



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Easter Term 2020

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College and the coronavirus
The history of working motherhood
Leaving St John's – one retiree on what
she'll miss most

WELCOMES, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

New arrivals for St John's parents



One of our Director of Studies and one of our Porters have welcomed a new addition to their family – Rosalind Daphne Gardner. Little Rosalind entered the world on May Day to join big sisters Eleanor, Margaret and Beatrice. Dr Jodi Gardner, Director of Studies in Law, and her husband Sebastian Brimblecombe, Evening Porter, joined the St John's community in 2017. The couple have chosen for Seb to take parental leave so Jodi can run revision classes for her students and continue to teach.



And Hayley Duignan, Academic Administrator, gave birth to George Bertie on 20 April. Baby George joins two-year-old big brother Alfred, and the family is pictured with Hayley's husband Alex.

Congratulations to both families from everyone at St John's!

Welcome to our new staff

- Tom Street** – Maintenance Manager
- Karen Clare** – Communications Officer
- Samir Kassati Braimi** – Senior Combination Room Assistant
- Hannah Dudley** – Communications Officer (Freedom of Information)
- Marta Howlett** – Academic Administrator (maternity cover)
- Krystal Matthews** – Telephone and Computer Officer
- Ross Agnew** – Undergraduate Admissions Administrator
- Sophia Hatfield** – Finance Team Leader

Goodbye to...

Ros Deverell, who retired on 9 April after 30 years at St John's. Read our interview on page 15 with **Angela McKenzie**, Secretary to the Head of Information Services and Systems and Telephone Liaison Officer, who is retiring after 19 years at St John's.

Congratulations to...

Lee Cundell, Carpenter, and **Mark Bell**, Porter, who reach 25 years of service at St John's in July and August respectively.

Welcome to *Eagle Eye*,
the newsletter for staff,
Fellows and students of
St John's College

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'MI5'.

Eagle Eye

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Cover image: *The Bridge of Sighs* was
illuminated in blue on May 14 by *The
Crane Event* in tribute to NHS staff and
other key workers. Photo credit: *Martin
Bond @acambridgediary*

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Easter Term, which is usually such
a lively, exciting term in College, is
different to anything we could have
imagined this year. The Courts are silent,
just a handful of students, staff and
Fellows are on site, teaching sessions
and meetings are being conducted
online (Zoom and Teams have never
been used so much) and everyone who
can do so is working from home. Our
thoughts are with those members of
the College community and their
friends and families who have been
affected by coronavirus.

Despite the silence, plenty has been
going on behind the scenes, and
everyone has been coming together –
remotely – to weather this storm in the
best way possible. The College's Covid
Committee has been working hard to
tackle current issues and discuss future
plans, students and academics have
been busy setting up online events to
keep everyone connected, and many
have been blogging (and vlogging)
to tell us about their experiences
during lockdown, from Cambridge to
Singapore. The new coronavirus pages
on the website contain the current
information, and regularly updated FAQs
provide answers to common questions.

Read the article on pages 8 to 11 to find
out more about what the College has
been doing during these unusual times,
including a note from the Vice-Master,
Professor Tim Whitmarsh.

In this edition we also take a look at
Dr Helen McCarthy's groundbreaking
new book, *Double Lives: A History of
Working Motherhood*, which shows us
what the history of motherhood can
teach us during a global pandemic, and
how home and work life challenges are
nothing new for mums – see more on
pages 12-13.

We meet Architecture student
Papawarin Pinij, known as Ply, whose
work is to feature in an exhibition called
Refugees: Forced to Flee at the Imperial
War Museum in London. Her drawings
of refugee shelters show the personal
stories of those who have had to flee
their homes. The exhibition opening has
been delayed, but the IWM still hopes to
open its *Refugees* season this summer.
See more on page 14.

And on page 15 we talk to Angela
McKenzie, Secretary to the Head of
Information Services and Systems and
Telephone Liaison Officer, who retires at
the end of June after 19 years. We find
out how she earned her nickname
'MI5', how she works in the Library but
dislikes old books, and learn about her
biggest phobia.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and we
hope to see you in person as soon as we
can. In the meantime, stay safe.

All the best,

Louise

**Editor and Web and Internal
Communications Officer**

NEWS ROUND-UP

One of Darwin's evolution theories finally proved



Laura van Holstein with a first edition of Charles Darwin's *On The Origin of Species* in the Old Library at St John's. Credit: Nordin Catić

A scientist from St John's College has proved one of Charles Darwin's theories of evolution for the first time – nearly 140 years after his death.

Laura van Holstein, a PhD student in Biological Anthropology and lead author of the research published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, discovered mammal subspecies play a more important role in evolution than previously thought. A species is a group of animals that can interbreed freely amongst themselves. Some species contain subspecies – populations within a species that differ from each other by having different physical traits and their own breeding ranges.

Laura said: "We are standing on the shoulders of giants. In Chapter 3 of *On the Origin of Species* Darwin said animal lineages with more species should also contain more 'varieties'. Subspecies is the modern definition. My research investigating the relationship between

species and the variety of subspecies proves that subspecies play a critical role in long-term evolutionary dynamics and in future evolution of species. And they always have, which is what Darwin suspected when he was defining what a species actually was."

The anthropologist confirmed Darwin's hypothesis by looking at data gathered by naturalists over hundreds of years – long before Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands on-board *HMS Beagle*. He went on to publish *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859. The research also proved evolution happens differently in land mammals (terrestrial) and sea mammals and bats (non-terrestrial) because of differences in their habitats and differences in their ability to roam freely.

The findings could now be used to predict which species conservationists should focus on protecting to stop them becoming endangered or extinct.

Senior research 'stars' awarded millions in funding

'Daring and innovative' senior scientists have been rewarded with €450 million of funding from the European Research Council (ERC) – and a St John's physicist is amongst them.



Professor Mete Atatüre, Director of Studies in Physics and Astrophysics and in Mathematics for Natural Sciences at St John's, is based at Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory. He has been awarded £2.5 million over five years for his research on diamond-based quantum technologies.

The €450 million has been shared between 185 senior scientists, including three other University of Cambridge researchers. ERC Advanced Grants are awarded to projects led by researchers who are working or moving to work in Europe. The criteria for selection is scientific excellence.

Professor Mauro Ferrari, President of the European Research Council, described the academics' work as 'daring and innovative' and added: "These senior research stars will cut new ground in a broad range of fields."

Prof Atatüre has also been announced as a 2020 Fellow of The Optical Society, the leading professional association for scientists, engineers, students and business leaders working in the field of light science and technology.

Lady Margaret Boat Club victorious in Lent Bumps

The men's first boat of St John's College won the ultimate prize during the Lent Bumps and finished top of the first division known as 'Head of the River'.

Lady Margaret Boat Club (LMBC), the St John's boat club, entered five crews into the Lent Bumps – one of the most important fixtures of the Cambridge rowing calendar.

The men's first boat, M1, were Head of the River in 2017 and 2018 but were knocked-off the top spot last year by a crew from Gonville & Caius. W1, the first female crew, maintained their position

as fifth on the river in the women's first division.

This year M2, the men's second crew, finished second in the second division – the highest out of all the College second men's boats. M3 finished 14th in their division and W2 ended second in division three.

Driving rain and strong winds led to challenging conditions. Lance Badman, Boat Club Manager, said: "The results are a credit to the crews who worked incredibly hard."



M1 and W1 in action during the Lent Bumps. Credit: Giorgio Divitini

Markswoman shoots and scores

Third year Cecilia Catuogno-Cal has helped to break two shooting records and been named in the 'Team of the Year' in the inaugural University of Cambridge Sports Awards. Cecilia, who studies Chemical Engineering at St John's, is a member of the University Small Bore Club (CUSBC), whose results sports awards judges said "indisputably make CUSBC the most successful university shooting club in the country". Cecilia is a member of the club's 1st VI, which won first place at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Short Range Championships for the fourth year in a row. She also helped the club break two Varsity records this year. Cecilia plans to take a Masters in Chemical Engineering at St John's next term. Cecilia said: "We are really happy and really proud."

Medieval library treasure goes digital

A stunning 13th century manuscript from St John's Old Library has been digitised. 'Manuscript (MS) D.6' is an illuminated psalter – a religious text – that belonged to Robert de Lindsay, who was Abbot of Peterborough from 1214 to 1222. The manuscript is annotated in the margins and between the lines, or 'glossed', to aid the reader in understanding the text, and it can be viewed in the University of Cambridge Digital Library.

New Honorary Fellows elected

Four distinguished people have been named as Honorary Fellows in recognition of their exceptional contributions to their respective fields. Dr Heidi-Ann Doughty, President of the Blood Transfusion Society, Dr Claire Craig, Provost of The Queen's College, Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, and Dr Eben Upton, founder of the Raspberry Pi Foundation, have all been announced as Honorary Fellows. An Honorary Fellowship is the most prestigious award St John's can bestow upon eminent people who have a connection with the College, and who have attained distinction in their area of expertise.

Prestigious award for teaching excellence

A College Lecturer in Applied Mathematics and Reader in Oceanography has scooped a 2020 Pilkington Prize for his exemplary teaching of Mathematics.

Dr John R. Taylor is one of 12 winners of the University of Cambridge Pilkington Prizes, which are awarded annually by the Vice-Chancellor to people who make a substantial contribution to the teaching programme of a Department, Faculty or the University of Cambridge.

"I feel tremendously fortunate to teach Maths at Cambridge and I love interacting with the students, whether in discussions after lectures or in supervisions in College," said Dr Taylor. "I find the students' enthusiasm inspiring and energising. Their questions often lead me to dig deeper into the subject and I learn new things every time I teach."

Dr Taylor, who was Director of Studies in Mathematics at St John's from 2018-2020, receives a £1,000 prize. The prize was endowed and inaugurated in 1994 by Cambridge alumnus Sir Alastair Pilkington, who believed the quality of teaching was crucial to the University's success and wanted to reward excellence.



Social media legal eagle shortlisted in awards



Credit: Cie Jen Wong

A law student with a popular YouTube channel was shortlisted for an award celebrating the best legal social media users of 2020.

Elena Handtrack, a second year undergraduate at St John's, has clocked up more than 44,400 YouTube subscribers for her vlogs about Cambridge where she offers a glimpse into her busy life. Her videos have had more than two million views and cover all kinds of law study content, centred around life at St John's.

She was nominated for 'Best Use of Social Media 2020' in the awards established by Legal Cheek, a leading UK news source

for junior lawyers and law students. The awards took place as a virtual event on 26 March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Elena began vlogging about her life when she was 16 and moved to Hong Kong from her home in Germany. In 2018 she took up a place at St John's after being awarded the Salim and Umeeda Nathoo Bursary. Her vlog gives viewers a peek into her life, from her daily routine of rising at 4am, to attending lectures, discussing essential items for the law student and providing study and motivational tips. Her *A Day in the Life of a Cambridge University Law Student* video alone has had more than 984,400 views.

'Visionary' professor receives world's largest education prize

An academic at St John's College was awarded with the \$3.9 million Yidan Prize at a major conference for leading education researchers.

Professor Usha Goswami, a Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, a Director of the Centre for Neuroscience in Education, and a Fellow of St John's, is a global leader in literacy research. She was presented with the prize at The Yidan Prize Conference: Europe for 'creating a better world through education' at Jesus College in March. Professor Goswami's research has focused on understanding brain function to enable educators to design different teaching techniques and tools to help children with dyslexia and special needs learn languages more effectively.

The Yidan Prize was founded in 2016 by Dr Charles Chen Yidan and is the world's most generous prize in education research and education development. Yidan Prize Laureates each receive a gold medal and an award of US \$3.9 million; half is a cash prize and the other half forms a research project fund.



Dr Charles Chen Yidan presenting Professor Usha Goswami with the Yidan Prize

Professor Goswami said she was 'deeply honoured' and added: "I hope the prize will mean we really have a chance to move the field forward: bringing these perspectives to more

labs studying more languages will really make a huge difference to young people with dyslexia and developmental language disorders."

Academics nominated in student awards for 'innovative' teaching

Three academics from St John's have been recognised for their teaching talent in annual awards run by the student community.

The Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) teaching awards are presented in recognition of outstanding lecturers, supervisors, tutors and Directors of Studies across the University and its Colleges.

Dr Georgina Evans was nominated in the Inclusive Practice category, Dr Christopher Warnes was shortlisted in the Partnership category, and Dr Joao Rodrigues was nominated in the Undergraduate Supervisor STEM category.

Dr Evans, who is College Lecturer in French, University Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, and Director of Studies for Modern and Medieval Languages, said: "I'm really delighted to be shortlisted, especially in the category of Inclusive Practice, something which is incredibly important to me."

Dr Warnes, College Lecturer in English and University Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of English, commented: "I am thrilled to have been nominated. It means so much coming from the students themselves."

Dr Rodrigues, College Teaching Associate who supervises undergraduate courses in Mathematics and Natural Sciences Tripos, added: "I am very pleased, and also very surprised, with this nomination. To take good care of the academic development of the students should always be the priority of those involved in education."

A CUSU spokesperson said: "The Student-led Teaching Awards are entirely led by students, and are a unique opportunity for students to recognise the exceptional contribution of teaching and non-teaching staff to their education at Cambridge."

The winners were announced on 7 May.



Dr Georgina Evans



Dr Christopher Warnes



Dr Joao Rodrigues

Life under lockdown: how the coronavirus outbreak changed College life and how the St John's community is rallying in response

A message from Professor Tim Whitmarsh, Vice-Master

What an academic year this is proving to be. Even before the virus struck, members of College faced the terrible events on London Bridge in December, industrial unrest and the final farewell to our beloved Master. Some among our community have been afflicted by this terrible illness, a few severely.

Cambridgeshire has got off relatively lightly so far, but none of us has been untouched. We are all cut off from friends, family and colleagues. The normal rhythm of our lives has been badly disrupted. Many – students, staff and Fellows alike – cannot work, or cannot do so effectively. Some are home-schooling children or caring for other family members. Life on furlough can, I know from our conversations, be challenging.

It is hard for those students who are sitting at home, far from their peers. It is hard too for those in College, amid all of this uncertainty and fear – and not just students, but also those doing heroic work in the frontline departments: the medical centre, porters, housekeepers, maintenance and catering.



In times like this it is easy to resort to platitudes: there is a kind of comfort to be found in recalling that the College has survived much worse in its 500-year history. But platitudes are not enough.

We need to work tirelessly to maintain and build our community and solidarity, and to look after each other's health and wellbeing. I know how much effort has been expended on creating

and supporting digital communities. Even the tiniest expression of joy and friendship – even a Facebook 'like' – can go a long way.

Digital communities, however, can never be a substitute for the real thing; please rest assured that we in College are doing all we can to get you back just as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, let me send my very warmest wishes to all of you in the College family.

Leo adds strings to his bow with Facebook family concerts

Violinist Leo Appel and his musical family are performing weekly Facebook concerts to lift spirits and raise charity funds during the UK coronavirus lockdown.

The second year music student is live-streaming the performances at 3pm every Wednesday from his family home in Oxford in the series called 'An Afternoon with the Appels' on his Facebook page. Viewers can donate to a different charity chosen by the family every week.



Community keeps in touch with series of life in lockdown blogs

Self-isolation is usually only something students have to do when they have a deadline. But as social distancing is the key to saving lives during the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of our undergraduate and postgraduate community left Cambridge to travel back to their family homes.

To keep our ever-strong sense of St John's community spirit alive, students are rallying by organising baking competitions, live circuits and rowing training on Zoom and quiz and movie nights. Academics are hosting coffee and chats and hosting talks and staff are catching up with each other in a virtual tearoom on Facebook. And we asked some of our students, staff and Fellows to regularly write about their lives for us. The blogs – and a weekly vlog – have now

been viewed thousands of times around the world.

They chart everything from a student's battle with suspected Covid-19, a postgraduate student's return to the NHS frontline, to coping being back in the family home in countries from Singapore, Turkey and the Middle East. And as Alejandro Lemus-Gomez, the first of our student bloggers who is a Davies-Jackson Scholar, said in his debut blog: "This is a weird and frightening time to live in. That being said, I hope that these posts serve to provide a sense of comfort in the absurdity."

Meet some of the bloggers who are sharing their trials and tribulations with us on the coronavirus section of our website: joh.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus-self-isolation-blogs



Sebastian Venter, Engineering, Jess Chan, English, and Tom Hasson, Natural Sciences



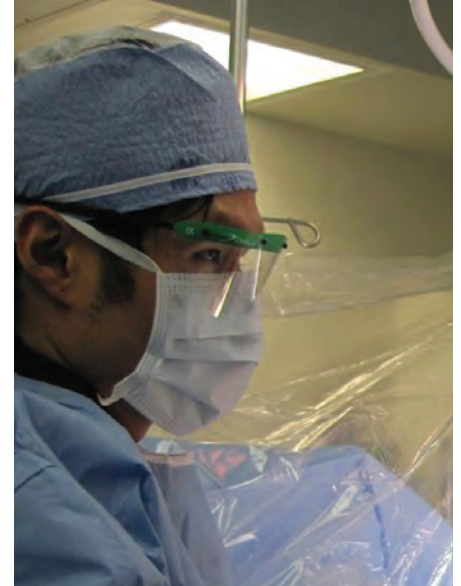
Carrie Tan, Economics undergraduate



Alejandro Lemus-Gomez, Davies-Jackson Scholar reading Modern and Medieval languages



Samantha Islam, PhD student in the Department of Engineering



Matthew Seah, PhD student and orthopaedic surgeon



Susannah Rose, Head of Alumni Relations



Bhanu Balusu, Engineering undergraduate



Ahu Aydin, Physics undergraduate

Staff take to social media to connect with College

The UK may have been in lockdown, but behind the scenes at St John's a lot of essential work has continued.

Our catering, housekeeping, gardening departments and team of porters have remained working in a socially distant way on-site. Emma Manuel, our College Nurse, has even moved into accommodation in College to be close-at-hand for anyone who needs support. Catering, housekeeping and the porters have all become silver screen stars by producing their own films about life at St John's during the lockdown. Visit the coronavirus section of our website to view them.

Staff are rising to the challenge of working from home, student services are making sure everything is in place for exams, payroll have paid people on time, and IT have made all of that work remotely. And many more College duties are being met as usual despite the unusual circumstances.



Emma Manuel, the College Nurse. Credit: Nordin Čatić

Our dedicated catering team have been sharing their culinary delights with the local community by baking delicious brownies for residents in local care homes. They have made deliveries to

Orchard House Care Home, Sawston, and to Great Shelford Care Home. Old uniforms have also been donated to be recycled into face masks and hospital scrubs.

'Virtual Chapel' launched during pandemic

St John's College Chapel is delivering digital services to give people the opportunity to 'pause and reflect together' during the global lockdown.

Services are currently suspended at our world-famous Victorian chapel to protect the St John's community and visitors. The Chapel team is now providing 'Virtual Chapel' services so the College community can continue to worship from their own homes, wherever they are in the world.

The Rev'd Canon Mark Oakley, Dean of Chapel, said: "We have been discovering again that human beings are made for relationship and when personal encounters are very limited we begin to feel less than we can or should be. The imaginative ways people have come up with to stay connected in these difficult times are often inventive and poignant.

"The Chapel wants to play its part and ensure that the College community, and all our friends wherever they may be, can have

the opportunity to pause together and reflect, pray and attend to our inner lives, and our hopes for the future, with the help of the College Choir and St John's Voices."

Daily services are available online in various formats. For more information, please go to the Chapel page on the College website at joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel-choir



St John's scientist leads research to reduce airborne Covid-19 spread in emergency hospitals

Researchers say low-tech changes in makeshift emergency hospitals can reduce the dispersal of airborne Covid-19.

Professor Andrew Woods, Fellow of Mathematics at St John's and Head of the BP Institute, led a study with Professor Alan Short of the Department of Architecture to find ventilation designs and ward configurations to reduce virus dispersal.

Emergency wards are being converted from large air-conditioned halls which tend to have top-down air-conditioning. This creates turbulent flows that can mix and spread droplets containing the virus very widely. In this setting it may take

over 20 minutes to dilute the concentration of smaller droplets produced in a cough to below a tenth of their original density, which is plenty of time for droplets to travel beyond 20 metres. This puts healthcare professionals in particular at risk as they move through them.

Professor Woods and Professor Short have developed a series of practical solutions to reduce the concentration of airborne viruses in buildings converted into makeshift wards.

"Governments, healthcare decision-makers and construction workers are facing an extreme challenge in the urgent need to construct emergency

hospitals," says Woods. "Our work aims to highlight simple yet effective solutions that are relatively easy to install, implement, service and maintain."

The team's recommendations are based on laboratory experiments that tested ventilation systems for two basic arrangements of beds. One involves placing hundreds of beds in an open hall with low-level partitions while the other sees beds within enclosed patient bays.

The designs, released in a video report available on our website, involve relatively low-tech adaptations to ventilation systems and ward configuration, and are relevant for use in the UK and overseas.

Students told 'it's ok not to be ok – you are not alone'

A series of online events and digital challenges were devised by the JCR to support students during Mental Health Awareness Week in May.

Rebecca Gutteridge, known as Becca, Mental Health Officer for the JCR (pictured), shared her battle with anxiety and depression as she launched a programme of activities designed to engage students remotely to improve their mental wellbeing during the pandemic.

The second-year English student took two years out from school while taking her A-Levels. She said: "I personally found it difficult to adapt to this new lockdown routine. So I went back to the drawing

board and I made a pack of relaxing activities people can do at home to de-stress." There are 20 activities to choose from in the digital pack, from taking time to sit in the sun and making a mug cake, to doing 10 minutes of cardio, writing to a friend and making a TikTok.

Becca added: "It's ok not to be ok. But with the St John's family you are not really alone, even in isolation. We are still here for you."

Anyone who is struggling with their mental health can seek support from the College Health Centre as well as from the JCR, visit joh.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus-information for more details.



Engineers use industrial modelling techniques to help Addenbrooke's manage virus

Modelling tools originally designed to improve the efficiency of factories are being used to help Addenbrooke's Hospital manage the Covid-19 emergency.

The work enhances the hospital's own modelling, and provides insight into how day-to-day activities might be affected by a rise in patient numbers during the pandemic.

'Discrete event simulations' have been worked up by a team from the University's Department of Engineering to manage the flow of patients through hospital

wards in the event of a surge in cases, and anticipate waiting times, bed availability, and equipment and staff shortages.

As well as patient flow modelling, the Department is supporting Addenbrooke's in a number of other ways. Industrial engineering students are volunteering their time to focus on the hospital's oxygen supply, among other things how it might be replenished and filtered, and are also looking at how to model and optimise Covid-19 testing processes.

Duncan McFarlane, Professor in Industrial Information Engineering and Fellow of

St John's who worked on the project, said: "At first we knew very little about hospital operations, but with close input from the hospital we've been able to pick from a series of industrial techniques and apply the most useful ones to this new setting. Instead of production lines we're now looking at hospital wards, and rather than products or raw materials we are examining the flow of patients and supplies.

"The support from the hospital has been extraordinary – especially given the level of pressure it has been operating under."

What the history of working motherhood can teach us during a global pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has blurred the lines between the workplace and family life. And although these are extraordinary times, a groundbreaking new book by St John's historian Dr Helen McCarthy reveals home and work life challenges are nothing new for mothers. Karen Clare finds out more.

With the world in lockdown, parents were catapulted into juggling childcare, schooling, household chores and working from home.

"It's an extraordinary moment because we have had the mass withdrawal of state-subsidised care of children, with the shutting of schools and most nurseries, and most childminders and nannies not working," said Dr McCarthy, Fellow and College Lecturer in Modern British History at St John's. Her latest book, *Double Lives: A History of Working Motherhood*, was published by Bloomsbury in April.

"The shift to working from home could go either way. It could be positive for parents working in companies where there had been resistance to home working in the past. Those companies are now being forced to embrace it, and if those new working practices bed down, that could give parents extra flexibility in the future.

"But I think there is also anecdotal evidence being collected by The Fawcett Society, The Women's Budget Group, and other feminist pressure groups that women are more likely to be taking unpaid leave from their jobs or being furloughed to look after children. Because we still have a gender pay gap of over 12 per cent, if you have a couple household where someone needs to step back and someone needs to prioritise their earning, it's often going to be the mother who steps back."

In *Double Lives*, Dr McCarthy examines the lived experiences of working mothers over the past 150 years against



Dr Helen McCarthy. Photograph © Jonathan Ring



Image © Shutterstock

the backdrop of how they have been perceived in society. She was struck by the absence of a sweeping social and cultural history of working motherhood up to the present day and wanted to look at the lives of mothers who worked for pay across different social classes, occupations, regions and ethnicities.

Perhaps surprisingly, the 1950s and 1960s were great transformative decades in women's lives. Families were getting smaller and women's health was improving thanks to the creation of the NHS and a booming economy with full employment meant there were lots of jobs for women.

Many white, British-born middle-class housewives, aged in their late thirties and early forties, with older children, began going out to work. "It was seen as a good thing for them to get a little part-time job, to bring a little money into the family. It gave them a break from housework and a little slice of financial independence. That was increasingly becoming a fairly common experience and the somewhat aspirational face of motherhood," explained Dr McCarthy.

It was different for migrant women who came to Britain after the war as Commonwealth citizens. "Women from the Caribbean were almost certainly working full-time, sending money back to children and extended kin. Similarly, South Asian women's employment was shaped by different cultural norms, there were often language barriers, a lot of

them were doing home-working but it was often Victorian style, making clothes or sewing curtains for very low piece rates," said Dr McCarthy.

During her research, Dr McCarthy used many different historical sources but made heavy use of a 2014 directive asking about experiences of combining parenting and work. This showed society has moved in the right direction in many ways, but there is still much work to be done.

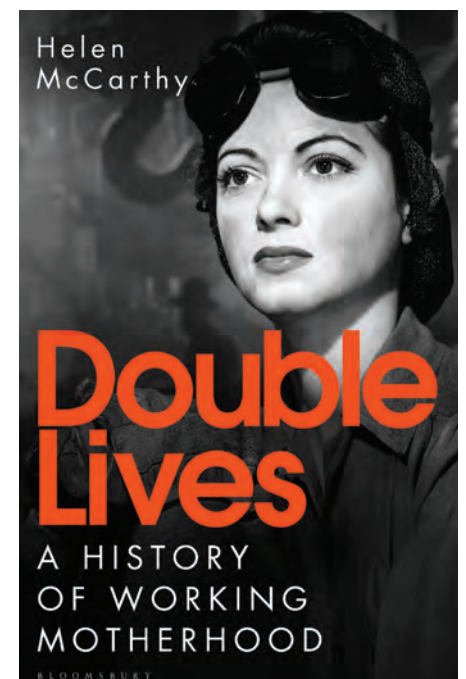
Even today working mothers have to "strike a bargain" to gain social acceptance. "Working mothers are shouldering primary responsibility for organising childcare, negotiating flexible hours with their employers, doing housework, and doing the kind of emotional labour that keeps the household running, that maintains it as a place of security for children and for husbands. And I don't think any of that unpaid labour has really diminished very much," said Dr McCarthy.

The cultural transformation around fatherhood is progressing slowly. "It is a story of transformation for mothers but it's a story of continuity for fathers," added Dr McCarthy. "That's one of the areas where we really need to create change as a society."

Dr McCarthy's motivation to write *Double Lives* partly stemmed from becoming a mother. She was "curious about the pleasures, the pressures, the challenges,

the stresses, the transformation that has taken place in my life since having children. I wanted to situate that in time, locate it in history and think about the forces that have created the world in which I live my life as a working mother. I wanted to ask: how have those worlds been different for women in the past?"

Social scientists are no doubt already recording the effects of lockdown on our domestic and working lives. For working mothers, it is another chapter in their story.



■ **Double Lives: A History of Working Motherhood: bloomsbury.com/author/helen-mccarthy/**

Architecture student's work to feature in Imperial War Museum refugee exhibition



Drawings of refugee shelters by a St John's student will be displayed in an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in London to help unlock the personal stories of people who have been forced to flee their homes.

Refugees: Forced to Flee explores a century of refugee experiences, from Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews and the Kindertransport, to the Calais Jungle and the treacherous Mediterranean crossings.

Papawarin Pinij, known as Ply, collaborated with Dr Mark Breeze, Director of Studies in Architecture at St John's, to create the Refugee Shelter Inventory at www.shelterinventory.org. Ply created the first 30 entries of the resource, which catalogues emergency shelters used by refugees around the world. She collated data and created about 90 original architectural drawings, often from very partial and haphazard information.

A selection of her drawings has been chosen for the IWM exhibition, which

was due to run from 2 April until 29 November 2020 but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. At the time of writing the IWM still hopes to open its *Refugees* season this summer.

Ply, a third year undergraduate student, said: "I am really excited. I have never been involved in such a large-scale exhibition before and in such an established venue. The exhibition shows that architects' work goes beyond just designing new buildings."

The Shelter Inventory is part of a broader research project carried out by Dr Breeze in partnership with Professor Tom Scott-Smith, University of Oxford.

Dr Breeze said: "The Shelter Inventory would not exist if it was not for Ply's careful research and architectural drawings, all of which she did on top of her formal studies. I am delighted we could collaborate, and I am especially pleased that the IWM has recognised the quality and value of her work. Having your work exhibited at a major museum

is a big deal for anyone – but especially for an undergraduate student."

Ply, who is founding President of St John's Architecture Society, originally applied to St John's because of the teaching support and resources it provides and hopes to become a professional architect.

Dr Breeze, a practising architect and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, added: "We do our utmost at St John's to ensure our architecture students get the best support, resources, and opportunities so they can have as broad and rich an education as possible."



■ [Learn about the *Refugees* exhibition at \[iwm.org.uk/events/refugees-forced-to-flee\]\(http://iwm.org.uk/events/refugees-forced-to-flee\)](http://iwm.org.uk/events/refugees-forced-to-flee)



Office, so I make an effort to find out. I'm just really interested in people, and life is more interesting if you know what's going on around you. But some might say I'm just nosy!

What are the main changes you've seen during your time at St John's?

There's a lot more technology than there used to be – I used to write down every call from the switchboard years ago, there were no computers then! Me and technology don't go together very well. There are more rules than there were years ago, and the College now operates more like a business.

You have an unusual phobia – bananas. Can you explain that to us?

I can't stand them, and people can't eat them near me! I can't bear the smell and can't even look at them. I've had this phobia all my adult life, and have no idea why. It's a long-standing joke, but everyone in the Library is really understanding.

You have organised an annual Macmillan Coffee Morning for many years. What will happen to it when you retire?

This was started in 2004 by myself and Kathy Hammond, the then DB's Secretary, and I continued when she retired. The College provides free tea, coffee, cakes and a room, which is great. Over 16 years we have raised £4,415 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It's also a good opportunity for different departments to mix. I've now handed over the reins to Fiona Boston, so it will be back with the DB's Office. I intend to come back for tea and cake when I've retired!

What will you miss most about St John's?

The lovely people, without a doubt. I've met so many different people from all walks of life. I'll also miss the great food in the Buttery. And of course, the location. But I'm looking forward to travelling (when we are allowed to again) and spending more time with the grandchildren. It's time to move on.



Angela (right) at the first Macmillan Coffee Morning with Kathy Hammond (left) and Jane Jones

10-minute interview

Angela McKenzie, Secretary to the Head of Information Services and Systems, and Telephone Liaison Officer

You've worked at St John's for 19 years and will retire on 25 June – why have you stayed for so long?

St John's is a lovely place – it's so friendly and it feels like we are one big family, I enjoy working here. It's not like working in an office block! There is nowhere as beautiful as St John's, especially on a spring or summer day.

You seem to know everyone at College and everything that's going on. How many different departments have you worked in?

Three. I started in 1999 in Cripps Porters' Lodge on the switchboard, and sat in a little cubby hole where I'd transfer calls to staff and Fellows. I wanted more varied work to do and started helping the porters by opening gates for visitors and signing out keys. I then moved to the Domestic Bursar's Office, taking the switchboard with me, where I then worked 50 per cent on the phones and 50 per cent as Assistant to the DB's Secretary, and I later became the DB's Secretary. I worked there for about 13 years – it's the heart of the College so I got to know a lot of people and heard

all the gossip! It was busy but interesting; we organised the filming for the *Theory of Everything*, before the Communications Office existed. Then after a structural change about seven years ago, when IT, Telephones, Communications and the Library came under the Information Services umbrella, I moved to the Library, where I currently work as Secretary to Dr Mark Nicholls and Telephone Liaison Officer.

Is it true that you don't like old books – how do you manage working in the Library?

It's true, I hate old books and their musty smell. I make a point of avoiding going into the Old Library if possible, which my colleagues find amusing as they all love it. But my desk is in the Working Library which is an impressive place, and I have a lovely view of the Master's Garden.

We hear you have a nickname: MI5. How did you get it?

It's because I make it my business to find out what's happening everywhere! I don't always know about things going on in College like I did when I was in the DB's



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