base isolatos, and beyond the context of the game they fall back into disparity and difference. Robert Mugabe once said “I want everyone to play cricket in Zimbabwe. I want ours to be a nation of gentlemen”. Between the honour of

the game and honour in the world lies a fatal chasm. Off the pitch Chuck is a violent criminal who meets a violent end. *Netherland’s* cricket games hold up a mirror to the so-called civility of the world and find it wanting.

It might seem perverse to use a game to tell a tale of reality. Even the title cleverly holds that contradiction. ‘Nether land’ – a kind of underworld, both topographically and psychologically, slides with ‘The Netherlands’ as the nominal home or place of origin for the central character, who is however clearly without any home at all. And at the same time we can also hear the seductive but deadly tick-tock of a ‘Neverland’, a fantasy of eternal childhood, an American dream – or nightmare perhaps, from which it is now time to awake. In O’Neill’s ‘Note to Obama’ (see link above), he quotes Saul Bellow in order to identify what he hopes for most from Obama’s presidency “It takes a serious political life to keep reality real”. O’Neill continues “The most insidious feature of the Bush administration has been its assault on our sense of what is real ... My audacious hope is that you will restore reality to us”. Post 9/11, every new American novel was scanned urgently for some form of words that would help to make sense of what had happened, but one by one they disappointed – until O’Neill’s *Netherland*, a book which tells the story of a game and thereby enacts a reality.

Frances Gandy

Girton Choir tours USA for the first time!



Girton Choir at the Washington National Cathedral, U.S.A. (August, 2009)

The highlight of the Choir's year in 2008/9 was its summer tour of the East Coast of the USA.

This was only made possible by the generous support of alumni and friends of Girton, who donated to help with the costs of this tour. The tour covered a large amount of ground, beginning in Washington DC, where the choir sang at the National Cathedral and National shrine. Thanks to Girtonian Cynthia Walker (1967) for organising a poolside party for the choir and Washington alumni in her apartment buildings.

In-between Delaware, Philadelphia and New York members of the choir found time for a trip to the Six Flags

Adventure Theme Park, before performing at St Thomas Fifth Avenue, where Dana Marsh had formerly been a chorister. The Eucharist we sang here was webcast and followed by a sumptuous lunch laid on by alumni and friends of Girton, and organised by alumna Dr Ruth Whaley (1974).

After a brief stop in Norwalk, Connecticut to perform at St Paul's Episcopal Church on the Green, the Choir travelled to Portland, Maine. Here they spent three days recording the Choir's latest CD, 'The Feast Celestial' in St Luke's Cathedral; this includes music by Walton, Langlais, Messiaen, Vilette, Harris and Duruflé. The trip concluded in Boston.

The Choir's CD, 'The Feast Celestial', recorded whilst on this tour, is

available to purchase online at www.girton.cam.ac.uk/about/college-chapel-choir/feast-celestial/

The Choir also has its own facebook group, so please join if you want the latest news on concerts and tours! www.facebook.com/GirtonChoir



"Its a wrap!!" The choir in high spirits after the final recording session for the recent CD release, 'The Feast Celestial'

Girton Alumni Sports Association (GASA) launched

Girton Alumni Sports Association was launched in 2010, with a special reception at Lord's cricket ground. The aim of the association is to bring together alumni and students at Girton who are involved in sports. A report on the launch event will follow in the next Newsletter.

The group's Honorary President is Professor Sarah Springman OBE (1975). She is President of the British Triathlon Association, and spoke at the Sports Dinner in 2009. It has two co-chairmen, Mr Sebastian Fox (1982) and Ms Caroline Hamilton (1982).

GASA aims to promote the physical and mental wellbeing gained from combining sports and study, and further these aims within the College. Playing sport increases confidence, team-building and organisational skills and these qualities are nurtured by the College (as well as being highly sought-after by employers as a tangential benefit). Alumni can also assist students in practising their sport,



Sebastian Fox (1982), one of the co-chairs of GASA

for example with links for sponsorship, helping with coaching (as is already the case in rowing) and many alumni are already donating for new equipment or for projects such as the redevelopment of the sports pitches, and the new pavilion.

The College already has a number of alumni Vs current student fixtures, and clubs such as the Infidel Boat Club are a great model for networking between the generations. GASA will continue to support these activities but bring under the umbrella minority sports, and those which do not have a structure for ongoing events. GASA also aims to research the sporting history of the College and ensure that records are maintained, and to build up a photographic archive of sports at Girton.

If you have a photograph of your team, from any time in the past, please send a digital copy to the Development Office in preference, or if you do not have an electronic copy we will scan in your photograph. Please add the names of your team mates (or those you can remember) and include your name so we can return the photograph to you. We would like to build up an archive using online facilities such as flickr, so prospective students have a flavour of sports at Girton. GASA now has its own page on the College web site at: www.girton.cam.ac.uk/GASA

Class of 1979 reunion

Another anniversary
Girton celebrated in 2009 was the 30th anniversary of the admission of male undergraduates to the College.

Over 70 alumni of the class of 1979 and their guests attended a dinner to mark the occasion, and we were delighted that the College's first male organ scholar, John Longstaff, gave a special recital before the dinner, including pieces by Charpentier, Bach and Handel.



John Longstaff (1979), the College's first man to be a Girton organ scholar, playing before the 1979 reunion in the College chapel

Alumni Relations

War Years Book

An event was held last spring to celebrate the launch of the Girton Project Journal. The journal celebrates the lives of Girtonians from the wartime and interwar period.

The launch event was accompanied by a lunch hosted by Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, then Mistress, to which all alumnae who had contributed to the book were invited. The book was the culmination of a project started by Barbara Megson (1948) and Hilary Goy (Corke 1968), who had begun by sending a questionnaire out to the alumni of the war years.

To order a copy of the journal please email roll@girton.cam.ac.uk



One of the archival photos featured in the book, showing students setting off to work cultivating the land around Girton



Philip Francis, Naida Christie (Bentley 1946), Ruth Osborne (Lytton 1946), E. Anne Francis (Gilman 1946), Brenda Lang

Sport

Mens sana ...

The second Girton London Sports Dinner was held at the Oxford and Cambridge Club with the theme “Mens sana in corpore sano” (Juvenal AD 60-c130) or in modern jargon “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, all play and no work makes Jack a dull man (and Jill a dull woman)”!

As with the first dinner, there was a full house, this year with a higher proportion of more recent graduates, although we were honoured by a sprinkling of Girtonians from the period when it was an all women’s college.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Sarah Springman OBE, PhD, CEng, FICE, (Girton 1975), currently Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, Zurich, as our Guest Speaker. On the surface a surprising choice for a sports dinner, but Sarah Springman is no ordinary academic. While at Cambridge, she represented Cambridge in no less than 11 matches against Oxford in no less than 6 sports, lacrosse, tennis, squash, cross country, swimming and athletics.

Quite apart from a very distinguished academic life, her sporting history does not stop at the end of her time in Cambridge. She subsequently became an elite triathlete, (national Champion on 11 occasions, and a member of the British triathlon team from 1984-1993, European individual Champion 3 times and team champion on 5 occasions and member of the GB World Cup rowing team in 1997). Added to this, despite continuing with competitive rowing and triathlon, Sarah has moved into the realm of sports administration and politics, as Vice President of the *International*

Triathlon Union, Governor of the World Games, and currently not only President of British Triathlon, but a member of the British Olympic Committee, which successfully bid for London 2012.

In a delightfully sparkling speech Sarah explained how she had moved into endurance sports while she was working as a civil engineer in Fiji and was persuaded to enter a marathon with only negligible prior training. Many of these international events had taken place in interesting countryside and the whole experience had been both exciting and fulfilling. Among these, perhaps one of the most satisfactory result had been the time when a GB women’s team of four had competed against male fours representing both GB and America. The initial endurance swimming section was from Dover to Calais, with the cycling section from there to Paris. Each member was required to swim for hour periods in early summer Channel water. The GB women had beaten not only their male compatriots, but also the United States team. Within her administration role Sarah had thoroughly enjoyed the excitement of the Singapore meeting of the Olympic Committee at which the decision had been taken to award the 2012 Olympics to London.

John Marks, in the chair, thanked Professor Springman for her fascinating

speech and commented on what a superb role model Sarah was for all Girtonians, demonstrating how, by good organisation of time and effort it was possible to come out top in both work and “leisure”, even if the “leisure” required a lot of hard work.

He reported that he believed that the current Girton sports efforts, both male and female were certainly at an acceptable level in relation to other Cambridge Colleges. With the exception of the men’s Boat Race, in his time at Girton he had seen representatives at Blues level in all sports, male and female. In rowing not only had the Girton women produced a substantial proportion of the Blue Boat, including the President on at least three occasions, but Girton men had been regular members of the lightweights and Goldie crews.

Recently Crewdson field had been substantially extended to accommodate three full sized pitches for winter sports and a cricket square which was accepted as one of the best in Cambridge. He drew attention to the fact that donations to the pavilion fund had now exceeded half the required sum. He realised the difficulties arising from the global financial problems, but it was important that we should complete the upgrade of sports facilities

by building the pavilion, which provided not only changing and social facilities, but also gymnasium and ergo room, all on the Girton main site. The whole facilities were designed to be available to disabled as well as the able-bodied.

He reported that the College had recently established a Sports Captains

Committee chaired by Fran Malarée which would integrate the student activity. We should now establish a similar group that would represent the sporting Alumni. He was proposing the formation of GASA (Girton Alumni Sports Association) which would organise gatherings of Girton Alumni with sporting interests and support

social, advisory and financial activity for sport at Girton.

It was now time, in his opinion to push forward with the pavilion development. To donate to the pavilion fund please use the form in this Newsletter or email development@girton.cam.ac.uk

Lacrosse at Girton

There are a broad range of sports activities taking place at the College, and since it went mixed the main sports played have changed since the early days.

However, Girton has an important link with Lacrosse, as the lady who introduced the sport of Lacrosse into the UK, Dame Louisa Lumsden, was a Girtonian, and one of the College's first students in its foundation year of 1869. Whilst Headmistress of St Leonard's School, she watched the sport being played in Canada and introduced it into St Leonard's in 1890. It became a popular sport in girls' schools thereafter. We hope to commemorate this in an appropriate way, once the pavilion is built.

Currently, Girton boasts three University Lacrosse players, including the Vice-Captain, Angharad West, and has a newer Mixed-Lacrosse team as well as a College team which is a composite of students from Girton and King's College.



Left to right, all 1969 matriculants: Isabella Townshend, Sarah Woodhead, Emily Gibson. Seated left to right: Rachel Cook and Louisa Lumsden



The alumni and current student teams post-match photo.

Top row, from left to right: Mostafa Al-Mossallami, Andreas Hadjinicolaou, Jack Hylands, John Russell, Rob Calvert, Matt Levenston, Olly Russell, Tom Ithell, Chris Kingcombe, Mike Blake, Alfie Weston, Rob O'Brien, Tom Wainwright.

Alumni (in orange): Michael Winterton(2001), Ian Deacon (2000), Alex Muga (2003), Mark Campbell (1997), James Knibbs (2001), Greg Smyth (2001), John Bee (1999), Ashley Aarons (2003), Jack Youldon (2003), Joel Turner (2002), Robert Griffiths(2002), Richard Staff (2003), Geoff King (2004), JP Waiting (2004) Richard Apps (2000)

Old Boys' Football

The unveiling of a new and full-sized pitch proved sufficient carrot for the gathering of a strong and substantial old boys' squad this year, with fifteen seasoned maestros arriving on match day. The fog cloaking the virgin fields dispersed just prior to kick-off, as if God himself determined that a fixture of such magnitude should not be disturbed by the merely meteorological.

Indeed, the gloom perhaps would have allowed the alumni side to reap the full benefit of their choice of livery, a newly commissioned strip in lurid orange, bearing on every chest the adjective that at once described and bound together each player, 'old'.

The match began in unconventional and eye-catching style, the alumni quickly winning possession and indulging in a suicidal game of crossbar challenge.

Bemused and petrified by the audacity of a team prepared to lash forty-yard volleys at their own goal inside the first minute, the current Girton side were in no position to take advantage of the open goal that resulted, and the game's first chance went begging.

Sobered, the alumni began to exert a measure of control through a robust game plan requiring a minimum of physical outlay. Bob Griffiths and Mike Winterton, aided by Greg Smyth and

Joel Turner tucking in from the wide positions, secured ball in midfield and began to search for gaps behind the green backline.

This stretched the game and both defences were regularly tested. Richards Apps and Staff, Captain Youldon and Jamie Knibbs, a back four that saw service in the regulars from 03-05, stood strong and raised the physicality of the match with a series of thundering challenges. At the other

end, the current side's defence worked hard towards their own goal to counter the old boys' barrage of long balls.

It was that young defence however, which was broken first. A classy through ball from midfield released Alex Mugan, who rounded the keeper to score. The alumni lead though was short and full of trouble, and it was not long before Weston seized upon a loose ball at the edge of the box to lash an unstoppable strike past John Bee and into the top corner.

No further impression was made upon the (as yet imaginary, see Development Office Campaign for 2015) scoreboard in the first period, despite the dangerous presence of Geoff King on the alumni left. Twice 'The Sting' swept inside, and twice the keeper supplied solid stops to strong strikes.

Rallied by the stirring words of Captain Jack Youldon, and calmed by their wealth of combined experience, the old boys emerged confidently for the second half. Winterton, laughing off the customary shinpads, was moved into a more advanced role, where he made an immediate impact, causing the mistake which left Mugan with an easy chance to restore the lead.

It seemed as though the two goals would do the job, with Staff and Youldon, a harmonious combination of pace and tackling with aerial ability and positioning, sweeping aside the current side's attacks. Yet the pressure was mounting, for the price of so much experience is tired legs, and despite the sterling work of Mark Campbell at full-back, and the rugby-football hybrid Waiting in midfield, the greens found an equaliser ten minutes from the death.

Girton broke down the left, and whilst the other twenty players on the pitch were momentarily stunned by the brutality of Apps' challenge, an excellent advantage by heroic volunteer referee Simon Burdus was exploited by the alert Hylands to level the scores.

Both sides pushed hard for the winner. Turner and Smyth drove forward from the alumni midfield, almost forging or getting on the end of several half-chances, whilst at the other end the defence, supported by the solid Bee, held firm behind their tiring team mates.

Yet there was to be a fairytale finish, and it was Jamie Knibbs who went to the ball. He latched onto Ian Deacon's driven cross after the same had jinked



John Russell (left) and Jamie Knibbs (2001) in action for the alumni footballers

past his marker inside the box. The defender piled through the covering Girton defence to slide home the winner, and with no time for reply, the affair was settled.

The strategically selected and perfectly named Fran Malarée Mug was presented by the winners to themselves, and graciously accepted by Youldon, and the match was followed by an unprecedented football turnout at the old boys' dinner, which proved to be an excellent occasion featuring several important and profound speeches.

The team would like to thank Simon Burdus, heroic volunteer referee, for stepping into a last-minute and unappealing breach and performing outstandingly. Also Fran Malarée and the Development Office, for outstandingly organising the match, buffet and dinner. Finally, the team would like to thank the excellent current team, who battled in the absence of key players, and will be welcome additions to the orange line-up as soon as they become sufficiently ancient.

Bring on next year, and the defence of the newly inaugurated Mug.

Alex Mugan (2003)



Dan Samuel (left) and Peter Quentin (2002) in the rugby

A new experience for the Boat Club

July 2009 saw, for the first time, the Girton men's 1st VIII rowing in the Ladies Plate at Henley Royal Regatta.

The crew this year was a very good one, keen and experienced who had achieved three good bumps in the Mays, and their Coach Alex Ross (1982) felt that the experience would be very good for them. The exposure of the Girton rowing colours to the cognoscenti lining the banks at the enclosures would encourage applicants with rowing experience to consider Girton rather than some of the more established Cambridge rowing colleges.

It is after all only just 30 years since a Girton mens VIII first appeared on the Cam in the seventh division of the Mays and this year they moved into the first division of the Lents and are challenging for the first division of the Mays.

Not that Girton had not tried for the HRR previously. As early as 1984 a combined IV from Girton and Trinity Hall and in 1997 an eight had tried but failed to pass the qualifying stage.

To celebrate the occasion, the College gave a formal dinner party at the Leander Club in honour of the crew, attended by the new CEO of Leander (Paul Budd OBE).

Tom Stallard (2008 Olympic Silver Medallist and ex CUBC President) spoke at dinner in which Alex Ross and the crew were welcomed and given some excellent rowing advice.

To make sure that the men did not get too swollen headed Aileen McLeish (1976) reminded those sitting near her that in 1978, just before men had arrived and upset things, the Mays women's first division had read from the top Girton I; Newnham I, and that in the Fairbairns in the previous



Preparing to race

Michaelmas term Girton I had overtaken men's crews as well as beating the other women's crews. Those were the days.

So what was the result of the first race by Girton at Henley Royal Regatta? They were beaten by a London Rowing Club and Henley Rowing Club combined VIII with much more experience, and many kilos heavier, to boot. But "we gained good experience, we enjoyed ourselves – and we'll train harder and be back!"

John Marks



Girton's first VIII racing at Henley

And on the Cam

Since Mays 2007 Girton M1 have gone up 8 in the Mays, leading them to rise from 14th to 6th in Mays division 2. In the Lents, up 3 from 6th in Division 2 in 2008 was followed by blades in 2009, securing a place in Men's division 1. This was thanks to the coaching, provided on a voluntary basis, by David Lodge and Stephen Matthew of the City of Cambridge Rowing Club. In 2010 the men's place was consolidated further as the first men moved up to 14th place.

The support of alumni has enabled the purchase of a four, new blades (through a sponsored erg) and funding for Henley – and the great results wouldn't have happened without it.



Girton's first women's VIII pictured at the boat house having bumped LMBC during 2010 Lent bumps

The Girton women have also had a good year, and are still high up in the first division in the Mays, though they dropped down to 7th place. Katie Wood (2005) was captain of Blondie, the reserve crew which beat Oxford in 2009. In 2010 there are three

Girtonian rowers in the CUWBC squad, including Constance Daggett, who will be in the women's blue boat hoping to beat Oxford.

We are now fundraising for a new women's VIII. Although Girton has some endowed funds to support rowing, there is not enough income from these for the regular replacement of equipment as well as covering running costs. All coaches of the boat club do so on a voluntary basis. If you would like to donate, please contact development@girton.cam.ac.uk, or see our justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/gcgc

If you would like to get more involved or could volunteer to coach please contact the infidelbc@girton.cam.ac.uk

GCBC would like to thank all those who already support the boat club through donating, the Infidels, our coaches, especially David Lodge, Stephen Matthew and Alex Ross, and our sponsors, PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Girton 1st Men's VIII after winning blades in Lents 2009, with boatman Tim Rhodes and coaches David Lodge and Stephen Matthew

Events Calendar 2010

For more events' information, and updates, please see www.girton.cam.ac.uk/development/

Friday 23 April

Monteverdi Vespers Concert

at Girton – please see

www.girton.cam.ac.uk/monteverdi for details

Thursday 6 May

People's Portraits

10th Anniversary Event at Mall Galleries – see website

Saturday 8 May

Life After the Main Career

Workshop

Thursday 20 May

Alumni Formal Hall

Saturday 12 June

May Bumps Saturday and GCBC Marquee

Saturday 10 July

Roll Buffet Lunch

Saturday 10 July

Dinner for donors (by invitation only)

Saturday 11 September

35 Year Reunion

for those who matriculated in 1975

Saturday 11 September

30 Year Reunion

for those who matriculated in 1980

Saturday 18 September

25 Year Reunion

for those who matriculated in 1985

Saturday 18 September

20 Year Reunion

for those who matriculated in 1990

Saturday 25 and
Sunday 26 September

University Alumni Weekend and Roll dinner

Saturday 27 November

Old boys' football and rugby match

Football and rugby dinner in Hall

Donors' Dinner 2010

Please note that due to strict Gift Aid regulations enforced by HM Revenue and Customs, invitations to the Donors' Dinner from this year onwards will only be extended to those who give at a certain level or above. We apologise if this causes any disappointment.

Old Girtonians Honours

New Year Honours 2009

DBE

Anne Owers, (Spark 1965), HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, for services to the Criminal Justice System.

CBE

Lady Vaizey (Stansky 1959), Art Critic, for services to the Arts.

Professor Kathleen Costeloe (1966), Professor of Paediatrics at Homerton University Hospital, London, for services to Medicine in London.

Professor Linda Colley (1975), Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History at Princeton, for services to Historical Studies. Her husband, David Cannadine, was knighted in the 2009 New Year's Honours

OBE

Professor Carole Hillenbrand (Jordan 1962), Professor of Islamic History, University of Edinburgh, for services to Higher Education.

MBE

Katharine Coleman (Mackenzie 1967), Glass Artist and Engraver, for services to Glass Engraving.

New Year Honours 2010

KCVO

The Right Reverend David Conner (Honorary Fellow 1995), Dean of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

OBE

Susan Hall (1971), Chief Officer, West Yorkshire Probation Office.

MBE

Margaret Lee (2002), Chief Executive, CRESCO Trust, for services to Social Enterprise in Northern Ireland.

Stephanie Wilson (Waller 1961), Governor of Newland School for Girls, Hull; for voluntary service to Education and to the Community in Kingston-upon Hull.

Catherine Cullis (1972), former Director, Churches Conservation Trust, for services to the Conservation of Ecclesiastical Heritage.



Girton College Cambridge

Development Office

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