



That was one busy summer! I did enjoy meeting all of you who returned to Pembroke for the **Gaudy** on 6th August (1962- 1964), 6th September (1992 – 1994) and the **Alumni Weekend Dinner** last Saturday. These were great occasions for you to have the opportunity to meet Dame Lynne Brindley, our new Master. (who introduces herself to you all below). Thank you to Greg Neale (1991) who gave a warm and humorous after dinner speech at the **Annual Alumni Dinner** and proposed the toast to the College. I think all would agree that the food served on these occasions has definitely gone up a gear in quality. *Le Manoir* should watch out! You can see the photos [here](#). Invitations have gone out for the **Annual London Reception** to be held on 20th November 2013 at the RAF club which is our next big event. I am now in preparation mode for lots more events over the coming year.

DAME LYNNE BRINDLEY DBE FRSA, MASTER OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE



“It is a great pleasure and delight to have been elected as Master and I took up my role in August. Early on I shared with Fellows in Chapel, my declaration, made to our Visitor, Lord Patten, the University’s Chancellor, that I will faithfully perform the functions of office of the Master of Pembroke College. Over the Summer I have spent most of my time getting to know Fellows and all the staff of the College Community. Everyone has been most welcoming and friendly. I have also enjoyed meeting alumni. We have held two Gaudy events, 62-64 and 92-94, hosted the annual Alumni dinner as part of the Oxford alumni weekend, and welcomed a group of returning Pembroke Rhodes scholars (see below for more). It has been a privilege to hear your stories of your time at Pembroke and how important Pembroke has been in your academic and personal development. The continuing loyalty to, and support for, the College by alumni is wonderful, and I look forward to building upon these relationships, and meeting more of you over the next few months, and sharing with you all the achievements of the College and our aspirations for the future.”

2013 PEMBROKE COLLEGE MAHFOUZ FORUM

Earlier this month Pembroke College hosted a 3-day workshop for 25 distinguished robotics engineers as well as others in other disciplines under the banner of this year's inaugural Mahfouz Forum. The Mahfouz Forum, funded by a fresh donation from our existing generous benefactor and



Foundation Fellow, HE Mahfouz bin Mahfouz, is slated to become a regular annual event. Run by Fellows of the College, it is intended to focus on an inter-disciplinary approach to a wide range of subjects, and seeks to engage leading international academics. Dr Ingmar Posner, Fellow in Engineering and organiser of this year's Forum (pictured right), pronounced it a success and said, "The Mahfouz Forum provided an informal and convivial context for an extraordinary and intense exchange of ideas across a variety of disciplines. An unmitigated success for the Pembroke community - and beyond." The keynote lecture was given in the Pichette Auditorium to a wider audience, including other members of the College community and a number of alumni, by Professor Alex Kacelnik, Pembroke's renowned specialist on animal behaviour. Alex, together with Pembroke Experimental Psychology Fellow, Dr Hannah Smithson, participated in all three days of discussion contributing insights from their own disciplines. His talk took as its theme: '*When will your robot do what my bird does?*'. Alex suggested to a riveted audience how, with some amazing footage of birds using tools, understanding animal cognition can inform the thinking of those developing the latest robotics technology. Watch this space for details of next year's Mahfouz Forum as well as other exciting Pembroke events which showcase the work of our Fellows and their colleagues. For a Youtube link to Professor Kacelnik's lecture, click on the image on the top right.

ISLAMIC STUDIES COLLOQUIUM AT PEMBROKE



A Colloquium, entitled "*Claiming Tradition. Modern Re-readings of the Classical Islamic Heritage*", and attended by around fifty scholars of Islamic studies was held at the College on 27 – 28 September. Organised by Pembroke's Fellows and scholars in Arabic and Islamic Studies: Dr Christopher Melchert, Dr Nicolas Sinai, Dr Elisabeth Kendall and Ahmad Kahn (doctoral student), the event was generously funded by alumnus Brian Wilson (1948). The keynote lecture, introduced by Dr Christopher Melchert, Pembroke's Abdullah Saleh Fellow in Arabic, was given by Professor Carole Hillenbrand OBE, Professor Emerita of Islamic Studies at Edinburgh University and a Fellow of the British Academy, on the subject '*Jihad in the 21st Century: Continuity and Change*'.

Dr Elisabeth Kendall, Senior Research Fellow in Arabic commented, "We were thrilled by the amount of interest that the Colloquium generated. It is rare to find events that attempt to link modern Islamic intellectual history with the texts of the Islamic heritage through close scholarly reading of the classical texts. Pembroke is well placed to plug this academic gap, and the positive feedback we have received since has been really encouraging. The next step, we envisage, will be the production of a book based around the same over-arching theme."