

# The HOMERTONIAN

NEWSLETTER OF HOMERTON COLLEGE AND THE HOMERTON ROLL

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## THE OPENING OF HARRISON HOUSE ON 9 DECEMBER 2006

This occasion marked the anniversary of thirty years since the establishment of the Education Tripos in the University of Cambridge and Homerton College as an Approved Society.



From the left: Dr Kate Pretty, Principal. Dr Alison Richards, Vice-Chancellor. Sir David Harrison, Chair of Trustees and former Master of Selwyn College. Harrison House provides sixty en-suite rooms for graduate students and four penthouse flats for Junior Research Fellows. It represents some of the best accommodation available in the University for graduates and post-doctoral fellows.

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

You will remember that last year I raised the question, "What did Homerton do for you?" and asked for your responses on a postcard. There were one or two grumbles about the difficulty of finding plain postcards and thus I have acquired some splendid pictures, but most people understood that the challenge was to be brief, and even those who replied by email were succinct. The results are striking in their similarity though the experiences cover nearly fifty years of the last century. In short, what Homerton provided its students – to judge from these replies – was **CONFIDENCE**, **NEW EXPERIENCES** and **ABILITY TO TEACH** whatever the circumstances of their teaching appointment.

All of my respondents took a teaching qualification, some of them having gone on to teach for forty years, others for less. But although much of the emphasis was on becoming a successful teacher, it is clear that success was based on a foundation of personal development – what would nowadays be called "transferable skills" – as much as on the status and knowledge that the Homerton teaching qualifications offered. I find that especially interesting since it was my argument to government, in the form of the TTA in the 1990s, that trainee teachers needed to be personally educated as well as trained. That justified the four-year B.Ed and the current 3+1 model of BA + PGCE. Older members will point out that many of them received just two years

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of Homerton education and training, and that they felt a personal need to augment it with extra years to degree level and beyond. Reading about the two-year courses, later generations will marvel at how much was packed into the curriculum and perhaps the implication that secondary schools were also laying good foundations as well.

The postcards reveal the strength and range of Homerton's teaching staff. Again and again there are memories of particular figures, those outstanding teachers who make teachers out of the next generations. Prominent among them are the teachers of art and music, particularly singing, of English literature and history and of the intellectual debate which was offered. A further leitmotif was that members felt that they had a taste of a Cambridge education, despite school-leaving grades which might have denied them entry to the University itself. That teaching, which widened their horizons, opened new doors for many members, who went on to distinguished careers in specialised education and, as a result, some of them became teacher educators in turn.

I was struck by the number of respondents who wrote about confidence and who had come to Homerton by default or under some shadow of personal disbelief, only to find that the College was able to build their self-esteem in a remarkable way. I recognise that I will not have heard from anyone who felt crushed by Homerton and that your replies have been uniformly laudatory about what Homerton offered. I do meet former members who had a bad experience, especially towards the end of Mary Allan's reign, when her Edwardian values were at odds with the post-war period and students felt restricted by the degree of personal supervision. Most of you wrote about Homerton in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, when a succession of principals were driving academic values and intellectual engagement.

What then does this tell us about Homerton today? When I wrote, asking for your views, we had not yet embarked on the formal exercise of characterisation, which took place last autumn. That process involved working

with a professional facilitator to create a broad framework for what we wanted for Homerton for the future. The process revealed how much we owed to the past and to the culture created over the last century. We wish to publicly acknowledge our roots in education. Going forward, we want to maintain a college in which democracy and friendliness are combined with intellectual achievement. The Vice-Chancellor has been talking recently about the things which characterise Cambridge for her and which make it distinctive among the great research universities of the world. At the top of the list is the college system, which offers what another female Head of House calls 'the genius of scale'. Individual colleges, of which Homerton is one of the largest, offer students, now as then, a safe place (and the V-C would stress a place of great beauty) in which to develop confidence, try new things and eventually sally forth to transform the world – as you have done.

.....  
**Dr Kate Pretty**  
 2nd April 2007

## Faith and Friendship to You!



*A group of Post Graduate Certificate of Education students with the Homerton Horn at the matriculation dinner in September 2006. From the left: Clare Lister, Christine Lester & Neha Sadia. (Photo courtesy of James Cox)*

Abigail Dwinell, a first-year English undergraduate, drinks from the Homerton Horn at her Matriculation Dinner in the first week of the Michaelmas term 2006. The horn was donated to the College anonymously in 1991 in memory of three former Principals, Alan Bamford, Alison Shrubsole and Dame Beryl Paston Brown, who all had connections with Education in Africa. It is made out of a magnificent African cow horn with silver mounts.



The ceremony, which has become the high spot of every student's entry into college life, involves the horn being passed around the dining hall with the old Anglo-Saxon greeting, 'Wassail!' and the response 'Frith and freondship sith' y.' – Faith and friendship to you! The text of the toast can be seen engraved into the silver mounts – as it is engraved into the hearts and minds of Homerton freshers.

# Admissions

**I hope to keep the Roll informed on student admissions to Homerton on a regular basis. We have just finished the long and sometimes gruelling business of making offers to our candidates for next year, a process that starts with the arrival of the first Cambridge Application Form sometime in August, through the deadline of the 15th September, to the interviews in December and the Intercollegiate Pool in January. This year we completed our set of courses (except for those with quotas such Medicine and Vet medicine) by offering places to our first students for the Mathematics tripos.**

We were, on the whole, very pleased with our applications. More highly achieving students are applying to us across the range of subjects as the word gets out that Homerton is a lively new place at which to study in Cambridge. We would like even more such students to apply (though do not tell our wonderful Admissions Administrator, Natasha Thomas, that I said so – she has to arrange the interviews). Homerton's past students are very well placed to help in this as so many of you are now working as teachers. As the Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges, Geoff Parks, said to me the other day, "you have a unique resource in your former members". Well, we always knew that, but it was nice to hear of it from outside the college. Above all we would like to maintain our tradition by looking to the best that our state schools can provide, and, even if we can't always expect them to return the favour by going in to teaching, at least turning them out in full graduation gear to make their contribution to the world.

We already have an impressive outreach programme. We undertake school visits and provide informative and fun sessions for school groups across a wide age range (Aim Higher mantra – catch them early!)

here in Homerton. One great advantage of having so many Education Studies students in the College is their keen and exuberant readiness to help in these projects (though those from other subjects also have a great record of participation). One of these outreach events took place in our South Yorkshire region and got us some good press coverage in the region (see below).

In August we will know who has secured their places and we look forward to welcoming another year of bright, lively, quirky, active, sometimes annoying, sometimes entertaining, always surprising students – a bit like you were.

**Steve Watts**

*Fellow & Admissions Tutor*

*Press Article (from Barnsley Chronicle as reported in the News pages of the Cambridge website):*

## It's Official: Cambridge is Cool!

A law student at Homerton College has been encouraging other pupils from his former school in South Yorkshire to consider applying to Cambridge.

Josh Jowitt, who is in his first year of the Double Maîtrise Law course, met a group of 37 year-11 pupils from his former school, St Michael's RC High School in Barnsley, when they visited the University last week.

All the pupils who took part in the trip had been identified as having the ability to get to university, and included a group of high-achievers who are considered "gifted and talented".

While taking part in activities at Homerton, they met Josh Jowitt, a former pupil at St Michael's. He was the first person in his family to take A levels and is the first to go to university. He is now keen to encourage others to aim high.

He said: "When some people think of Cambridge, they have an image of posh, rich students and I think that puts them off a bit. But when they come here people see that the stereotype is just not true; the students here are all just ordinary people doing their degrees."

"I was the first in my family to do A Levels and also the first to have gone to University. I did it all from a state school, and if people can see that I've done it I hope they will realise that they can too."

Head of year 11, Peter McCrory, who accompanied the pupils, said: "Visits like this are really helpful in opening pupils' eyes to what university life is like and that they have option of studying at universities outside their home region – including top places like Cambridge."

Several of the St Michael's pupils said they would consider applying to Cambridge in two years' time. Among them, Luke Dalton said: "I imagined that everyone in Cambridge would be posh. The people I met were very friendly and not posh. They're cool."

The visit to Homerton was funded by Aim Higher, a publicly-funded initiative dedicated to raising aspirations.



# Further Honour for Dame Leah Manning DBE



## Leah Manning in 1928

In 1929 Leah Manning was elected President of the National Union of Teachers and in 1931 was elected MP for Islington East. As one of our first women MPs, she campaigned for women's rights and equal pay. During the Spanish Civil War she was a key member of the Medical Aid Committee and seventy years ago this May she personally supervised the evacuation of 3,800 refugee children out of Bilbao. After the Second World War, she became MP for Epping in the landslide Labour victory of 1945 and was instrumental in the establishment of Harlow New Town, which provided much needed housing after the London Blitz. A Homerton student in 1906–8, the College has now recognised her outstanding contribution to humanity, politics and women's rights by naming a room after her.

.....  
**Dr Peter Warner**  
*Senior Tutor*  
.....

Dame Leah Manning, who was M.P. for the Epping Constituency, including Harlow, from 1945–1950, continues to be commemorated.

In 1998 a new building at Cambridge Regional College was named after her. In 2002 a Square in Bilbao, Spain, was named Plaza de Mrs Leah Manning, to commemorate her efforts in evacuating 3800 children from the German air raids on Bilbao in the 1937 Spanish Civil War. Some of the children – obviously now of retirement age – visited Harlow, and the Leah Manning Centre, in 2003. The latest honour came on Friday 9th March 2007 when a room at Homerton College, Cambridge was named the Leah Manning Room. Ron Bill and Stan Newens, authors of the book, 'Leah Manning', spoke to assembled guests about her life and work – particularly in Cambridge and Harlow. Natalia Benjamin, Secretary of the Basque children of '37 UK Association, spoke about the 1937 evacuation and how the children arrived at Southampton and were dispersed in 'Colonies' around the country. Some stayed at the Leah Manning House at Theydon Bois and a number in the Cambridge colony – initially situated at Pampisford. Antonio Gallego, who lived in Cambridge from 1937, was a guest at the event. The next commemorative event is at Southampton on May 26th 2007 when a plaque will be presented commemorating the 70th anniversary of Leah Manning and the 3800 children arriving on the S.S. Habana at that city.

Last year, 2006, was the centenary of Leah's enrolment as a student for Teacher Training at Homerton College. The College Fellows and Trustees agreed to commemorate her with a room to carry her name and with framed information about her life. In her book 'A Life for Education' Leah says that while at College she concentrated on subjects that would see her through the Final Exams. This was so that she could enjoy an active social life. This included being Chair of the Debating Society, Secretary of the Christian Students' Union, a member of the Socialist League; then there was hockey, tennis, punting, rowing and swimming – with Rupert Brooke and colleagues in Byron's Pool at Granchester. Leah was an average student – ending her first year with 60%–65% and being placed 48th out of

the 91 students. In 1908 she was 40th out of 88 – again with 60%–65%. During her training she did teaching practice at three local schools, Morley, Eden and New Street. The latter Head reported that "*Miss Perrett is noticeably lacking in grace and refinement, but although ungainly and inclined to be boisterous, she is really good-hearted and takes a genuine interest in her children*".

After graduation in 1908 she dreamt of staying in Cambridge. She loved the city and described it thus in her book: – "*Love affairs are ephemeral things but a love affair with a place is forever; it is love at first sight: I did not guess, then, that I would live there for half a century, do my best work there and only leave with reluctance*". So, when the College offered her a post at the associated New Street School, she was surprised and overjoyed. Her class comprised of 70/80 of the most deprived, poor and undernourished children in the city, living less than a mile away from the luxury and affluence of the great Cambridge Colleges. It was the start of a very public career of care, conviction and campaigns.

So, a century on, she is honoured and commemorated by her former College – a splendid and deserved gesture! Leah was one of a formidable generation of women who both individually and collectively made a major contribution to the political and social advances of the 20th century. She was a determined, resolute and persistent advocate – always willing to help the humble and do battle with the mighty.

Leah wanted a better and fairer society and a better-fed and peaceful world. Our best tribute to her is to continue to work for the many things she campaigned for throughout her busy, interesting and worthwhile life.

Copies of the book "Leah Manning" by Ron Bill and Stan Newens are available from the Museum of Harlow, price £2.00.

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**Ron Bill**  
March 2007



## Volunteer researcher for The Orang-utan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop) at the Sebangau National Park, Central Kalimantan

The Orang-utan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop) is a research and conservation project researching orang-utan density and distribution in the tropical peat swamp forests of the Sebangau river catchment, Central Kalimantan. As a volunteer research assistant I lived in the Sebangau tropical peat-swamp forest for six weeks. Peat-swamp forest is a little-known, relatively inaccessible habitat, yet remarkably diverse and home to over 50% of the remaining population of wild orang-utans in Borneo. The Sebangau forest also supports a huge diversity of plant life, including large timber trees such as ramin and swamp meranti, a wide variety of pitcher plants and sustainable commercial species such as rattan and Jelutong.

During the expedition I assisted with a variety of field research projects including monitoring orang-utan, gibbon and mammal distribution and ecology, and habitat structure and quality. Monitoring

of mammal population densities allow assessment of long-term trends and monitor the effects of illegal logging and fire on populations. I was also involved with forest biodiversity studies, including surveys of primary and secondary seed dispersers, such as birds and rodents.

I feel privileged to have helped provide such essential data and to have worked in such challenging but unique environment. It is only with the help of research from organisations such as OuTrop that studies can obtain a more complete understanding of Indonesia's vast biodiversity and the impact of humans on this unique ecosystem.

During my stay in Kalimantan I also visited Nyaru Menteng Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre and the Kalaweit Gibbon Rehabilitation Program which truly showed the threats and dangers caused by humans to the amazing animals I had seen in the wild. I also visited

Tanjung Puting National Park for my last week in Kalimantan which provided an opportunity to experience a different ecosystem to the Sebangau peat-swamp forest and to see rehabilitated orang-utans once again experiencing their natural lives. Living and working with local Indonesians also helped me to begin to understand the cultures which have so close a relationship with the peat-swamp forest and play so crucial a role in its conservation.

My experience as a volunteer researcher has encouraged a interest in undertaking more conservation research in the future. I am particularly concerned about the dramatic decline in fruit bat populations due to hunting over the past decade and hope to establish vital research evidence for saving this species from local extinction.

**Stephanie Brown**

*BA Education Studies with Biological Sciences  
(2004–2007)*

## HOMERTON COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY



2006–2007 has seen a new era for Homerton College Music Society. Steps were taken which have resulted in successful concerts. HCMS had a stall at the Kelsey Kerridge Freshers' Fair and there have been weekly orchestral rehearsals. This has led to students from other colleges becoming involved within the society.

A highlight for HCMS this year has been the achievement of lighting and recording a full concert in the auditorium. The warm atmosphere that welcomed our audience in the Michaelmas term concert entitled 'An Evening of Entertainment at Homerton College', has resulted in more students keen to be involved with us in the Lent term.

Homerton College Orchestra has become a weekly commitment for many and has

surprised our audience with the quality of its performance. Homerton's warm and friendly environment has been commented upon from outside members who have become involved in the orchestra. The orchestra performed the fourth movement from Dvorak's 'Symphony No. 9', 'The Overture from Poet and Peasant' by Frans Von Suppe and the highly popular and well received 'Pirates of the Caribbean'. For Lent, the orchestra performed 'The Overture to the Marriage of Figaro' by Mozart, Selections from 'Les Misérables', 'Lord of the Dance', 'The Radetsky March' by Strauss and, back by popular demand, 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.

The Christmas Gathering this year was held in the Great Hall over dinner. Homerton College Choir aided the proceedings as well as other ensembles performing well known Christmas

tunes and carols. Homerton students enjoying their dinner also joined in with a mass sing-a-long.

As well as termly concerts HCMS was given the opportunity to help support Shona Fenion arrange her own concert. Shona performed the Bach 'Violin concerto in A minor'. The evening also included Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony' and Schuman's 'Spring Symphony'. The HCMS recital series continued over lunchtimes and 'Pandemonium Steel Pans' are still going strong with an increase of members this year. The group continues to perform in HCMS concerts and at other venues, as well as giving workshops at local Primary Schools.

**Claire Green**

*President of Homerton College Music Society  
2006–2007*

# The Griffins Club

Sport at Homerton, you'll be glad to hear, is currently thriving. Just to give you a snapshot of the talent and ability of our Griffins Club members, on the weekend that I write this I have watched two of our footballers playing in the football Varsity Matches, and witnessed a squad of netballers compete brilliantly in cuppers, before watching a Cuppers football semi-final.

As I returned to Homerton, the rugby team were in preparation for their semi-final date with St John's this week. You may think that this is unusual, but I can tell you it is not. Sport plays a very active part in Homertonian life; this is in no small part due to the dedicated individuals who direct their own free time to organising and running our sports teams.

This year has also seen the introduction of new sports teams and societies at Homerton: basketball, swimming and tennis. The Griffins Club is proposing to hold its second Annual Prize-giving event at the start of Lent Term, and to hold the inaugural Homerton Tennis Open! We are also in the early stages of discussion with our new sister college in Oxford, Mansfield College, about establishing an annual sporting event in a number of different events between ourselves and them, so stay tuned for more!

Below each captain has briefly summarised their season. I cannot thank them enough for making my job easier and for being fantastic ambassadors for their sport and College.

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Patrick Crossley  
*Griffins Club President 06/07*

## Women's Badminton

The Homerton Women's Badminton team have done exceedingly well this year. In Michaelmas Term we came second in Division 2, an outstanding achievement, and although we weren't able to repeat the result in Lent term, the enthusiasm shown by all badminton players, both for the team and for leisure, has made this a very exciting year indeed.

## Men's Badminton

Homerton Men's Badminton squad hit the ground running in '06/'07 season, with some particularly skilful and committed freshers in intense training sessions from

the outset. We were well into our stride in our first games beating the opposition, such as Christ's IIs, Selwyn and Robinson IIs with ease! A string of successful games both at home and more impressively away from home meant that Homerton Men's Badminton club maintains a 100% record of victories in the league and is therefore in top of the table position. The club has successfully grown both on and off the court as well and we now have a competent Homerton II's cupper's team, and more students supporting the administration and social side of the club.

## Women's Football

HCWFC have had a very successful season. We are unbeaten in the league and due to finish in the top 3 of Division One. We have also reached the final of the intercollegiate cup competition ('Cuppers') to be played on 10th March where we will face Jesus College. With a squad of nearly 20 (and growing), women's football within Homerton has benefited from growing interest this year and our 'strength-in-depth' has been invaluable, especially as we've faced several long-term (frustrating!) injuries. Three of our squad members (Michelle Moss, Liz Duffy & Julia Rath) represented Cambridge Women's second eleven in the recent varsity match against Oxford in which Cambridge triumphed 4-3.

## Men's Football

The football season has been a great success. All three football teams have reached their respective cup semi-finals. The firsts lost 4-2 against Churchill (who won the double last year), the seconds lost to ARU II (who are 3 divisions above them), and the thirds are still to play. We are hoping they don't make it a hat-trick of heart breaks! In the league the firsts sit mid-table in Division 2. We were in with a shout for promotion but two defeats in our last two games appear to have destroyed any lingering hope. The seconds have

been promoted from Division 6 with a league decider next weekend in which they need to achieve a point to be promoted as champions. The thirds have a record of p6 w5 d1 gd+30. Unfortunately (even with that record) they may be put into a promotion play-off as top spot could be taken by Clare Hall (a new first team). Still to come is the trip to play at Leyton Orient (Brisbane Road) on May 6th and the old boys' game on 9th June. If you would like to be involved please get in touch via the website [www.homertonfc.co.uk](http://www.homertonfc.co.uk).

## Women's Hockey



Women's hockey at Homerton has continued to grown in strength this season with the addition of many enthusiastic freshers. We have had some excellent results against many strong sides and have assured our place in the same division next season. Noted performances from Hayley Richardson and Lucie Bidder and a significant improvement from Jessye Sinclair have meant that there are skilful players throughout the team. We reached the second round of cuppers and were unlucky to lose to top place and favourites Downing 4-2. Next season we hope to build on our successes and perhaps even push for promotion to the top division.

## Men's Hockey

This is the fourth season for Homerton Men's Hockey Club and although we're still firmly in the bottom division of college hockey we've had a good intake of freshers and are beginning to challenge the higher teams. In order to allow more games to be



played there is now a separate Michaelmas and Lent term league. In Michaelmas we finished 5th of 6 teams but this term we're looking stronger and should be looking at the top half of the table

## Netball

Homerton 1st team have had a great season. Placed fourth in Division 1 at the end of Michaelmas, we have since claimed many victories so should move up further in the final league table (awaiting confirmation). Score of the season: HOMERTON 25: QUEENS 0 ...nice!!! The team has really bonded and our game has greatly improved over the past year. The girls have displayed high levels of commitment, enthusiasm and an impressive level of skill. Awesome season, ladies, well done!

## Mixed Netball

Mixed netball has always been a sport of kings, and this year has been no different. In the few games the spirit of mixed netball has been evident, with flair and joy pervading every moment. It is hard to say where we are in the league or cuppers but these are material trophies that mean little to the noble mixed netballers. We are heroes one and all, what a year!

## Women's Rugby

Since the development of Homerton College Women's Rugby Team three years ago, this is the first year that we have joined the Women's Rugby College League. We started off with three triumphant wins against Churchill, Newnham/Sidney and Cats, but unfortunately lost to Queens', Downing, and Girton. Despite this, the team will be working hard to prepare for the upcoming 7's tournament at the end of term!

## Men's Rugby

Winning the treble last year (league champions, cuppers plate winners & sevens champions) seemed like a hard act to follow, especially with the loss of some key players on graduation. As I write this Homerton RFC are through to the semi-finals of cuppers, where we face the unbeaten St. John's, and are on the brink of promotion into the 1st division. The next few matches can truly put Homerton rugby on the map. Whilst the team has lost its unbeaten league record, every match has been played with dedication, enthusiasm & flair. The juxtaposition of

the reliable, older, experienced generation of 3rd & 4th years with the fresh arrogance of the younger years has paid dividends. It has been especially pleasing to see a few new faces to rugby, eager to learn the egg-chasing ways. Highlights of the season for me stand out rather surprisingly. The first was our second game of the season against Pembroke. We lost 15-12 but finished the game with only 12 players. Getting a full team out has always been a problem for Homerton and this year has been no different. But to lose by a mere 3 points and to look dangerous with the ball while short of 3 players was a remarkable feat, paying tribute to the sheer guts and determination of the team. The other highlight was our first round of cuppers against 1st division Trinity Hall. After 100 minutes of rugby the game remained tied at 12-12 and the league coordinators admitted they had no way of settling such a scenario. We decided upon a boat race. Therefore on a cold Monday evening nine players trooped into the opposing college's bar & squared up against the Tit Hall boys. We decimated them, winning by over two & a half pints; a proud moment for Homertonians everywhere.

## Swimming Club

Homerton Swimming Club is a new society formed this year by Hayley Richardson and Parisa Razaz. It welcomes swimmers of all abilities; those who want to swim competitively and receive some coaching and those who just want to bob about and do their own thing. The sessions are held weekly at Chesterton Sports College on Saturday evenings. The club has been very well received and has approximately fifteen members, which is great for a new society. The club aims to have a strong social aspect, as swimming is often thought of as quite a lonely sport. Already the team has enjoyed a curry night and they hope to get in touch with other college swim teams to organise socials and mini-gala competitions. In the summer term the club intends to have outdoor 'land-training/aerobic sessions' for those who want to get fitter. They are currently seeking sponsorship to buy swimming costumes.

## Tennis Club

Homerton Tennis Club is still in its early days, but has been successfully set up and has held weekly practice sessions throughout Lent term. The practices

generally enjoy good attendance. They are informal and fun with people of all abilities, and we also have some very promising and experienced players who we hope will enter some inter-collegiate matches next term in order to raise the profile of Homerton Tennis on the university scene. The club currently has over 20 members and is growing every week, so we hope it will be fully established by Easter term and continue to be a success. Preparations are soon to begin for the inaugural Homerton college tennis open which is sure to be an exciting and enjoyable event.

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# The Boat Club

It gives us great pleasure to write this article still reeling from the successes of the Boat Club in this year's Lent Bumps races, in which both of our top crews were promoted to the second division. In addition to this, the Men's 1st VIII were awarded blades. These races have been the highlight of an extremely successful year for the whole club, and will certainly be fondly remembered by all involved. The popularity of the Boat Club and support amongst the Homerton students has exceeded our expectations at every level.

Perhaps more importantly we are writing to you on behalf of the Boat Club to sincerely thank you for the generous contribution made by the Roll towards the purchase of a new set of blades. We are confident that this donation will be a valuable asset to future generations of Homerton rowers.

On a more personal level, it has been our honour and a privilege this year to captain a boat club with so much potential, talent and dedication. I have taken great pride in being recognised as part of a college and a club that continues to achieve great things whilst still retaining an incredible sense of community and cohesion. We sincerely hope that the Boat Club will continue to receive the support and encouragement of the Roll for years to come.

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**Daniel Ham and Amy Blessington**  
*Boat Club Captains '06-'07*

# Teaching English in Vietnam

This summer I spent two months in Vietnam where I was working for the Oxbridge Cultural Exchange Program (OCEP) in co-operation with the British Council. Within a team of six students we organised and delivered English for up to 180 Vietnamese 15–17 year olds. The purpose was to develop their English speaking skills, especially their confidence, so that they could apply for scholarships to study in America, Australia, England, New Zealand and Hong Kong. This was particularly important for those students wishing to obtain a visa to attend school in America as they have to pass an interview as part of the application process. After running three successive camps, we spent a few days working in an orphanage attached to a Buddhist pagoda. The children living in this institution ranged from a few weeks old to teenagers who had been left to the monks for varying reasons. Some because their parents had died; other parents were too ill to care for their children because the effects of aids are increasing rapidly in Vietnam. Others could no longer feed all their children and so felt their only option was to leave their child for someone else.

The British Council has organised summer camps using Oxbridge students for several years to raise the standard of English within Vietnam. Like many other countries, Vietnam values and recognises the importance of English as a necessary tool for economic growth. Despite still having a communist government the Vietnamese wish to develop their economy, and particularly in the south look to the West for inspiration. The government have stated that all children should learn English but the country is held back by the level of English spoken and understood by its teaching staff. Oxbridge students are being used to bridge the gap, to help the future business men and women of Vietnam. The children we worked with were from some of the best schools in the country and many are being groomed to enter politics, diplomacy and business. During our time several applied to study abroad; one was accepted to Florida and one to Brighton. We used many practical applications of English to strengthen their communication skills: acting, singing, presentations and debates.



Hillary Sheridan (2nd right, back row) and students at one of the camps.

The children were amazingly grateful for the time, knowledge and attention that we gave them. In return I am incredibly thankful for the kindness and hospitality that all the children showed us. We held debates, fashion and talent shows with the pupils and I have never laughed so much, their sense of humour constantly kept all of us from OCEP in great spirits. Thank you to the Pilkington Trust for helping to make this experience possible.

**Hillary Sheridan**

*BA Education Studies with History (2003–2006)*

*PGCE General Primary (2006–2007)*

## HATS (Homerton Amateur Theatrical Society)

This year has been an exciting year for HATS, with several excellent productions confirming its status in the Cambridge Theatrical Scene. May week saw the musical 'Bugsy Malone' performed in the Union, attracting many members of the public as well as the student community. We started the new academic year with a hilarious production of 'September in the Rain', starring, produced and directed by Homertonians, which was performed in the Corpus Playroom. This production also went further into the community with an education project and performances in two local hospitals. Our next production was a piece of new writing, 'Gate 13'. Following HATS commitment to stage and appreciate new writing, this piece was funded by the society, backing student playwright Mark Ferguson. Our next production marked a new and daring side to HATS, funding Passolini's 'Orgy'. The play is intense, thought-provoking and often uncomfortable to watch as the

audience is forced to recognise the issues highlighted by the play. It was also the first time that HATS had to apply to the council for a stage licence for full frontal male and female nudity – making it the only society in Cambridge to do so! Later on in the year we staged a production of Sarah Kane's '4.48 Psychosis' directed by Drama student Bex Baxter in the Homerton Auditorium.

HATS has progressed and developed in many ways over the past three years. It continues to be well known, highly respected and successful but more importantly it has stuck to its roots of new drama, new writing and new opportunities. We have worked within the university, within the local community and are ever striving to build links with local schools adding an element of education and access to the society.

On behalf of this year's committee I must thank Peter Raby (Senior Treasurer), Steve Watts, Steve Waters, Helena Manley and



Helen Cripps and Robert Freeman in 'September in the Rain'

Peter Miles. Their support has been endless and their faith in the society greater. As always, if a student society is to progress and expand, students alone cannot make change, and it is with the above people's help that HATS has become what it is today.

**Alexandra Burnet**

*President 2005–2006*



# HOMERTON UNION OF STUDENTS

Nothing essentially changes – student life for many takes a similar form – academic efforts, maybe the odd drink and membership to societies; but importantly, all leave with memories of good times, good friends and having achieved. Homerton certainly strives to practice what it preaches. The college motto ‘Respice Finem’, ‘look to the end’, seems to be the bedrock on which decisions are made – whether these be architectural or academic, all are done to produce the best outcome for students.

In the work place, Homerton is moving and shifting to incorporate the single honours degree alongside the much valued and respected education studies. This allows for a broader spectrum of students than perhaps available in other colleges, and thus leads to a well-rounded, welcoming and friendly atmosphere in which to work and play. Indeed Friends Reunited recently named Homerton the ‘friendliest college’ at Oxbridge!

Sport at Homerton is growing – the college boasts an eclectic mix of successful sports teams, from hockey to rowing – something

that will be celebrated by Patrick Crossley, the Griffins’ President, later in this publication. If sport is not the dish of the day, then let music, theatre, comedy, in fact most things be the food of love. None of these are served up cold. They are vibrant fusions of dedicated staff and students with a passion for what they are doing. And the most fantastic thing about these regular shows are that all of them bar none are supported by the members of this college. This year HATS have put on many incredibly successful productions; ‘Anne Frank’, ‘HATStands’ and ‘Romeo and Juliet’, to name but a few.

The Homerton Union of Students continues to go from strength to strength. We offer a range of services from academic support, to welfare and entertainment, whilst proudly boasting a large union office and the fact that we are still the only college to have a Sabbatical President...but maybe I am biased! As the largest college in Cambridge, we have a real impact on University life. This year we had two Homerton students holding positions on the CUSU Exec team, Colin Ferguson and Aneeka Kellay, as CUSU LGBT President

and Green Officer respectively. Nikki Gratton, another Homerton student, has now taken over from Colin as LGBT President.

We are currently awaiting with great anticipation the Homerton May Ball run by the President, Miles Berry, and his committee. This year’s theme is ‘Xian’ and will be an absolute corker. I feel immensely lucky to be able to experience one more Homerton ball. With the great success of our last May Ball, we are attracting more and more students from other colleges – yet another example of Homerton’s growing reputation in Cambridge.

Change can be a daunting prospect for us all, but I believe with conviction that the College is changing in a way that is sympathetic to its origins and aims to serve the best interests of the students. We are working towards a better environment in which one can achieve our aims and ambitions by looking ahead to the consequences of our actions, by looking to the end.

**Alexandra Boag**

*HUS Sabbatical President 06–07*

## HOMERTON COLLEGE – A Student’s View of a Time of Change

I’m sure you don’t need me to tell you that the college has changed dramatically over the years with the introduction of new subjects, the increase in student numbers, and certainly the physical appearance of the college has been transformed with the addition of new buildings around the estate. However, even with the evolving nature of the college, Homerton has remained true to what makes it great – the sense of community amongst its members. Homerton has always had a reputation for having a friendly ethos, a place where enduring friendships are forged.

Indeed one of the ways in which the friendly ethos is fostered is through actively promoting the parenting system, whereby a new student is matched up with an existing student who acts as a source of support and direction. I’m sure many of you remember getting a letter from your college parent in the summer before coming up to Cambridge for the first time! I have often considered that although you can keep up-to-date with what’s happening in Homerton on the college website and through publications such as the Homertonian, it

may be nice to receive a one-off penned letter from one of the current students. A personal note letting you know what they have been doing in college and how they find it today, much like the first letter you received before arriving at Homerton gave you that first glimpse of college. If you would like to receive a letter from a current student, please do get in touch with me at the HUS Office.

As the college moves forward we have been trying to establish ourselves as a college to rival our contemporaries in Cambridge and make ourselves known beyond the university while remaining true to our identity. Over recent months I have been in negotiations with Mansfield College, Oxford with a view to establishing a sister college link. Mansfield although the smallest college in Oxford is like Homerton in many ways: it is the youngest college in the university, it used to specialise in just one subject, but now leads Oxford’s Access Programme to promote applications from non-traditional backgrounds, and it is reputed for having a friendly atmosphere. Last week I heard



*Colin Ferguson and Alexandra Boag*

from the President of the Mansfield JCR Bench who confirmed that Mansfield is very keen to institute a sister college link. Arrangements are now under way for a sports event between the two colleges to initiate the relationship. In many respects sister college arrangements in other colleges exist in name only. Homerton seems to be matched by Mansfield in enthusiasm and I am certain that as two young and dynamic colleges, both Homerton and Mansfield will ensure that the sister college link is kept alive for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of our students: a relationship to be admired throughout Oxbridge.

**Colin Ferguson**

*Vice-President External*

# NEWS OF RETIRED SENIOR MEMBERS [RSMs]

As most of you will know from previous articles, these are a group of retired colleagues from College who keep in touch by meetings in College, visits to places in the region and by a twice-yearly Newsletter.

One such visit took place last July to West Stow, a reconstruction of the Anglo-Saxon village near Bury St Edmunds. A party set out from Cambridge in a number of cars and some from other directions. We were fortunate in having Peter Warner as our guide, to point out relevant details and to answer questions. We discovered that Peter had been a researcher when the site was being excavated and thus knew far more than shown in the printed literature. We started the tour by watching a short video which included early film of these excavations. We craned our necks to see if we could get a sighting of a younger version of Peter. Another bonus was that a specialist thatcher from Wales was restoring the roof on one of the buildings and he came down from on high and gave us a most interesting account of his research into how the Anglo-Saxons might have thatched such a building in their day. Finally the highlight of the tour was when we reached the larger post-built Hall. A fire was burning in the centre open hearth with the smoke curling up to the thatched roof or drifting out through the open doors. We sat round the edge on rough seats while Peter read extracts from Beowulf and questions were posed on what might have been issues in Anglo-Saxon times. As was recorded in our December Newsletter, “A poignant contrast between the ideals and aspirations of Anglo-Saxon culture at its highest point and the harsh physical conditions of ordinary life in an East Anglian village at that time”, provided food for thought.

Each year at the Roll Reunion especially, former students enquire about RSMs. We plan to provide some information in The Homertonian each year so that over a period of time we might cover all of the membership.

**Bob Arthur** 1966–1992. Senior Lecturer in Geography and Coordinator of Curriculum Studies. In 2003 he residually down-sized and counter-urbanised to Barrington in Cambridgeshire from his house in Rathmore Road. His son, Stephen, trained as a Commercial Passenger Pilot and now flies Boeing 747s with BA. Bob has 2 grandsons, Dan 5 years old and Will 3 years old. Geographers from 1982–88 will recall Bridget Oeppen who is now Head of Geography at Hills Road Sixth Form College. Bob is occasionally asked to coach some of her

‘ailing’ A level candidates. He is a member of the RSM Committee and a member of the Barrington Branch of the Royal British Legion.

**Mike Bibby** 1970–1989. Principal Lecturer and Head of the Art Department. On retirement he moved to the Pershore area. In 1989 he built his own studio and subsequently spends most mornings there. He has exhibited continuously since retiring with the last exhibition in October 2006. Recently he has had stiffness in his hands and so is losing fine control of the brush, such that it is now more like occupational therapy! He continues to enjoy fine wines, of course.

**Elizabeth Brewer** 1965–1988. Senior Lecturer in English. She moved back to her own house in 1990 when her husband retired from the Mastership at Emmanuel College. Living close to College she is able to get to functions and meetings in College and also observe the many changes taking place there.

**M Helen Bunton** 1955–1980. Principal Lecturer and Head of the Physics Department. On retiring she remained in Cambridge and was one of the founding members of the RSMs. She has travelled world wide, including one round the world trip when she was 68 years old. Skiing and Golf are now on the ‘backburner’ but she enjoys U3As, including teaching some Photography and another class in English Silver.

**Christine Carpenter** 1943–1970. Congratulations! On Thursday 29 March Christine celebrated her 100th Birthday at her home near Dartington with her daughter Alison and son Peter and their families. Flowers were delivered by Gillie Byron (nee Hoyte) 1971–1975 on behalf of the Senior Members. Christine is still living on her own and able to care for herself.

**Michael Carr** 1966–1983. Principal Lecturer and Head of the Geography Department. He continues to live near Cambridge and is still associated with the College by undertaking School liaison work for them. The ‘grey cells’ are kept active by being an Examiner in A level Geography and writing an A level text book. Church and garden activities keep him very busy. He visits Elaine Butt [one time Geography Technician] and corresponds with Peter Travers who is in the USA.

**David Male** 1966–1968 as a Lecturer in English and Drama, and then 1975–83 as Principal Lecturer and Head of the Drama Department. He is currently living in Harwich, Essex where he has family

connections. Like so many of those retiring from College he maintained an academic profile. He was Visiting Professor of English Literature at Kobe College, Japan 1989–90 and has been Hon. Archivist to the Harwich Town Council 1997–2004 and to the Harwich Society from 2004 to the present. In addition he has produced 3 publications; ‘Christopher Jones: Master of the Mayflower’; ‘From Self to Citizen’, and ‘Christopher Newport: Worthy Seaman and Commander’.

**Grahame Miles** 1968–1987. Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies. On retiring he moved to Plympton near Plymouth in order to look after 3 aged parents, but then downsized to a smaller house when they passed away. Julian and his family are also living in Plympton. Christopher and Simon and their respective families live further away. He has been much involved in Church-work in Devon and also sings in the Plymouth Philharmonic Choir. Remains in touch with a number of former students.

**John Murrell** 1968–2003. Director of Postgraduate Studies and George Peabody Professor. Awarded the MBE for services to Higher Education. Still living in Cambridge and visits College regularly; also has dining rights in Downing College. Consultancy work for the Judicial Studies Board and the Medical profession is less frequent of late which provides more time for golf and travelling; he and Anne are off to New Zealand in March/April.

**Sallie Purkis** 1978–1991. Senior Lecturer in History. After early retirement from College she remained in Cambridge and was fortunate to take up a new career as an educational writer. Six grandchildren also take up a good deal of her time. Former students are still in touch and she caught up with Deborah Barker a couple of years ago and discovered mutual friends in Tennessee.

**Agnes Whyte** 1942–1974. Senior Lecturer in Physical Education. She finally left her house in Hills Road last year and is now in a Residential Home near York. On retiring from lecturing, Agnes continued to help in the College Library and with Teaching Practice arrangements. Outside activities included providing reading books for those who were housebound, delivering ‘meals on wheels’ and visiting at Abbeyfields. She is still in contact with Christine Carpenter [still living in Devon] and the family that they adopted when they moved into 171.

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**John A Hammond**  
March 2007

# Deaths of Former Colleagues

## Joan Bamford

1932–2006

Mrs Joan Bamford, wife of Mr Alan Bamford [Principal of Homerton College from 1985–1991] died on 7 August 2006. The funeral service was held in Tunbridge Wells and the College was represented by John Hammond [formerly Senior Tutor] and George Hubbard [formerly College Bursar].

Joan was born on 23 February 1932 and she met Alan when both were at Teacher Training College. She was at Gipsy Hill, Kingston and Alan at Borough Road, Isleworth. When they started on their teaching careers at nearby schools, they journeyed to school on a tandem; Joan up front! Joan held various teaching posts as well as bringing up 4 sons. She was always involved in Church work and this continued after leaving Cambridge, helping with a pre-school group at Culverton Evangelical Church in Tunbridge Wells. Joan died peacefully after suffering further strokes, having had her first three years ago.

## Betty Burling

1921–2006

Betty Burling who worked at Homerton died recently, aged 85 years. She was born in 1921 at Great Wilbraham, one of 6 children. Betty married her husband Ronald in July 1947 at St John's Church, Hills Road, opposite College. For many years Betty worked as a Secretary for the College until her official retirement age when sadly and unexpectedly Ronald died in 1984. At this time the IT unit needed a part-time Secretary and she was offered the job. Betty worked for the unit, taking on new challenges very successfully, and only finally left when she was 80 years old! Betty was a delight to work with, always cheerful and efficient and somehow managing to ignore the dreadful arthritis she had suffered from for years.

## Malcolm Pointon

*Senior Lecturer in Music*  
1968–1992

Malcolm Pointon died at home on Thursday 8 February 2007 aged 66 years. Many former students will know of Malcolm's long battle with Alzheimer's since he retired in 1992, which was



*Malcolm Pointon at the piano*

chronicled in the ITV documentary 'Malcolm and Barbara' in 1999. His music students will remember him for the engaging way in which he taught as well as for the brilliance of his own playing and composition. Others will recall the patient manner when he accompanied limitless rehearsals for College Concerts and Children's Musicals. Malcolm always looked on the bright side and enlightened all his work with his wit and good humour. The BBC's loss was Homerton's gain. A concert to celebrate his life took place at College at the end of April. A fuller tribute to Malcolm will appear in the Roll News published in September.

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**John A Hammond**

March 2007  
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## Jean Rudduck

*Research Professor and College Fellow*  
1994–2007

Jean Rudduck was one of Homerton's founding Fellows and one of the main architects of the College's high status in the last fifteen years. Jean bridged Homerton's twin worlds – the training of teachers and educational research – in a quite remarkable way. She combined being an internationally famous researcher, and her status as one of Sheffield's only two female professors, with an approachable, constructive collegiality, which was particularly reassuring to Homerton's novice researchers, as they struggled to find an authoritative voice in their writing. Jean understood this and her tact and patience carried many of her new colleagues through their first difficult and diffident forays into research. As a result, she oversaw

an extraordinary growth in Homerton's research profile between 1994 and 2001. She died of ovarian cancer on 28th March 2007, a month after her 70th birthday.

She came to Homerton in 1994 as one of Homerton's two Directors of Research, the other being her partner, Professor John Gray. She gained a First in English Literature at Westfield College in London, turned down a scholarship to study at Cambridge and trained as a teacher at King's London, going on to teach at Godolphin and Latymer, before moving to Sussex University and then the CARE project at UEA, where she completed a part-time PhD. In 1984, she became Professor at Sheffield University, where she met John Gray.

Why then did she move to Homerton, to a much smaller institution, aspiring to develop its research profile? John tells me that it offered an opportunity for her to develop her own research vision of consulting pupils and teachers, which has formed the main thread of her recent work and illumined and encouraged the work of her many students, both teachers and colleagues. Additionally, Homerton offered them both a base as a couple, from which they both went on to become professors in the University of Cambridge. In these Homerton years, Jean was tireless. She was President of the British Educational Research Association (BERA), a member of the ESRC Research Training Board, made an Honorary Fellow of the College of Teachers and an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences. She wrote, travelled, lectured and through encouragement, exhortation and sheer goodness of heart turned many of Homerton's novice researchers into accomplished academics. She and John could play 'good cop, bad cop' to perfection: soft qualitative enquiry, matched to hard, quantitative assertion. Between them they raised Homerton's research profile to match that of Cambridge itself and paved the way to convergence. Through all the grinding hard work, Jean maintained a decorative, graceful presence, slightly enigmatic, perfectionist, perceptive, faintly wistful and completely charming – a role model, if she had but known it, to all aspirant female professors. She will be long remembered here.

.....  
**Dr Kate Pretty**

*Principal*

April 2007  
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# HOMERTON ROLL



## ANNUAL REPORT 2006–7

### Introduction

As Keeper I welcome and find rewarding the many contacts with Homertonians. The Roll continues to grow and be more active, and now requires increased secretarial support. Last year, the Homertonian was redesigned by Cambridge University Press; we hope you continue to enjoy reading about the College and Roll activities.



2002–2005 (Ben Wheeler). There were 152 former students and staff at the 2007 Leavers' Dinner for those who completed their studies in 2006. The new format for Formal Hall is very successful, and the Roll follows the same pattern for this celebration. The Principal talked to the '2006 Leavers' about maintaining their links with the College, and we distributed leaflets describing the purposes of the Roll, its activities and publications, and the availability of the library and social facilities. In May 2006, 19 attended the Cambridge lunch. Dr Warner brought along some of the College's fascinating archives, and used them to illustrate events in the College's history.

### Membership

The Roll has 11,270 members, but 1934 of these are "lost sheep", former students for whom we do not have a current address. We welcomed over 100 new members from earlier years when membership was not automatic. Some made contact by themselves, others heard from College friends about the Reunion.

### Activities

Some 238 attended the Reunion 2006, a record turnout, and the Great Hall certainly buzzed at lunchtime on Saturday. Dr Warner believes the Homerton Reunion is the biggest College Reunion in the University; long may it continue. Peter



Warner interviewed three Homertonians about their times at College – the 50s (Coral Harrow – pictured), the 70s (Jane Bramhill) and a student from



The Committee meets three times each year. There is a yearly cycle to our work: reviewing past events, preparing for the next. As we put more on the College website, contact with members should improve.

### Links with Branches

To strengthen links with College, the HUS Executive and College members of the Committee are very willing to visit Branches. John Hammond visited Manchester in January, and Peter Warner spoke to the Wessex Branch in March 2007.

A new Oxford Branch was launched over a lovely lunch on 1 August 2006 at the home of Sonia Hewitt. We are very grateful to Dorothy Evans, to Sonia and to Lucy Barnett for their hard work initiating the Branch. The first meeting of the re-constituted London Branch took place on 17th February 2007. We had afternoon tea at the Covent Garden site of the Royal Ballet School, organised by Erica Hirsch who has recently retired as Senior Teacher at the school. The Keeper attended both events and heard of the interesting programmes being planned.

### Publications

The Homertonian is posted to all members, and very much focuses on College News with information about the Roll. Copies are given to all Leavers. The Roll News is very much about Roll members. We printed 275 copies in 2006, up by 25 from the previous year. Some 200 questionnaires were returned, and these constituted fourteen pages of the 2006 Roll News. We must thank Rosemary Rees for all her hard work as Editor of the Roll News for the last five years.

### Finance

The Roll had an overall credit balance last year. At its June 2006 meeting, the Committee contributed £1000 to the Boat Club to assist with the purchase of new 'blades'. The Boat Club wrote an article for the Roll News, and provided a display at the Reunion.

In conclusion, I must thank all of you for your support via letters, telephone calls and cheerful emails, but especially the Committee members for their hard work. We must also thank Louise Basham for all she has done in supporting the Roll.

.....  
**Dr Ian H Morrison**

*Fellow and Keeper of the Roll*  
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# HOMERTON ROLL COMMITTEE

*Chair:* Dr Kate Pretty [Principal]; *Keeper of the Roll:* Dr Ian Morrison; *Teaching Staff Member:* Dr Peter Warner [Senior Tutor and College Archivist]; *Retired Staff Member:* Miss Trish Maude MBE; *President HUS:* Alexandra Boag; *Former Keeper of the Roll,* Mr John Hammond; *Past student members* Jane Bramhill [Williams; 1973–1977], Coral Harrow [Hemsley; 1949–1951], Pat Saxton [Hemmings; 1967–1971]; Ann Muston [McDonald; 1976–80]; Mr Chris Cox [1992–1996] and Mrs Erica Hirsch [Straw; 1965–1968]; Dhiru Karia [College Finance Officer]; the Vice-president of HUS, Mr Colin Ferguson has been co-opted.

The Roll has been very ably supported by Louise Basham, and we are very grateful for all that she has done for us. Louise has now returned to full time work for the Tutorial Office. She will be replaced by Alison Holroyd as the new Roll & Alumni Secretary.

Alison and I can both be contacted on roll@homerton.cam.ac.uk. The single email address enables the Office to stay in contact with members when one of us is away.

## HOMERTON ROLL MEMBERSHIP

*The Homertonian* is sent to every member of the Homerton Roll for whom we have a current address. Please help us to keep in touch by letting us know of your new address and telephone number. It also helps if you remind Homerton friends that we need to know where they are too. We also welcome new members. If you know of a Homertonian who was in residence before 1980, is not a member of The Roll and would like to join, please contact the Keeper of The Roll, Dr Ian Morrison. Life membership for these former students is still £15.00 and covers the cost of the annual mailing. All other services, including the annual publication **The Homerton Roll News**, are provided on a break-even basis. Current Roll members are also on the University alumni list.

Members should also receive copies of **CAM Magazine**, which is published three times each year. They are also entitled to a **CAM Card**, which identifies you as a member of the University, and allows you to visit the Colleges on the Backs without paying an entrance fee. Discounts are available in some shops including the Cambridge University Press. If you need help, do contact us.

.....  
**Dr Ian Morrison**  
*Keeper of the Roll*

**Ms Alison Holroyd**  
*Roll & Alumni Secretary*

Tel: 01223 507270  
Email: roll@homerton.cam.ac.uk  
.....

## Where Are They Now?

We do not have the current addresses for about 20% of Roll Members. Please help us if you know where they are.

### 1981

Miss Karen Louise Baker  
Ms Pamela Isobel Barrack  
Mrs Amanda Jane Child [Archer]  
Miss Mary Vera Dobbin  
Miss Kim Lesley Fokett  
Miss Rachel Jane Gershon  
Mrs Kathryn Margaret Howart  
Mrs Andrea Estelle Jacobson  
Miss Aileen Frances Lawrence  
Ms Sara Catherine Marsh  
Ms Catherine Margaret Anne Milner  
Ms Judith Lynne Richardson  
Mrs Theresa Margaret Ernestire Rowley  
Mrs Angela Elizabeth Tonks  
Ms Sara Wiseman

### 1982

Mrs Susan Jennifer Barton  
Miss Paula Mary Brame  
Mrs Sarah Jane Broome [Woods]  
Miss Tracey Elizabeth Callon  
Miss Belinda Caroline Clegg  
Mrs Katherine Mary Deslandes [Seekts]  
Miss Elizabeth Mary Carmel Ellicott  
Mrs Morag Mary Farrell [O'Hagan]  
Miss Sally Patricia Freshfield  
Mrs Alison Elizabeth Mary Gall [Walker]  
Miss Sarah Anne Gant  
Miss Tracy Jayne Goodway  
Mr Nicholas Mark Groves  
Mrs Susan Hibbs [Bantoft]  
Mr James Mark Hilton  
Mrs Kathryn Jane Kashif [Tealer]  
Miss Emma Charlotte Lawson  
Mrs Joanne Mortimore [Wilkinson]  
Miss Catriona Margaret Noyes  
Miss Carolyn Nunns  
Ms Karen Elizabeth Sprunt  
Mrs Carole Marie Aleth Sweetman [Jory]  
Ms Judith Claire Townsend  
Ms Kerin Vickers  
Mrs Keri Jane Wilder  
Mrs Samantha Kim Wrigley  
Mrs Michelle Anne Zeidler

### 1983

Ms Karen Louise Alexander  
Miss Fiona Ruth Allen  
Ms Sarah Jane Anderton [Lloyd]  
Ms Lisa Battams  
Miss Cynthia Elaine Boyle  
Miss Julie Davies  
Miss Carolyn Julie Dee  
Miss Louise Dugdale  
Miss Sarah Caroline Fleming Smith  
Mrs Rachel Ann Goold [Spalding]  
Mrs Sonia Hegan [Byford]  
Mrs Elspeth Philippa Heyhoe Jones [Page]  
Miss Sarah Valentine Lines  
Ms Karen Toni Moore  
Ms Julie Ann Munns  
Mrs Sarah Louise Pearson [Fox]  
Ms Charlotte Elizabeth Penfold  
Ms Frances Katharine Piercy  
Ms Louise Mary Price  
Miss Emma Lynne Rawson  
Ms Sally Margaret Ronaldson  
Mrs Jasmine Erika Seward-Clarke  
Mr Matthew Francis Smith  
Ms Julie Whiteman-Kellom

### 1984

Miss Sue Bentley  
Miss Hazel Berks  
Mrs Elisabeth Jane Brookes  
Mrs Gillian Cannon [Bayes]  
Mrs Geraldine Maria Dunbar [Clarke]  
Mrs Lesley Ann Dunleavy [Best]  
Mrs Wendy Dwyer [Hart]  
Miss Caroline Ferguson  
Miss Charlotte Elizabeth Fletcher  
Mr Lee Jamieson Griffiths  
Miss Katharine Anne Hewitt  
Miss Fiona Helen Hume  
Miss Robyn Wendy Jennings  
Mrs Heather Ceinwen Grace Linehan [Jones]  
Ms Helen Ruth Noelle McDonald  
Ms J E Mcneil  
Ms Tania Patrice Millard  
Miss Charlotte Lorraine Newnes  
Miss Heather Margaret Norris  
Mrs Caroline Gillian Mary Preston-Bell  
Miss Julie Ann Ray  
Miss Karen Louise Reed  
Ms Helen Clare Simpson  
Miss Susan Maureen Thorn  
Ms Nicola Jane Troughton  
Ms Kathryn Elizabeth Waters  
Ms Ann Younge

### 1985

Mrs Jane Louise Arney [Aldwinkle]  
Miss Rebecca Jane Bailey [Freeman]  
Miss Deborah Ann Baker [Lowndes]  
Miss Helen Valerie Baker  
Miss Lisa Jane Bishop  
Miss M R E Briggs  
Ms Kirsty Nicola Byrne  
Mrs Johanna Mary Childs-Evans [Sertin]  
Miss Margaret Clare Clayden  
Ms Ruth Clayton  
Miss Sarah Patricia Cumming  
Miss Rachel Mary Davis  
Miss Annabel Jane Fimister  
Miss Hilary Gibb  
Miss Hazel Jane Greenslade  
Miss Katy Suzanne Hamilton  
Ms Katharine Mary Harper  
Miss Rachel Ann Hinchcliffe  
Miss Nicola Jane Hindle  
Miss Carolyn Anne Howarth  
Ms Joanne Teresa Howarth  
Ms Louise Adele Johns  
Miss Joanne Margaret Kerswell  
Miss Deborah Jane Lanchbury  
Ms Annabel Jane Mcavoy  
Ms Anna Margaret Morgan  
Ms Deborah Muir  
Ms Alex Louise Melling Musker  
Ms Joanne Ruth Radiven  
Ms Amanda Rosenfield  
Miss Elisabeth Ann Ryan  
Ms Jane Seacombe  
Mrs Jyoti Shah  
Ms Gillian Smith  
Mr Christopher Sparrow  
Ms Nicole Anne Stephens  
Ms Anna May Waitt  
Ms Georgia Mary Ward

# BRANCH CONTACTS AND NEWS

During the year, there are groups of Homertonians meeting together around the country, so if you are unable to make it to the Cambridge Reunion, you may find that there is an active group near you. Each group has a local secretary/organiser.

## CAMBRIDGE

Dorothy Elven – 01223 324215  
d.elven@btinternet.com

Anthea Wicks – 01223 234706  
wicks.hmc.eur@lineone.net

## LONDON

Erica Hirsch – 0208 941 1084  
erica.hirsch@hotmail.com

Jean Carnall  
0208 788 0118  
jdcarnall@tiscali.co.uk

## MANCHESTER

Margaret Blott – 01745 570913  
mblott\_8@yahoo.co.uk

## NEWCASTLE

Elise Wylie – 01914 885106  
elise.wylie@gmail.com

## OXFORD

Dr Dorothy Evans – 01865 240209  
fidevans@talktalk.net

## WESSEX

Coral Harrow – 01258 820517  
coralharrow@waitrose.com

## CAMBRIDGE AREA HOMERTONIANS

The number of Homertonians coming to our termly coffee morning continues to grow. By kind invitation of Dorothy Elven, a large gathering greatly enjoyed a 'bring and share lunch' on a beautiful day. New friends and regular members chatted well into the afternoon. We hope it may be possible to hold a similar lunch-time gathering this year. We know that there are many Homertonians living in the Cambridge area – too many to contact you all. If you would like to join in just telephone either

Dorothy Elven on 01223324215  
or Anthea Wicks on 01223 234706

You would be very welcome.

Anthea Wicks (née Pearey)  
1958–1960

## LONDON BRANCH

Judging from the large and extremely positive response to the letter from college to Homertonians in the London area, the re-launch of the London Branch of the Homerton Roll was most welcome. Many replied to say how much they would like to be in touch with others again, and expressed eager anticipation of the gathering in February. There were replies from recent graduates and alumni from every decade since the 1940s!

The venue for the first meeting was the Upper School of the Royal Ballet School, next to Covent Garden Opera House. After refreshments Erica welcomed the twenty-five people attending and spoke about the history and operation of the school where she had worked prior to her retirement last July. Erica took groups on tours of the building, assisted by three former students who were performing with the Royal Ballet Company. We were able to cross the fascinating Bridge of Aspirations above Floral Street.



The date for the next meeting was fixed for the afternoon of Saturday 1st September and the venue and programme will be circulated once all ideas have been carefully considered.

Erica Hirsch (née Straw)  
1965–1968

Jean Carnall (née Barrie)  
1966–1969

## MANCHESTER HOMERTONIANS

During 2006 we enjoyed two very successful "Come if you Can" events, the first to the Manchester Eye in April. The day was cold but clear and we made three circuits so were able to spot all the landmarks. This was followed by lunch at the Mitre Hotel.

The 7th June was hot and sunny when ten of us visited the Stockport Hat Works, a most interesting museum which we would recommend to anyone who hasn't seen it.

During the year we received mementoes of Mrs Mutch who was at Homerton 1932–4, including her Certificate signed by Miss Allan, and delightful photos of her as a young woman and as she is now. The Secretary passed the documents to the College Archive.

The AGM was held at the Mitre on Saturday, 21st October and the annual luncheon followed on 13th January 2007. Unfortunately the dreaded words "under new management" fulfilled our worst fears and the hotel, which has looked after us so well for so long, disappointed us sadly. Negotiations for an apology and/or recompense are proceeding.

Chetham's Music School will be the venue for this year's "Come if you Can", on Wednesday, 9th May.

Margaret Blott (née Davies)  
1949–1951

Tel: 01745 570 913  
Email: mblott\_8@yahoo.co.uk

## NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BRANCH

The Newcastle branch continues to meet twice a year for coffee, conversation and cuisine. We are a very friendly, welcoming group and we would be delighted to receive new members. We meet in March and October and, in addition to the inducements mentioned above, we vary our venues by visiting art galleries, concert halls, museums and historical buildings.

Elise Wylie (née Wood)  
1958–1960

Branch Secretary  
Tel: 0191 4885106

## OXFORD BRANCH

Following the inaugural meeting on 1 August 2006, the Branch has an enthusiastic membership of 23 members. There will be two meetings each year and the programme follows from suggestions made by members.

The second meeting was also held at the beautiful home of Sonia Hewitt and included a 'Bring and Share' lunch. Before



lunch Liz Cracknell talked about the work in Malawi of another Homertonian, Sylvia Avgherinos (Bailey), teaching in an International School, helping to care for orphans in the villages, and helping to provide a feeding programme. After lunch, Alison Wood (Homerton Staff, 1968–98) gave a talk on her work training teachers of gifted children. In May the group will visit a school for autistic children.

If you would like to find out more, do contact one of us for information about future events.

**Dr Dorothy Evans**

1945–1947

Tel: 01865 240209

**Mrs Sonia Hewitt (née Welby)**

1944–1946

Tel: 01865 343338

**Mrs Lucy Barnett (née Allen)**

1961–1964

Tel: 01865 343248

## SHEFFIELD BRANCH

A very small group (maximum 6)

continues to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month for lunch. We would be so pleased to welcome any Old Homertonians in the area as we are struggling to keep going. (Three of our number are over 80, one is over 90 and I am the youngest at over 70!) Hence the need for some more members.

**Thelma Ramsbottom**

(née Cooper)

1951–1953

Tel: 0114 258 5433

## WESSEX BRANCH

We had our Autumn lunch in October at The Priory House Restaurant STOKE-sub-HAMDEN in Somerset. We had a really excellent meal and some of us had time to explore the village whilst there.

Our Spring lunch was held at Bowlish House in Shepton Mallet. Twenty-five people were able to come and we were so pleased to be able to welcome Dr Peter Warner & his wife Irene again. At the end of a very nice meal Peter gave us



an entertaining talk entitled “Quo vadis Homerton?” ... which brought us all up to date on College developments & proposed future plans!

We meet for lunch every March & October & would always be delighted if any Homertonian in the area would like to join us.

**Coral Harrow (née Hemsley)**

1949–1951

# PGCE – RETAINING THE HOMERTON LINK WITH THE PAST

We would like to encourage those of you who followed any of the Homerton PGCE programmes to join us at this year's reunion.

The changes to the PGCE course over the years have been considerable, since the days when Tom Simms, as Head of its Education Department, established the first Homerton course for women graduate students in 1951. It became only the second postgraduate course in East Anglia, the first having been started some seventy years before by the University of Cambridge Department of Education. Simms, in his history of Homerton College, noted the fact that the two courses had no formal contact and consequently described the Homerton course as ‘unfettered’. He elaborated by saying that this enabled Homerton to ‘experiment with ways of teaching and examining’. Experimentation in the strict sense of the word might be an exaggeration, but there is no doubt that the size, structure, content and methodology of the Homerton PGCE have seen remarkable changes since that first group of 12 women arrived in Cambridge.

Numbers rose from 12 in 1951 to 35 in the 1960s, reaching 100 in the great expansion of teacher education in the early 1970s. In the late 1980s and 1990s they increased to 250 with the inclusion of additional primary groups and a course in the training of those intending to teach in what were at the time called Infant Schools. Changes were also frequent and substantial in management, timetabling, content, methodology and assessment. By the 1980s PGCE courses at Homerton were no longer seen as undemanding, convenient ways to spend an extra year in Cambridge.

Probably the most significant of the changes has been the relationship with the University. In fact the distinctive nature of the Homerton course began to disappear in 1992 when the PGCE, which previously had been awarded by the government-funded Cambridge Institute of Education, came under the aegis of the Faculty Board of Education of the University. The University Department course, still limited to training for secondary schools, and its Homerton equivalent took the first steps towards a common programme. For the first time, Homerton's Primary and Infant

courses also came under the scrutiny of the Faculty Board. With convergence in 2001, the formal separation of the Homerton and University Department programmes for the education and initial training came to an end. Homerton's formal role as provider of teachers has disappeared, along with its unique undergraduate B.Ed degree. However, a substantial number of current Homerton College members are students following one or other of the PGCE programmes now on offer from the University. So, ironically, it is the PGCE course, founded as a by-product of the general work of the college nearly sixty years ago, which keeps alive and perpetuates Homerton's link with its past.

This seems to be an appropriate time to record the full details of the history of this special Homerton course. We would welcome reminiscences or information from any postgraduate students from the myriad of different programmes offered from 1950 onward. Even more delightful would be to meet you personally at the Homerton Reunion weekend in September.

**John Murrell and John Ball**

# HOMERTON ROLL ANNUAL REUNION

## Friday 21 and Saturday 22 September 2007

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday 21 September

7.30 for 8.00 Dinner in the Fellows' Dining Room

#### Saturday 22 September

Members of the Homerton Roll and their families are invited to visit the College for the day

Special Anniversary groups – meetings independently arranged

9.30 Registration;  
Coffee available

11.15 Principal's Address in the Auditorium

12.15 [approx] Sherry Reception, followed by lunch with wine

14.00 Tours of the College

15.00 Talk – 'Education and Training in Cambridge in the 21st Century' given by Mr Mike Younger [Head of the Faculty of Education and College Fellow]

16.15 Tea – open to all attending

*Please return the booking form and appropriate remittance by 1 September 2007*

The University's Alumni weekend will be held from 21–23 September. A full programme of the University's events can be obtained from:

Cambridge University Alumni Office  
10 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1BR  
Tel: 01223 332288  
email: [alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk)  
www: [foundation.cam.ac.uk](http://foundation.cam.ac.uk)

Data Protection Act: Please note that in order to organise Year Reunions or other gatherings, the Keeper of the Roll needs to pass on names and addresses to the person coordinating the event. If, for any reason, you are unhappy with this procedure, please contact the Keeper of the Roll so that your details remain with the College.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

*organised for this Reunion*

Please contact the people named below for more information on your Special Reunion this year. If your year is not mentioned and you would like to help organise a Special Reunion, please contact the Keeper of the Roll on 01223 507270.

**DIAMOND GIRLS GOING**  
1945–1947

Contact: Dr Dorothy Evans  
Tel: 01865 240209

**DIAMOND GIRLS IN**  
1947–1949

Contact: Mavis Smith (Roberts)  
Tel: 01603 453337

**GOLDEN GIRLS GOING**  
1955–1957

Contact: Sidella Morten (Williams)  
Tel: 01535 670479

**GOLDEN GIRLS IN**  
1957–1959/60

Contact: Christine Jackson (Riley)  
Tel: 01865 873246

**40 YEARS ON**  
1964–1967

Contact: Veronica Clark (Needham)  
Tel: 01323 642648

**40 YEARS IN**  
1967–1970/1971

Contact: Pat Saxton (Hemmings)  
Tel: 01223 232354  
& Rosemary Thackray  
Tel: 01223 368301

**30 YEARS ON**  
1974–1977/78

Contact: Nicky Mouldsdales (Tyler)  
Tel: 02085 429123

**30 YEARS IN**  
1977–1981

Contact: Jane Pearson (Struthers)  
Tel: 01223 361378

**PGCE**

Contact: Professor John Murrell, M.B.E  
Director of Postgraduate Studies 1975–1992  
Tel: 01223 354042

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**01 July 2007**

Copy deadline for the 2007 Homerton Roll News

**3 or 10 May 2008**

Cambridge Members– Luncheon

**21 September 2007**

Annual Reunion Dinner in College

**01 July 2008**

Copy deadline for the 2008 Homerton Roll News

**22 September 2007**

Annual Reunion in College

**26 September 2008**

Annual Reunion Dinner in College

**15 February 2008**

Recent Leavers' Dinner in College

**27 September 2008**

Annual Reunion in College

**31 March 2008**

Items for inclusion in the 2008 Homertonian to be submitted