The story of Girton turns on housekeepers who care, prize-winning chefs, and staff who feel part of the family. It is inspired by a thriving Fellowship; a social and scholarly community whose cutting-edge research underpins a fine programme of teaching. And then there is the heartbeat of it all – successive cohorts of students – who inspire us with their energy, exuberance, enthusiasm and achievement. Scholarship, sport, arts, entertainment; an emphasis on excellence, celebrating breadth as well as depth: Girton has it all! So far, so good.

The worst of times... there’s the rub. Higher education has an uncertain financial future, and Girton is no exception. We are, indeed, entering a second year of cuts. Key budget-holders are working miracles to bring operating costs into line. And there are tougher times ahead, especially for an institution so committed to equality and diversity; so determined to keep its doors open to anyone with a passion for learning and the potential to succeed. Fees are set to rise, and our bursaries will be stretched. Teaching resources will be thinly spread, and College will respond. There will, I trust, be no compromise on the quality and content of the ‘Girton experience’. In fact, thanks to the support of alumni and friends, together with some far-sighted thinking in the bursary, we are managing both to tighten our belts and entertain ambitious plans. College is gradually, systematically and wholeheartedly, going ‘green’. We are actively raising funds to enhance the Fellowship – boosted by the matching funds donated anonymously to support our most pressing teaching needs. And when the time is right, we have building plans on College’s main site, including the new sports pavilion.

In the meantime, you only have to glance through the pages of this newsletter to appreciate the vibrancy, diversity and sheer sense of momentum that infuses College life.

This year alone we are announcing a national poetry prize, hosting world premiere performances, mounting new lecture series and profiling core subjects. But this is only possible because we are in partnership with you. Now more than ever we appreciate those generations of Girtonians who had the foresight to build up the endowment, protecting us against economic shocks and policy shifts. Whether through gifts of money, time, vision or enthusiasm, this tradition of philanthropy is what breathes life into the spirit of Girton. Thank you!
Girton: The financial story

The College is funded by a mixture of public and private resources. Girton’s endowment was affected by the economic recession, but has now recovered, from £39 million as at 30 June 2009, to £49 million as at 30 June 2010. The College’s net assets (total wealth) are valued at £105 million, if the value of its land and building assets are added to the endowment sum.

Girton’s assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings, furniture and fittings</td>
<td>£64 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment (investment capital)</td>
<td>£49 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less creditors</td>
<td>£8.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>£104.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 over £1 million per year, which means the College runs an operating deficit in most years (but not normally a cash deficit). This deficit can be funded only by using up capital – a situation that is unsustainable in the long-run.

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income source</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2008/9</th>
<th>2007/8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees (constrained by government)</td>
<td>£2.3 million</td>
<td>£2.1 million</td>
<td>£2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and conference income</td>
<td>£3.3 million</td>
<td>£3.5 million</td>
<td>£3.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income (including income from endowment)*</td>
<td>£2.2 million</td>
<td>£2.2 million</td>
<td>£2.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£7.8 million</td>
<td>£8 million</td>
<td>£8.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This excludes cash income from donations, which thanks to alumni and friends totalled over £2 million in the last financial year, as these are mostly added to endowment capital.

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of expenditure</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2008/9</th>
<th>2007/8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>£3.4 million</td>
<td>£3.2 million</td>
<td>£2.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence, catering (conference and student)</td>
<td>£5.5 million</td>
<td>£5.8 million</td>
<td>£5.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of buildings included in above expenditure</td>
<td>£1.3 million</td>
<td>£1.3 million</td>
<td>£1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£8.9 million</td>
<td>£9 million</td>
<td>£8.2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 disproportinate share of the cost of collegiate Cambridge, as it directly employs many teaching officers rather than relying on university-funded posts.

Projects update

The College received just over £2 million in new donations and pledges in the financial year ending June 2010, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends.

Many of the donations were to support teaching, and to date over £1 million has been pledged in the most recent financial year for teaching support. This excludes the matching fund which is still available for those donating to support teaching in Economics, English, History, Mathematics, Modern and Medieval Languages and Law.

The College received over £2 million in new donations and pledges in the financial year ending June 2010, thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, and we are conscious that it is this same philanthropic spirit that will secure our financial future. The need in teaching has become especially acute with the cut in Arts and Humanities funding (for all of the UK’s universities) from £2.7 billion to £700 million.

Girton is prominent in the ‘value-added’ league tables. We are proud that, thanks to the investment we make into teaching, Girtonians achieve degrees measurably better than their school grades predicted.

Despite financial constraint, Girton has an ambitious teaching programme, supporting all subjects and with a commitment to equality and diversity in access, experience and achievement.

The tuition fee, which will come into place in 2012, will unfortunately only cover the sum which has been lost by the government funding cut, and therefore generates no extra funds for teaching. In addition to this, some of the funds raised from the fee will rightly be allocated to bursaries, which leaves less allocation to support the supervision system which is so central to the Cambridge experience.

Sports pavilion building to commence! We are delighted that after a few years of fundraising, Girton has reached the target to be able to begin work on its new pavilion on the Crewdson Field. Although the building will commence in 2011, fundraising for the project is ongoing up until completion which is due in 2012. We are grateful to all of
those who have supported the project up until now, which will give Girton the best on-site sports facilities of any college.

The first element of the sports pavilion project was completed in 2008, when the new pitches were relaid. The College now boasts a full-size rugby pitch and a full-size football pitch.

The Jane Elizabeth Martin Fellowship Fund and Jane Elizabeth Martin Poetry Prize

A new fund to support teaching in English has been established, thanks to the generosity of the Martin family. Jane Elizabeth Martin sadly died last year, and her father, Professor Sir Laurence Martin, has dedicated a Fellowship fund in her memory. The Jane Elizabeth Martin Fellowship Fund will enable us to support one of the Fellowships in English, the other is supported by the Bradbrook Fellowship.

Jane Martin, who was up in 1978, studied Classics and loved literature. In later life she wrote poetry and short stories. She worked as an editor of the prestigious Review of Economic Studies, and was active in a number of reading and poetry groups in London.

Additionally, Jane Martin’s family has also generously established a national poetry prize of £1000 to be based at Girton. The Jane Martin Girton Poetry Prize will open in January and will be open to any poet writing in the English language. More details are available on the College web site at www.girton.cam.ac.uk/poetryprize

Economics at Girton

Economics at Girton has a strong academic history. The most notable alumna in this respect is Joan Robinson (1903-1983) (Maurice, 1922). By many experts since, she is thought to have been deserving of the Nobel Prize for Economics for her work on imperfect competition and her lifetime of diverse contributions to the economic discipline, including neo-Ricardian economics, development economics and being an original ‘disciple’ of J.M. Keynes.

The College has a lively economics society, named after Joan Robinson, and this hosts termly events, which have included guest alumni speakers such as Rachel Lomax (Salmon, 1963), former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Colm O’Shea (1989) Founder of Comac Capital, and Colin Grasse (1980), CEO of Deutsche Bank UK, in the last year.

Girton has now established a five-year Joan Robinson Research Fellowship in Heterodox Economics, which is jointly funded by College and the Cambridge Political Economy Society Trust (CPEST – a charity established by the Cambridge Political Economy Society, producer of The Cambridge Journal of Economics, Contributions to Political Economy and Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society). This has a teaching component (six hours) compensated for by its longer run, and represents part of our wider commitment to erasing the often artificial boundary between teaching and research positions in the interests of more rounded career-building.

There are usually 10 Economics undergraduates in each year. The teaching is led by an established Director of Studies, Dr Clive Lawson and by Dr Kamiar Mohaddes, who is an expert in resource price modelling and the oil sector.

Excellent teaching and the Ellen McArthur bursaries, which reward Firsts and upper seconds, have made Economics one of the most successful subjects in the College. This quality is reflected in last year’s results, with all Girtonians securing a 2:1 or better in the subject with several first-class scores.

At a time when understanding the economy has never been more urgent, Girton seeks to support, expand and widen its programme of work on economics and finance. This is challenging as only a little over half the academic staff in the Department of Economics choose to hold college positions, and there is a gap to fill if Girton is to cement its leading role in the discipline.

Girton has embarked on a campaign led by alumni donations to endow at least one of its teaching positions in Economics, a funding need which is even more acute now that government support to the funding of all arts and humanities teaching has been removed. Endowment of a full-time post in perpetuity, including the costs of pension and career progression is £1.5 million. As one of College’s core teaching needs, the subject is eligible for matched funding from Girton’s anonymous donor. This initiative will be more widely publicised with a speaker event in London featuring notable alumni from Girton working in the financial industry.

An independent, philanthropically funded post (which could be named) is essential to the continuing success of Economics at Girton.
Supporting Girton through a legacy

Throughout our history, legacies have been of tremendous benefit to Girton College. Our early benefactors gave generously during and after their lifetimes and the names of our founders are remembered today in the prizes and scholarships that are still awarded in their names.

Generations of alumni and their families have continued to create funds to remember friends and former tutors. Students are benefiting today from legacies which enable them to come to Girton to study and make the most of the opportunities we offer.

There are a number of different ways in which you can make provision for Girton in your Will. A pecuniary bequest is a simple legacy of a specific sum of money left to a named beneficiary, which can be index-linked to preserve its value. A residuary bequest can be used to leave all, or part, of the residue of your estate to the College.

A reversionary bequest is a mechanism that leaves your assets to a named individual for their lifetime, after which the whole, or a specified proportion thereof, reverts to the College. Bequests to Girton, which is a Registered Charity, are exempt from Inheritance Tax, and thus can be used to leave a significant proportion of your estate.

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about making a legacy to Girton, please contact either Fran Malaree or Sam Venn in the Development Office, who will be happy to help you. You may also like to download our legacy brochure from our website, or call the Development Office and we will send you a copy.

Thanking our donors – the 1869 Society

The 1869 Society remembers the date of our foundation, and honours those who have made provision for College in their Will.

The Society’s first event is a luncheon party in College on Saturday 14 May 2011. Everyone who has notified us of a legacy will be invited.

If you’re not sure whether we know your intentions, or if you would like to inform us that you have added Girton to your Will, please contact Samuel Venn in the Development Office for a confidential discussion. You can also complete the legacy pledge form in the donation forms in the centre of this publication.

Introducing new colleagues

We are delighted that we have a new member of the Development team, Tamsin Elbourn, and a new colleague working on College communications as PR co-ordinator, Andy Allen.

Tamsin Elbourn is the Mistress’s Office and Development Assistant at Girton, working in each office respectively in the mornings and afternoons. Her responsibilities include assisting the Development Director and the Mistress particularly with College events and administration. She read history at the University of Leeds, and spent a year volunteering for an Arts charity based in Letchworth and also worked as a booking agent for a folk and poetry project. Tamsin dances with Tabeya Egyptian Dance company and Origins Latin Dance Company in her spare time.

Andrew Allen has been appointed Public Relations Co-ordinator for the College. Employed on a part-time basis, his role is to help the College better communicate its strengths.

Alumni wanted for BBC documentary

The BBC is researching a documentary about the experiences of people who studied at Cambridge around 20 years ago and who are currently aged around 40. If you were at the University in the years around 1988 to 1992, and you would be happy to help with the research by contributing your thoughts about studying at Cambridge and the effect the University has had on your lives, please get in touch with the research team via email at shanty.soorasegaram@bbc.co.uk or call 020 8008 4931.

The Mistress delivers the Tanner Lectures at Clare Hall

The Mistress delivered the prestigious Tanner Lectures hosted by Clare Hall, in November 2010. The theme of the Mistress’s lecture was ‘Care-full markets: miracle or mirage’, focusing on possibility of producing more equitable outcomes for mortgage and housing markets in the developed world. A video of the lectures is online on the College website at: www.girton.cam.ac.uk/fellows-and-staff/mistress
2010 Telethon – ‘Every little helps!’

The Easter vacation of 2010 saw the 10th telephone campaign taking place in College. The campaign is now very established and it is always fantastic when we receive correspondence from alumni who specifically ask to be called in each telethon because they enjoy speaking to our student callers so much.

13 students stayed in College in March to call just under 1,000 alumni in the run up to Easter. Students chatted to Old Girtonians about upcoming events and the latest College news, as well as collecting feedback on publications and events. Through the campaign, we also sought support for our priority projects. We were delighted that over half the Old Girtonians we spoke to decided to support such projects.

Thanks to the generosity and support from so many Old Girtonians, we raised just over £155,000, making it the second most successful telethon to-date. Due to the recent global economic instability, which has affected many of us in some way or another, some felt that they would be unable to make a significant impact. However, this is not the case because if every Old Girtonian just gave £10 we would raise £90,000, which could make a real difference to our College community. So it was greatly appreciated when many Old Girtonians chose to give a modest gift, which collectively amounted to a very generous amount.

Girton has launched a Sustainability Fund to respond to the need for carbon-neutral buildings. This fund will be used both to improve existing buildings’ energy consumption, and will be used when developing new building projects such as the sports pavilion. The latter is envisaged as a carbon-neutral building which will use solar energy and where possible ‘grey water’.

This initiative is also tied in to fundraising for a prize for students who are researching low energy consumption buildings, which will be interdisciplinary but it is hoped will involve engineers, architects and those interested in the urban environment. It is hoped that it could start off with £1000 per year, and will help Girton students or research teams led by Girtonians develop their ideas. Should the fund grow, College hopes that it will be the start of a prize that could lead students and recent graduates to launch products or companies.

Girton has a number of alumni working in the ‘clean-tech’ sector. For example, Dr Shaun Fitzgerald (1986) was recently featured in the Annual Review, showcasing his work on Breathing Buildings, a spin-off company from his research. On the social side of encouraging sustainable behaviour, Dr Neil Jennings (1999) runs Student Switch Off, a national charity giving students incentives to be green.

With a growing need for sustainability, financial and environmental in College and the wider world, the prize and fund underline our commitment to a (Girton) greener future.

Of course, the sports pavilion is only one of our priority projects. Other priorities include: the Teaching Support Fund, which will match gifts from alumni and other sources at a ratio of one to one for the long-term endowment of teaching provision in College; the College Endowment Fund, to ensure College can operate sustainably in the long-term; Postgraduate Bursaries and Childcare Bursaries; and the Girton Futures Fund, to widen access to Girton. If you would like to see more information on our priority funds or to see the 2011 student callers, please visit www.girton.cam.ac.uk/telethon/.

College is tremendously grateful for all the support that alumni have offered to this campaign, whether it is of a financial nature or volunteering time/support for different projects. All gifts will be spent according to the donors’ wishes.

Verity Armstrong, Annual Fund Officer

A Girton green future?

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The Friends of the Lawrence Room Lecture – the first of its kind – welcomed Christopher Evans, BA MA MIFA FSA, Executive Director of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, as its first speaker. His talk was entitled, ‘Girton’s Cemetery in Context: The results of the Northwest Cambridge Archaeological Survey’.

It was an ideal start for the inaugural lecture, as Chris Evans’ talk gave an overview of what has so far been discovered in the area between the outskirts of town opposite the College across to the Madingley Road, highlighting some of the archaeological finds and the issue of gravel pits in the area. His estimate of the high population level in the late Roman period was impressive. He also discussed how the Northwest Cambridge project is providing an opportunity to undertake a vast and systematic archaeological survey of this large area, which was earlier part of a Roman settlement.

In looking at the Anglo-Saxon graves that were discovered in College’s grounds he suggested that the Lawrence Room’s stone lion head may have come from a temple since some of the later Saxon graves were lined with cut stone, which appears to have been taken from a nearby earlier Roman construction. Hypotheses for the layout of Roman roads were also outlined.

At the end of the talk, the speaker left us with the challenge of finding out what other interesting things might be hidden under Girton’s grounds...

Christopher Evans addressing Friends of the Lawrence Room, in the Fellows’ Drawing Room, Girton (composite photograph)

The ‘Stony in Bloom’ project has been very successful, not only has it won the 2010 Britain in Bloom small town category award for the region, but it has also been put forward to the National Finals for 2011. So there was a lot of food for thought on how each of us could make some sort of difference – whether we choose to have a small ‘wild’ section in our garden or help our local areas to become better environments.

Matthew Schellhorn (1995)

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Jenny’s talk, ‘From the garden to the wild – conservation and community gardening’ was very engaging and everyone went away feeling inspired. Jenny talked us through her background and how she became interested in wildlife conservation - from her walks around Girton’s grounds as a student through to the fantastic voluntary work she is now doing with The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and other conservation groups. She talked about unusual plants she had come across and even how she and her colleagues have been trying to encourage Britain’s dormouse population, with very memorable and somewhat cute illustrations.

Jenny has also been very involved in community gardening in Stony Stafford. The ‘Stony in Bloom’ project has been very successful, not only has it won the 2010 Britain in Bloom small town category award for the region, but it has also been put forward to the National Finals for 2011. So there was a lot of food for thought on how each of us could make some sort of difference – whether we choose to have a small ‘wild’ section in our garden or help our local areas to become better environments.

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The life of a recent graduate

The last year has been a challenging one for many people, with the impacts of the global economic downturn being felt far and wide. So what does the world look like to someone who has recently graduated from Girton (July 2010)? We thought we would speak to Anna Heaton to see what life has in store for her as a recent graduate.

Anna came up to Girton in 2007 to read History. She has been a very familiar face around College over the last three years as Anna has really put her all in to College life. When asked what her favourite thing about Girton is, she says, “It’s definitely the people – the students, the Fellows, the staff – Girton is a community and not just a College. It has a great supportive network as a result and the amount of opportunities it provides students is great – you can have a go at whatever you like”.

As well as working hard, Anna has certainly tried her hand at many extra-curricular activities – she was Women’s Football Captain, a player on the Girton women’s hockey and rugby teams, and she rowed for College. In addition to sport, she was on the 2010 Spring Ball Committee; she was the JCR Green Officer and was also the Wolfson Court Representative. “These extra-curricular activities, in addition to my academic work, have helped me become accustomed to multi-tasking and managing my time effectively, as well as giving me the confidence and self-motivation to have a go at anything,” Anna says. “In particular, playing sports at Girton fostered a different skill set to that gained from my degree. Sports allowed me to be part of a team, enhance my leadership skills and meet a variety of people. For example in the boat club you can row with alumni, staff and Fellows, which is a great opportunity to get to know the wider community.”

Both her degree and her extra-curricular activities have put her in good stead to get a job as a graduate, but it is not an easy time for graduates in the job market even so, “You have to become more resourceful with how you spend your time”. And that is exactly what she is doing – not only is Anna holding down three jobs while she is looking into doing a Masters degree, but she is also finding time to be the Director of a new charity, Impact Kenya, which has been set up by Anna and Co-Director, Marianne Brazier.

Impact Kenya is a registered charity dedicated to changing the lives of those from impoverished communities in Nakuru, Kenya. It is currently channelling its funds and energy in the following ways:

• Access to education – arranging sponsorship for children from the slum areas of the town to ensure they are attending school and receiving school meals.

• Access to healthcare – helping people with costs of accessing healthcare (transport and hospital fees) and striving to ensure that communities are informed of their rights to healthcare, including running a health education programme in some of the slum communities.

• Promoting positive social behaviour – encouraging healthy social behaviour by running a local football team for the youths in the area. This is helping to curb anti-social behaviour and encourage academic attendance and achievement.

Anna was inspired to set-up the charity with Marianne after she spent her gap year working in a slum school and surrounding community projects in Nakuru. Anna was appalled by the corruption she saw out there and I wanted to find a way to channel all the positive energy and funds of volunteers and donors in a direction which would minimise the opportunity for money to go astray. One strength of Impact Kenya is its determination to stay transparent in all its activities to the extent that you can sponsor an individual child, and as part of that sponsorship receive a precise breakdown of costs, including receipts for school fees, uniforms etc. This personal approach means you can see real life-changing results.”

Impact Kenya is currently sponsoring eight children between the ages of 6-16 to go to school and is taking volunteers to work in community projects over both Easter and Summer. The charity employs a full-time community worker named Jose Kamau, whose role is to report weekly on the progress of the sponsored children and their educational progress. Jose is a local from the Nakuru community so he is able to determine who has the greatest need for the charity’s help.

As you can see, Anna is a very busy graduate, and with such passion and determination we are sure that she is going to make a great difference to the world over the next few years, like so many Girtonians before her. We look forward to hearing about the tremendous work that Impact Kenya does over the coming years and if you would like to find out more about the work Anna is doing through the charity, then Anna would be happy to hear from you. Her email is Anna.heaton@cantab.net.

Anna Heaton (2007), on left, with co-founder Marianne Brazier
Gavin Shuker MP (Labour) was elected to represent Luton South at the 2010 General Election. Born and raised in Luton, he studied Social and Political Sciences at Girton 2000-2003, he worked for a church in Luton before being elected to Westminster.

What made you want to go into politics?
I studied politics at Girton, though I never had a back of an envelope plan to go into politics. When I moved back home to Luton, I joined the Labour Party. My Labour predecessor was caught up in the expenses scandal and was forced to step down - and I chose to step up.

What is it like being a new boy in the House of Commons?
This parliament is packed with new boys and new girls, due to the turnover caused by the expenses crisis. And on the whole we all get on very well. There’s no shortage of things to learn!

What do you feel are the most important challenges facing Britain today?
The key decision of this parliament was clearly about how to reduce the deficit. Labour took a more cautious route, while the coalition has taken a risky and radical path. Everything else is noise – and it spins out of this single decision. If I had to pick a few issues however, funding higher education; who runs the NHS and how we will tackle poverty, not just benefits, would all be on the list.

Did your time at Girton/Cambridge have any influence on your political outlook? Were any activities you were involved with as a student relevant to political life?
I’m sure my time at Cambridge had an impact on my political outlook, though I was forged as a left-winger in the recession of the early 1990s. I saw my community torn apart by the policies of the government of the time and came to conclude that people can’t be simply left to sink or swim. Interestingly however, I didn’t get involved in student politics at all. I’m told Tony Blair took the same approach!

How would you answer the challenge of funding UK Higher Education? (Supplementary: are tuition fees a good thing?)
I was opposed to tuition fees when they were introduced in 1998, and again when they increased in 2004. Accepting the principle of co-payment however, where the state and the student both make a contribution, I believe a Graduate Tax is a vastly more equitable solution. The Coalition’s plan triples student debt but only serves to fill the black hole caused by government cuts.

Do you think parliament needs to be more representative – if so, how would you get more people of different backgrounds to become MPs?
Parliament should be more representative, no question. Although the mix of women and men and ethnic diversity is important, I actually believe it will only be truly representative when local communities elect genuinely local MPs. I’m a born and bred Lutonian, and I represent the seat I go back home to each night.

What are your views on reform of the electoral system?
I’ll be voting ‘No’ in the forthcoming AV referendum. It’s a distraction, only in place to please the Lib Dems – although even Nick Clegg has described it as a ‘miserable little compromise’. It’s safe to say I’ve finally found a policy area which unites me and the Tories!
Baroness Kennedy – one of the country’s leading experts in human rights law, civil liberties and constitutional issues – spoke on the subject of power and democracy in a globalised world at the 54th Founders’ Memorial Lecture at Girton. Speaking to a packed Old Hall, with an additional audience viewing via videolink in the Stanley Library (the first time this has taken place for a Founders’ Memorial Lecture) she was critical of the institutions that emerged in the post Cold War world after the fall of the Berlin Wall, both on an international and domestic level. There was a lively debate after her talk, centering on how people could empower themselves more effectively, and numerous questions centering on the democracy movements in the Middle East and the contentious issue of university tuition fees.

A video of the Founders’ Memorial Lecture is available on the College website and a full report will appear in the Annual Review.
Room by Emma Donoghue
Reviewed by Frances Gandy

The novel has a brave agenda in several respects. First of all, the idea for it was triggered by news of the Josef Fritzl case, in which it emerged that Fritzl had locked his daughter in a basement for 24 years, had raped her repeatedly and fathered seven children on her, three of whom remained imprisoned with her. That fact in itself would appear to offer a potentially harrowing narrative, and it also brought pre-publication accusations that the novel might be lurid and voyeuristic. However the novel is not harrowing, or at least not in the way one might expect, and it is certainly neither lurid nor voyeuristic. This is because Donoghue’s main focus is on the relationship between mother (Ma) and child (Jack), and of how Ma pours everything into constructing a secure and imaginative world for this child, who was born in a room eleven foot by eleven foot, and for whom that room is all he has ever known.

Ma was captured, imprisoned and raped by her captor, and Jack is the result. Mother and son continue to live confined in the same small space, and the book opens as Jack is about to mark his fifth birthday. The story is told through Jack’s eyes, and in Jack’s language, and thus we learn how a world and the language of that world may be constructed or moulded by others. In an interview with The Guardian Donoghue says, “The newspaper reports of Felix Fritzl, aged five, emerging into a world he didn’t know about, put the idea into my head. That notion of the wide-eyed child emerging into the world like a Martian coming to Earth: it seized me”. Ma has focussed on making Jack feel safe and secure and in preventing him from realising that he is a captive. To do so she has to convey the sense that the room is the world, that there is no outside and inside, that the world of ’Room’ is all that is the case. She has dedicated herself to an educative and imaginative regime which imbibes every corner and every object in their space with special significance - from ‘Melody Spoon’ to ‘Bug’ - this world is full of characters and events. Clearly however, as Jack becomes more aware, such maternal control of perception and experience will not be sustainable, and the novel moves to a point of crisis in which drastic action must be taken.

Through Jack’s eyes we also catch glimpses of the sinister and terrifying aspects of the life that he and Ma share, but of which he is scarcely aware. As readers, our growing awareness of the gap between his innocent narrative and the actuality of his mother’s shocking experience exercises a powerful poignancy as the plot unfolds. For Jack, ’Room’ is his home, and every object in it is loved for its domestic familiarity. But whilst Ma must reinforce that idea so as to ensure Jack’s sense of security, the room is in fact her prison, and every object is loathsome to her as a symbol of that imprisonment. As the plot develops this dichotomy between their two perspectives becomes more critical. In the same interview with The Guardian (above) Donoghue says, “I knew that by sticking to the child’s-eye perspective there’d be nothing voyeuristic about it. Ma has managed to keep Jack almost oblivious to the sexual side of things – the creaking bed makes him edgy, but lots of other things, green beans, for instance, make him edgier still”.

She continues, “The idea was to focus on the primal drama of parenthood: the way from moment to moment you swing from comforter to tormentor, just as kids simultaneously light up our lives and drive us nuts. I was trying to capture that strange, bi-polar quality of parenthood”. Sustaining the child view and the child language throughout is a challenging proposition for both writer and reader, but Emma Donoghue succeeds in making this entirely convincing, creating a world of discovery for the reader as well as for Jack. In an article in The Irish Times Donoghue comments that writers avoid child point-of-view fiction for adults, and that readers tend to shy away from it. “Perhaps they fear the experience of reading such a novel will resemble being locked in a room with a small child….”. She continues, “Luckily for my purposes in writing Room, these occasional moments of claustrophobia suit the book, helping readers to imagine Ma’s situation, never more than a few feet away from a boy she adores but cannot escape. (I defy any parent to tell me they’ve never had those feelings)!”

This is a page-turning, exciting novel with a powerful and dynamic plot. But it is also a deeply thought-provoking work in the way it explores how we may construct our worlds, or have them constructed for us, and how we can survive under the pressure of extreme circumstances. Above all, it persuasively describes the extraordinary relationship between mother and child. Emma Donoghue researched her PhD in English at Girton between 1990 and 1994. Room is her seventh novel, and she has also written collections of short stories, works of literary history and plays for stage, screen and radio. She now lives in Canada with her partner Chris Roulston and their two children.
Alumni events in 2010

In 2010 Girton was delighted to see so many alumni return to the College over the course of the year. The now regular programme of alumni reunions began with the Geographical Society Dinner, the last before Dr Roland Randall, who instigated these dinners, retires. The Geographical Society would like to thank Geographical magazine, Heifers bookshop, Lush, the Fudge Kitchen, Breeze gift shop and the President’s family for their kind donations of raffle prizes. During the Easter vacation, Vice-Mistress Dr Julia Riley presided over a lively reunion dinner for those who matriculated in 2000 and 1995 and we were also delighted to welcome back so many recent graduates to this year’s MA Dinner. In the Easter Term, the College hosted a workshop on ‘Life After Your Main Career’. Featuring prominent keynote speakers and many break-out sessions, the workshop facilitated plenty of discussions on the issues surrounding this life transition point. At the annual Roll Buffet Lunch alumni were interested to hear from Ms Rachel Lomax (Salmon, 1963), former Deputy Governor, Monetary Stability, at the Bank of England and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, who gave a fascinating talk titled, ‘Reflections on the Financial Crisis’. In September, alumni who matriculated in 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990 were invited back to dine in Hall, it was wonderful to see old friends reuniting and to hear about their time at Girton. At this year’s Roll Dinner the Mistress welcomed back 1960 and 1970 matriculants and Dr Simon Cohn (1984) gave a thought-provoking talk, titled ‘The extraordinary experiences of having an ordinary illness’. September also saw the first GASA Networking Lunch held in London (with thanks to Adam Tyer (1988) for all his efforts). We plan to hold another such lunch in the New Year.

The new academic year started with the termly Alumni Formal Hall which was quickly followed by the second Students and Parents Dinner. The guest speakers, who both spoke on ‘Life after Girton’, were Ms Christina Koning, (1971) novelist and short story writer, who has reviewed extensively for the UK national press; and Dr Neil Jennings (1998), Assistant Editor for the journal ‘Global Environmental Change’ and creator of the ‘Student Switch Off’ – a not-for-profit initiative encouraging energy-efficient behaviour in Halls of Residence at over thirty UK universities. The final event of the year was the Alumni Sports Day. Unfortunately the planned rugby, football and netball matches were called off due to the cold weather. However, many alumni still joined the students in the bar to watch the England vs South Africa rugby test match and attended the Sports Dinner in the evening.

2011 is set to be just as busy, with the Geographical Society Dinner in February; the MA Congregation Dinner in March; 1996 & 2001 Reunion and a Medics Dinner in April; 1976, 1981, 1986 & 1991 Reunions in September. We will also be inviting those who matriculated in 1951, 1961 and 1971 to attend the Roll Dinner in September. Please see the back page for dates or contact the Alumni Office, Emma Cornwall alumni@girton.cam.ac.uk, 01223 338901 for further details.

Law Reception

In March 2010, the College held an evening drinks reception for Lawyers at Inner Temple. It was an excellent opportunity to network with other Girton lawyers and their guests, meet the College’s group of outstanding Law Fellows, and to hear more about the College. A number of Girton’s highly-distinguished alumni were present, including Mrs Justice Gloster, who had kindly facilitated the evening; and the College’s Visitor, Baroness Hale of Richmond, who spoke on the topic of the newly-formed Supreme Court. We were particularly pleased that 100 Girton lawyers and their guests were able to attend.

The College is extremely grateful to The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster and The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond for their invaluable assistance in organising this event, and also to Slaughter and May LLP for their generous sponsorship of the evening.

In March 2011, we are expanding this into a “Girton Law & City Finance” drinks party for anyone working in Law, Finance, or any related area, to be held on Wednesday 16 March 2011 at Slaughter and May’s London Offices. For full details, please contact the Development Office.

Geography Dinner 2010

Last year’s geography society dinner marked the end of an era when Dr Roland Randall, Director of Studies in Geography retired from his full-time post at Girton. Many of Dr Randall’s students from far and wide came to wish him all the best as he continues as a Life Fellow of the College.

Roland Randall supervised Girton undergraduates from 1972 when he returned to Cambridge, and he was one of the first male Fellows to join Girton in 1977, and was Lecturer in Geography. Roland worked in Barbados on coastal vegetation before returning to UK to study shingle vegetation both in Britain and abroad. He edited the Ecology and Geomorphology of Coastal Shingle in 2001.

In 1994, when Jean Grove (1927-2001) retired, Roland took over as Director of Studies and continued the tradition of encouraging Girton Geographers to do their dissertation research in far-flung corners of the world. Roland gave lectures on biogeography in the Geography Department for over 20 years but his main interest is in giving a good grounding in physical geography to first year undergraduates, a role he continued to undertake until retirement.

Over his time at Girton, Roland has also held the posts of undergraduate tutor, graduate tutor, Director of Studies in education, health and safety officer, praeclector, acting senior tutor and acting chaplain as well as sitting on a large number of College committees.

Left to right, Annette Lanaghan (Hamilton-Russell), Nicola King (Cowell), Harriett Allen, Roland Randall, Hilary May (West), Simi Kamal (Niazi), and Sally Cunis (Adshad), all Geographers of the class of 1977.
10th Anniversary of the Peoples’ Portraits

The People’s Portraits exhibition celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2010. For its birthday bash, many friends of the collection gathered at the Mall Galleries on 6th May 2010 for an anniversary reception.

Amidst the excitement of the general election, we had our own element of mystery, with the imminent unveiling of three new additions to the collection. Who better to solve such a mystery and unveil the additions than Honorary Fellow and Guest of Honour, The Right Hon the Baroness James of Holland Park, otherwise known as best-selling author, P.D. James. We were delighted to hear Lady James’ thoughts on the People’s Portraits. We also heard from the Mistress and the President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, Alastair Adams PRP.

12 of the newest People’s Portraits were showcased within the Royal Society of Portrait Painters’ Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries, which was open to the public from 6th to 21st May. The three new additions to the People’s Portraits collection continue the tradition of portraying the extraordinary in the ordinary, and include ‘Joy’ by Robin-Lee Hall RP, which won the 2010 Ondaatje Prize for Portraiture, ‘Marc Crank’ by Alastair Adams PRP; and ‘Fishsale: portrait of Elaine Lorys’ by Simon Davis RP.

‘Joy’, depicted in Robin-Lee’s tremendous portrait, has worked as a cleaner and dinner lady at several schools in Lewisham, south London. Hall says of Joy: “She’s incredibly down to earth, takes things as they come, likes cakes and never complains. She has got up at 5am for work every weekday for 30 years.” The second portrait, ‘Marc Crank’, shows Marc who is the Chief Executive of Henshaws North West. Adams says, “As well as managing a charity that supports blind and partially-sighted people, Marc regularly speaks about his experience of living with a facial disfigurement.” The final portrait portrays Elaine Lorys, who is a fishmonger in a Cornish port.

To continue the anniversary festivities, during the September Roll Weekend, we had a slightly different format for the annual People’s Portraits Reception. This time, as the three additions had been unveiled earlier in the year, we held a discussion for alumni and friends called ‘Finding Beauty’. Alastair Adams, the current President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, and Daphne Todd, the previous President, discussed their choice of subject matter and approach to painting portraits.

Daphne’s painting titled ‘Last Portrait of Mother’, the 2010 winner of the BP Portrait Award, and Alastair’s portrait of sitter ‘Marc Crank’, one of three portraits donated to the People’s Portraits collection this year, openly engage with uncompromising subject matter. For both artists painting and working from life is essential, however within these similarities lie many differences of approach. For instance, Alastair explained how he often likes to use photographs to paint his portraits too, whereas Daphne never uses photographs for her paintings. Not only did the audience get a remarkable insight into the artists’ methodologies and the thoughts behind their selected portraits, but the audience had chance to ask their own questions.
Hammond Prize for Science Communication

Girton was delighted to host the fourth Hammond Prize for Science Communication, at College. The prize has been funded by alumnus Dr Phil Hammond, who came up to Girton in 1982 to read pre-clinical medicine. He is well-known for being Private Eye’s medical correspondent and for appearing on numerous radio programmes.

The Hammond Prize aims to encourage students to communicate scientific ideas in terms that non-scientists would find easy to understand. The format of the annual competition is that students submit abstracts to a panel of judges, and finalists are selected to present to judges and an audience. The panel was made up of Dr Phil Hammond, the Mistress, Dr Julia Riley, Dr Ruth Warren, Dr Veronica Bennett and Dr Kamiar Mohaddes.

This year there was a broad and interesting array of topics, on the theme of ‘Risk’. This ranged from a study of ‘RISK: Social Psychology pragmatics, and your face’ by Emily Darley (MML), to ‘The Tulip-breaking virus and risk in the Dutch 17th century flower market’ by Hilary Roberts (History of Art). The standard of entries was very high.

The winning presentation was an entertaining talk by Susanne Mesoy (Bio Nat.Sc), entitled ‘Michelson, Mitchell and Me’ about two scientists who both persevered with their research – often to be ridiculed for it, but with very different outcomes. Susanne also won the audience prize for the most entertaining talk. Joint second prizes were awarded to Nathaniel Wand (Physical Nat.Sc) for his talk on ‘Science Research: is it worth the risk?’ and the third prize to Jonathan Fuhrmann (Geography). The abstract prize was awarded to Nathaniel Wand (Physical Nat.Sc) for his talk on ‘Science Research: is it worth the risk?’

Mistress’ visit to Singapore and Hong Kong

The Mistress was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting many alumni and friends of Girton in Singapore and Hong Kong last April. She attended a reception hosted by HE British High Commissioner, Paul Madden in Singapore and met many Girtonians of all generations there. In Hong Kong, alumnus Kevin Chan kindly hosted an event at the China Club, which 20 Girtonians attended.

The Mistress will be visiting Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai this year, in April – please watch out for emails from the Development team. If College does not have your email address please send this to development@girton.cam.ac.uk to keep up to date with the latest Girton and Cambridge University events in your region.

Dr Phil Hammond pictured with the Hammond Science Communication prize winner, Susanne Mesoy

The Prometheans I unofficially launched

Thanks to the support of alumni and friends responding to a request for funds from the Girton College Boat Club (GCBC) President, Steven Wait, it was possible to purchase a new boat for the first women. The boat has been named ‘Prometheans I’ as requested by the donors who gave the largest gift, of £4000, for its purchase.

Prometheans I was unofficially launched in November 2010, and will see action in this year’s Lent and May Bumps (unfortunately due to the river being frozen, Fairbairns 2010 was cancelled).

The GCBC Millennium Fund, the Jane Marks Memorial Fund, and the Infidel Boat Club funds also assisted with the purchase of the boat, and all donors will be invited to an official launch event to take place in June 2011 – the date will be confirmed shortly.

The boat club has had a large number of boats competing this year, with four men’s and three women’s boats set to compete in the Lent Bumps. The College is also delighted that Samuel Hayes (2007) and Samuel Blackwell (2010) have been selected to represent Cambridge University Lightweights, with Jonathan Fuhrmann (2007) one of the reserve pair.

GCBC would also like to thank its sponsors, PricewaterhouseCoopers for ongoing support of College rowing.

Members of the first women’s crew pictured with the new boat
On 16 March 2010, Girton Alumni Sporting Association was launched with a drinks reception in the incomparable setting of the Long Room at Lord’s Cricket Ground.

Over 100 Girtonians and their guests attended, and speeches were given by the Mistress, Dr John Marks, and GASA Co-Chairs Seb Fox and Caroline Hamilton.

Girton Alumni Sporting Association (GASA for short) has been set up to promote sporting networks between alumni and students, and to recognise and encourage the qualities of teamwork, organisational capability and mental and physical wellbeing that are derived from sport. GASA is also doing much to promote the sports pavilion project, with the hope that building work can commence soon!

The event was also dedicated to the memory of MG Jones – a notable historian, Vice-Mistress of Girton, and international hockey player – thus emphasising the importance of the links between academic achievement and sport.

Find GASA on facebook: www.facebook.com/girtonsports

If you are interested in joining the Infidels’ mailing list (of interest to rowers) or finding out about GASA please email development@girton.cam.ac.uk

Girton Alumni Sporting Association

Dr Malcolm Guite (left) and Mrs Linda Scott at Lords.

Selena Hedley-Lewis, Katherine Bingham, Penny McLaren and Ed Owles (all 1999 alumni)

Nick Jones and John Bee (both 1999)
If you have similar photos of interest for our archives, please do send originals, copies or scans in. This is part of the initiative to fill in gaps in College’s sporting history, led by Girton Alumni Sports Association (GASA).

1947 Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club

These pictures, kindly sent in by Mrs Margaret Ruxton (Snaith 1944) are of the Cambridge University women’s boat and taken in March 1947. In those days, the boat was made up of women from Girton and Newnham as of course they were the only colleges for women, but we are pleased to see that the majority of the 1947 boat consisted of Girtonians.

## Events Calendar 2011

Details of all events are available by emailing development@girton.cam.ac.uk or visiting the Development section of the website www.girton.cam.ac.uk

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 26 March</td>
<td>MA Congregation and Dinner in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 26 March</td>
<td>Oxford Region event Meet the Mistress, watch the Boat Race, Oxford High School, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 April</td>
<td>15 year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1998, in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 April</td>
<td>10 year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 2000, in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 30 April</td>
<td>Medics’ Reunion Dinner in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 May</td>
<td>Alumni Formal Hall in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 18 June</td>
<td>Alumni Family Garden Party 11am, College</td>
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<td>Saturday 18 June</td>
<td>GCBC May Bumps Marquee Fen Ditton, Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24 June</td>
<td>Foundation Dinner (by invitation only) for supporters of Girton, in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 July</td>
<td>Boat Club Dinner in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9 July</td>
<td>Roll Buffet Lunch, and AGM College</td>
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<td>Saturday 9 July</td>
<td>Friends of the Library Talk in College</td>
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<td>Saturday 10 September</td>
<td>35 Year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1976, in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 September</td>
<td>30 Year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1981, in College</td>
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<td>Saturday 17 September</td>
<td>25 Year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1986, in College</td>
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<td>Saturday 17 September</td>
<td>20 Year Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1991, in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 September</td>
<td>Roll Dinner (including reunions for those who matriculated in 1991, 1961 and 1971), in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 September</td>
<td>Friends of the People's Portraits Annual Reception in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 September</td>
<td>Friends of the Gardens Talk in College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 19 November</td>
<td>Infidels' Anniversary Dinner Oxford and Cambridge Club, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 26 November</td>
<td>Alumni Football, Rugby and Netball matches followed by tea and dinner, College</td>
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## Old Girtonians Honours

Congratulations to the following Girtonians, who have been honoured in recent Honours Lists:

### 2010 Queen’s Birthday Honours:

**DBE**
- Professor Athene Donald FRS, (Griffith 1971), Deputy Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Cambridge, & Director of the University’s Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative, for services to Physics.

**CBE**
- Professor Veronica van Heyningen FRS (Daniel 1965), President of the Genetics Society, for services to Science.

### 2011 New Year Honours:

**DBE**
- Professor Caroline Humphrey, (Waddington 1962), Professor of Collaborative Anthropology, University of Cambridge, for services to scholarship.

**CBE**
- Dr Sheila Shribman (Norval 1969), National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity, at the Department of Health, for services to Medicine.

**OBE**
- Mrs Margaret Owen (Baron 1955), Director, Widows for Peace through Democracy, for services to Human Rights, particularly Widows Overseas.
- Dr Dillian Rosalind Gordon, (1967), formerly a curator at the National Gallery, for services to Early Italian Painting.
- Dr Allison Streetly (1978), National director, NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme, for services to healthcare.