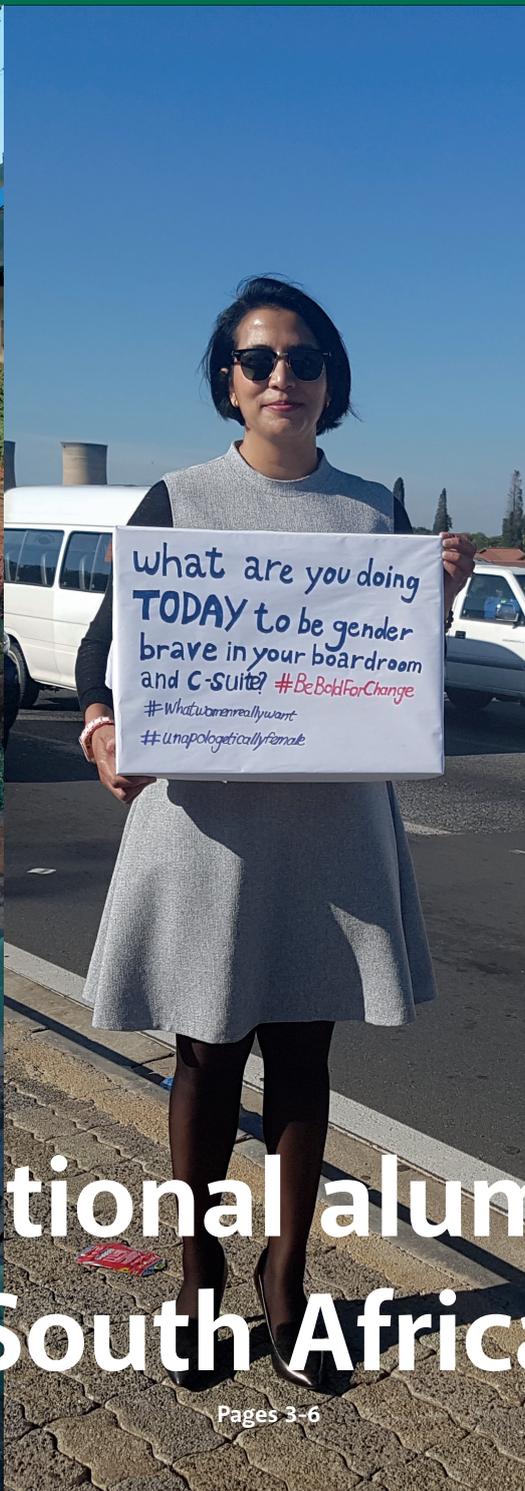
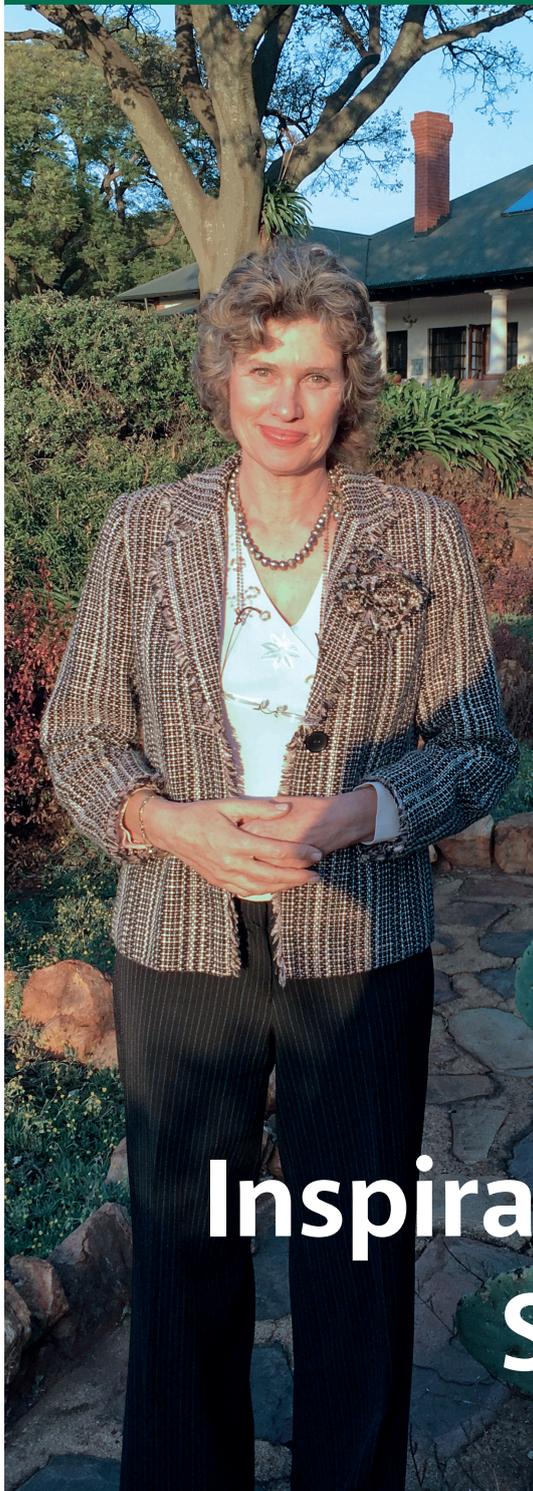


# THE BRIDGE

The past, present and future of Queens' College



Issue 8 | Spring 2018



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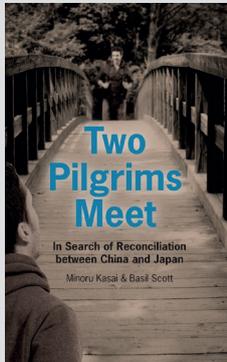
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Bridging the years  
Richard Plackett (1982)

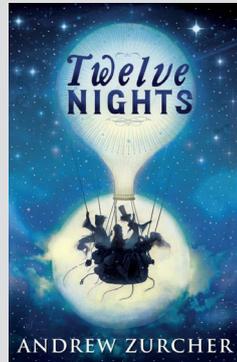
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# Alumni Books



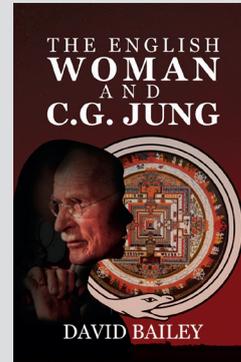
Two Pilgrims Meet: In Search of Reconciliation Between China and Japan

**Basil Scott (1955)**



Twelve Nights

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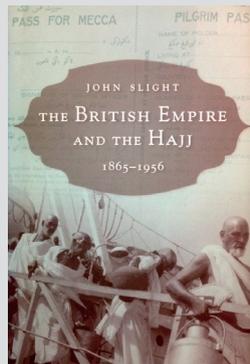
The English Woman and C. G. Jung

**David Bailey (1963)**



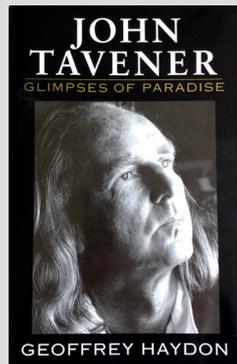
Rock 'n' Film: Cinema's Dance with Popular Music

**David E. James (1964)**



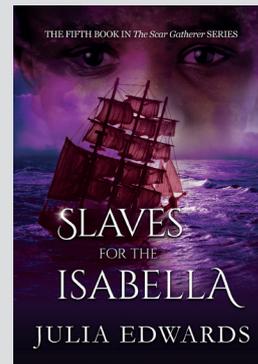
The British Empire and the Hajj: 1865-1956

**John Slight (2001)**



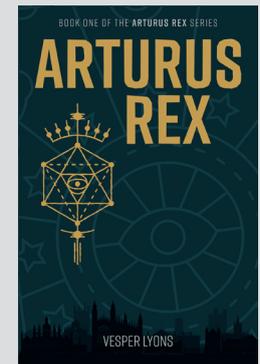
John Tavener: Glimpses of Paradise

**Geoffrey Haydon (1957)**



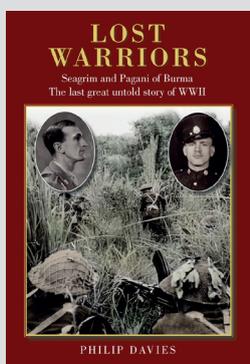
Slaves for the Isabella

**Julia Edwards (1995)**



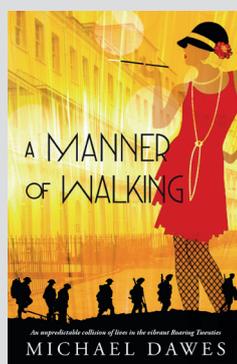
Arturus Rex

**Keira Willis (2008)**



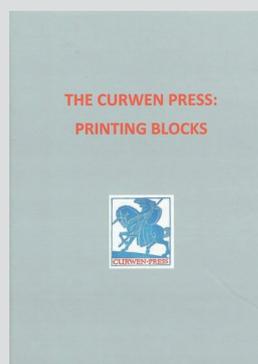
Lost Warriors: Seagrim and Pagani of Burma

**Philip Davies (1969)**



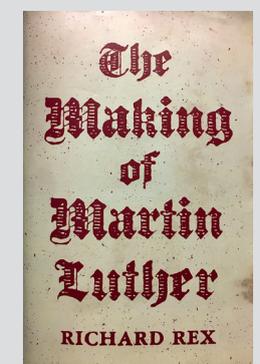
A Manner of Walking

**Michael Dawes (1966)**



The Curwen Press: Printing Blocks

**Stuart McMinn (1992)**



The Making of Martin Luther

**Prof Richard Rex (Polkinghorne Fellow)**



# Self-testing for HIV

While still at Queens', **Dineo Lioma (MPhil 2015)** worked with partners to launch InciTech, a medical diagnostics company whose first product is an HIV self-testing device.

**In South Africa, where over 12% of the population are thought to be living with HIV (rising to a horrifying 36% of women aged 30-34), the condition affects everybody.**

"We all know at least one person who has the disease, so the issue is very close to our hearts as a team," Dineo points out. "We were determined to make a difference in our community."

HIV tests are usually administered in clinics by trained professionals, but Dineo believes that the issue of stigma means many people would prefer to be able to test in the privacy of their own homes. While self-testing kits do already exist and can be purchased at pharmacies, Dineo hopes to be able to simplify the process, and offer a more affordable alternative to what is currently available.

"We plan to supply the kits to hospitals and clinics, saving time for doctors and nurses by nature of how we have redesigned the conventional HIV test, but also to make them available in pharmacies and online, to allow people to be completely anonymous if they want to be."

## Positive counselling

Prior to 2016, South Africa did not permit self-testing for HIV. However, in a significant push to limit the spread of infection, the government now recognises that home testing kits are capable of reaching people who might otherwise fail to get tested at all due to concerns around privacy.

"The biggest question we've faced is 'what about counselling,'" says Dineo. "When people are tested in hospital they receive counselling before the test, and advice on how to manage their health after a positive diagnosis. It's something we've really had to think about carefully as the wellbeing of our patients is the core of our business. We're working on a way to provide pre- and post-test counselling to people who purchase a kit to test themselves at home."

Dineo describes the process of securing funding as a "chicken and egg situation", as potential investors demanded to see a prototype, which InciTech was unable to develop without funds. However, with the prototype now successfully completed, the company is applying for a second phase of funding to further refine the device and undergo approval from the pharmaceutical regulatory bodies before making it available to the public.

When Dineo completed her BSc in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at South Africa's Witwatersrand University, the plan for InciTech was germinating amongst the team. But putting it into action involved a significant decision – where to pursue her postgraduate studies.

## The Cambridge effect

"We knew that the technologies we wanted to launch would require knowledge about nanotechnology," Dineo explains. "I had begun a Masters at Wits in Materials Engineering (which I've now finally completed!), but nanotechnology is such a recent field and is not well established in South Africa, so I started looking further afield. I had always liked the idea of going to Harvard or MIT, but I looked at various programmes and couldn't find what I was looking for at the time in the US."

Dineo's undergraduate studies had been funded by the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation, a scholarship intended to empower young, entrepreneurial South Africans to make a positive socio-economic impact in society – an investment in her future which she took seriously. When she discovered the MPhil in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise at Cambridge, she knew it was the right course.

"It offered a mix of entrepreneurship and hard science, which was exactly what I was looking for. I wanted to go for the best, as I wanted something concrete to offer my community upon my return."

Queens', with its physical proximity to and strong collaborative links with the Judge Business School, was an ideal fit, and Dineo describes her year here as "one of the best learning experiences I've ever had – and I also made amazing friends and lifelong connections."

As she looks forward to launching InciTech's flagship product, Dineo credits Cambridge with providing her with the combination of technical skills and business nous to be able to make a go of it.

"I can't begin to express how much my time at Queens' has helped. Being able to see how research is commercialised, and the exposure to the entrepreneurial culture of the Cambridge Cluster has given me such a massive springboard. In addition, it's given me access to a worldwide business network which I know I'll leverage in years to come. **I'm nearly 10,000km away, but I still feel connected to the College.**"



# Unapologetically Female to Women#Forensics

Smashing glass ceilings in South Africa

**Nerisha Singh (MPhil 1999)** has beaten the odds of race and gender stereotypes to become one of a handful of female directors at a major South African audit firm.

On International Women's Day, Nerisha stood for two hours at an intersection in the morning rush-hour in Sandton, Johannesburg, and held up a plaque which read

**What are you doing today to be gender-brave in your boardroom?**

She got lots of thumbs-up from men in suits. Perhaps most importantly, it gave her a feeling of empowerment.

For as long as she can remember, Nerisha wanted to study law. Having succeeded in taking the first step, and securing her place at law school in South Africa, she had mentally mapped out her future career with daunting precision. However, after the results of her finals, her civil law professor threw a spanner in the works with a suggestion that was not part of the game plan – Cambridge.

**"I remember at the time thinking 'Me? Really? But I'm just an Indian girl from a small town in rural Kwazulu-Natal! Why would Cambridge even consider me?'" Nerisha recalls. "I often think of my professor and how he completely changed my life."**

Nerisha eventually spent eight years in the UK, following an MPhil in Criminology at

Queens' with further graduate studies at Oxford and work for the Law Commission for England and Wales.

## Defined by race

It is clear that Cambridge was a transformational experience. "It made me believe that I was destined for more and that I should not be afraid to pursue and achieve my ambitions." Before Queens', she was defined by race under the stranglehold of a brutal apartheid regime whereby her classification as "Indian" determined where she could live, study, shop, and socialise.

With an impression of the UK formed solely by Bond films, Nerisha was initially overwhelmed by the history and architecture of Cambridge. However, settled by pub visits, dinners in Old

Hall, and the acquisition of a bicycle, she developed a life-long affection for Queens' and the friends she made here.

"As I look back on my time at Queens' I see the start of a journey I have travelled since July 2001. I have tried different things and embraced challenges outside my comfort zone to grow my capabilities and disrupt myself."

Nerisha made a permanent return to South Africa in 2008, working initially as a State Law Adviser for the South African Law Reform Commission, where she led the Commission's law reform projects on admissibility of electronic evidence and cybercrime. She also spent time as an adviser to the Department of Communications in developing a cyber-security policy for South Africa, as well as working for the newly established government department, the Office of the Chief Justice, before joining an audit firm specialising in forensic investigations of financial crime and corporate fraud. She is now Director of Forensics at Grant Thornton South Africa.

### Gender diversity

International Women's Day, on 8th March, is particularly significant to Nerisha. The day is not only an opportunity to remember the women who helped to mould South Africa towards democracy, and the remarkable women leading the country forward today, but a reminder of the importance of what has become a passionate cause – gender diversity in the workplace.

"I have experienced first-hand the resistance to strong, ambitious women still found in all too many organisations," she says. "I've been told by male colleagues that I come across as someone who tries too hard, that I'm arrogant, that I went from zero to hero too quickly, that I'm a one-hit wonder, that I only think in I's and me's, that I got lucky in a particular deal, and that a particular promotion would be too boring for me."

Her twin sister's immediate and instinctive response – "but you were never a zero" – saw Nerisha through, and gave her the determination needed to make tackling gender bias her primary focus.

"When you selflessly contribute to the work or business of any company, only to be told when you are up for promotion, or a bonus or pay increase, that you only think in 'I's and me's', challenge that crap," she says firmly. "This is simply a business ploy to make you feel guilty, break your confidence,



Friars' Court room in 1999



Nerisha (left) at the Queens' reunion in Johannesburg in 2017, with Clare Hartford (see page 6)

understate your value, and create self-doubt by falling back on excuses like "luck" to explain away your successes."

### 170 years

The good news is that a recent study by the World Economic Forum indicated that women will eventually achieve parity of pay and representation with men. The bad news is that the same study suggested such balance is unlikely before the year 2186.

"Can we really afford to wait 170 years for this to happen?!" asks Nerisha. "Essentially that means almost two centuries of unused talent and missed opportunities."

A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusiveness in every sector, Nerisha

has turned the spotlight on the male-dominated world of forensics, her own specialism. Her initiative Women#Forensics aims to be a platform to support women to become the next generation of leaders, by encouraging established professionals to mentor younger women interested in forensics as a career. She's certainly walking the talk. Last year, Nerisha was shortlisted as a finalist in McKinsey's Next Generation Women Leaders Award.

**"It's time to stop using techniques that undermine the competence, legitimacy, confidence and contribution of women in the workplace," she says. "It's time to change those organisational cultures that are exclusionary, and to act and be gender inclusive."**

# Fighting apartheid and corruption

A female Advocate in South Africa **Clare Hartford (1983)**

## College days

Clare describes her time at Queens' reading for the LLM degree in Public International law as the "best of her life". She was a great fan of the late President, **Sir Derek Bowett**, who invited her to work with him based at a law firm in Paris, largely on cases being heard in the International Court of Justice. It was an invitation she accepted eagerly, keeping in contact with her mentor and **Professor John Tiley** for many years.

She was renowned for a pair of golden shoes she sported whilst at College. Clare's friends decided to do everyone a favour and "retire" them by saluting formally and hurling them from the Mathematical Bridge. It turned out they were her last functional pair and she went barefoot for a while thereafter.

**Being shoeless didn't prevent Clare getting the highest marks at Queens' in the LLM, thus being elected to a Foundation Scholarship.**

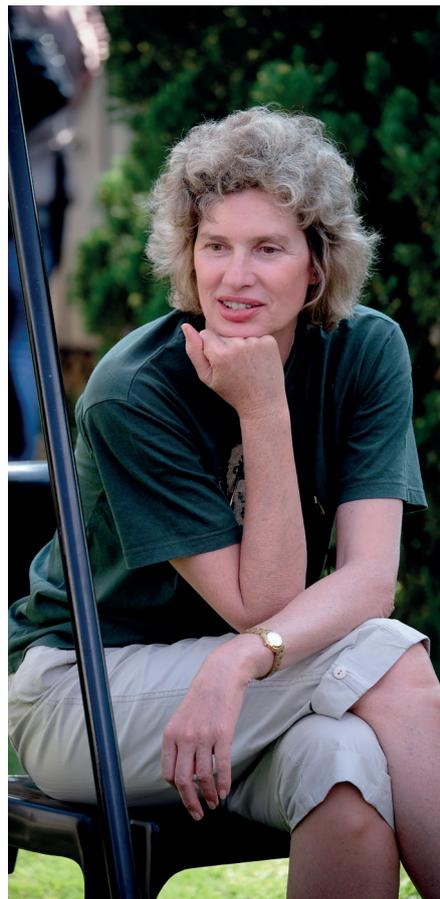
## Landmark cases

Clare returned to live in South Africa and, after lecturing in law at the University of the Witwatersrand, joined the Bar and took Silk in 2005. She now practises in the fields of mining law, commercial law, contract, delict, medical negligence and family law.

She has also been appointed to act as a High Court Judge on an *ad hoc* basis for the last 13 years. Clare was also appointed by the government to investigate and report on allegations of corruption which occupied much of her time in 2017.

Clare opposed the former South African apartheid government and fought the sapping corruption in South Africa under the Zuma-Gupta axis, as well as promoting gender equality which, she says, still has a long way to go.

As an Acting Judge in the High Court in 2017, Clare handed down a judgement which swept away the 20-year prescription period



for sexual offenders to be prosecuted. This enables victims to come forward later in life after absorbing the trauma of their abuse, many as children, and charge their abusers criminally. Her judgment is now before the Constitutional Court for confirmation as Clare had suspended an Act of Parliament. The worldwide #MeToo wave followed in 2017, further highlighting the plight of victims.

## Kidnap and snake bites

Clare has travelled widely her whole life. She was captured in Myanmar, aged 18, in a remote market in Taunggyi, and was dragged into a dark shop, anticipating being sold into the slave trade. Fortunately, an argument ensued between her captors and another group of Burmese, resulting in her release some time later. Clare assumes she

was too tall and too obstreperous for her captors to be able to hide her easily.

Clare loves South Africa and the beauty and multiculturalism it offers. She goes frequently up to her game farm to enjoy the wildlife and African sunsets. Last year, alone, she encountered a snake about to enter her home, so she bravely took it on with a rock and promptly got bitten on her thumb. Knowing it was crucial to identify the snake in order to be administered the appropriate anti-venom, Clare had to go on and kill it whilst nursing her injured thumb, put the snake in a packet and drive herself to the nearest hospital.

Arriving at casualty about 90 minutes later, she informed the nursing staff of her plight and that she had the dead snake in the packet she was holding. The nurses scattered far and wide and told her, from a safe distance, that she should drive to the local GP in the area. Nearly two hours later, the friendly GP reluctantly agreed with Clare that it was not poisonous, as he concluded Clare would have been dead by that time, which she wasn't.

Clare, who was also bitten by a friend's pet snake on her other thumb when she was 15, proudly maintains that she must be the only woman in the world who has matching fang mark scars on both of her thumbs.

**She still sports a pair of golden shoes.**



**Clare's assailant**

# Halcyon Days American Football in Friars' Court

## Todd Ulmer (1984) with Pat Madden (1984)

It seemed innocent enough. Friars' Court. A nice, grass surface with clear boundaries – perfect for a game of American football. Or so Pat and I, recently arrived from the United States, thought to ourselves. Moreover, this was surely a perfect opportunity to share our national sport with some of our newfound British friends. And so the game began, with many rugby-esque moves and wild tackling.

Unfortunately, the ruckus attracted the attention of the Senior Tutor who, using words I had not heard before in the US, made it clear that the 16th century court had not witnessed such a spectacle in 400 years. I think that's what he said, anyway. We were very quickly introduced to the porters, who did not seem to understand the game either. With our American football

career meeting such a quick come-uppance, Pat and I turned our attention to basketball and met with more success.

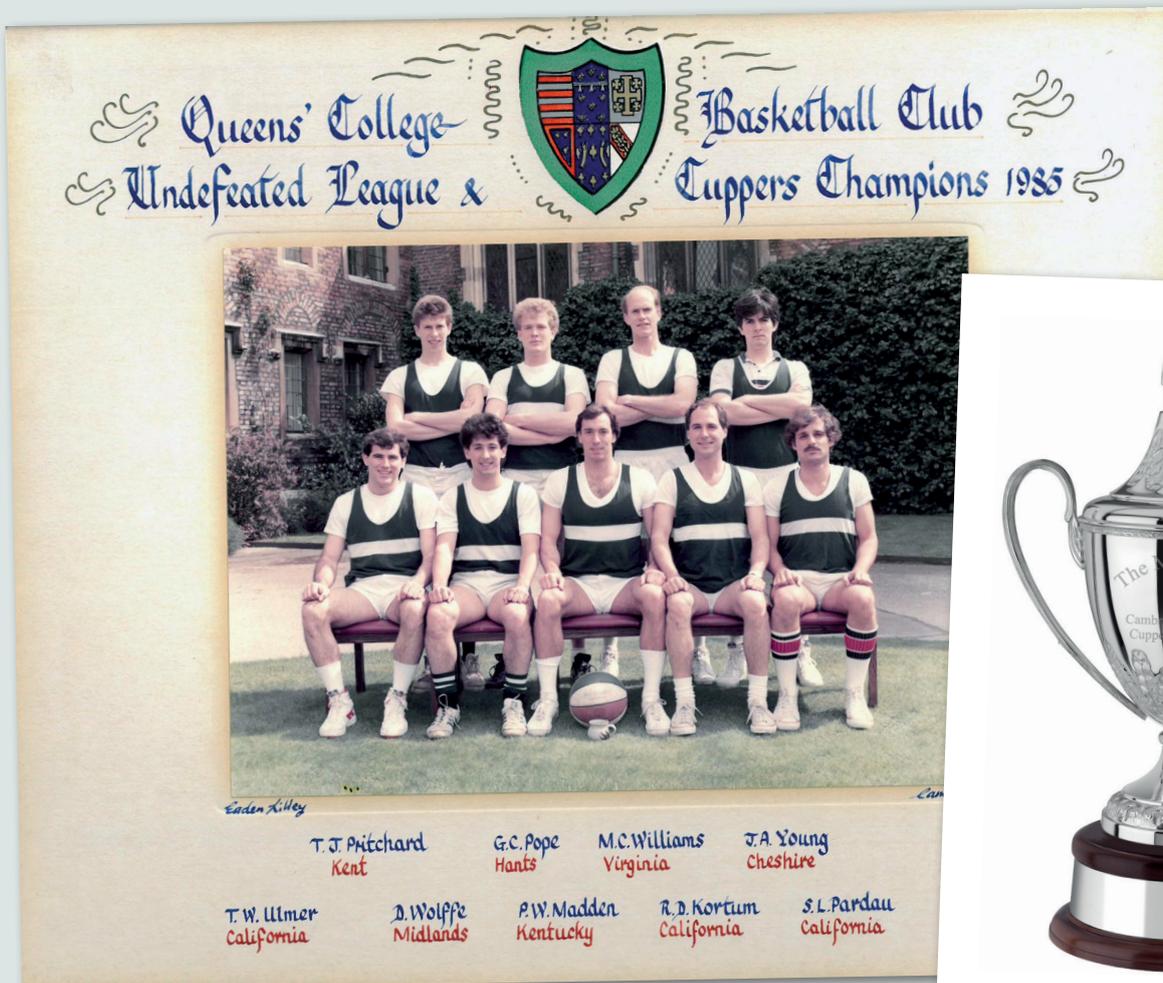
We helped Queens' in its basketball exploits, being undefeated in the league and winning Cuppers. We also played for the University team (along with **Richard Kortum, 1984**), beating "the other place" in the Varsity match for the first time in over 25 years. The following year, Queens' won Cuppers again, but Oxford returned to its winning ways, sadly.

I believe there were five students from the States at Queens' when we were there; I suspect this may have changed some since then. (There are now 35.) I met my wife at Newnham so, all in all, Queens' days were, indeed, Halcyon ones.

Pat placed a teacup in the centre of the College team photo to represent the non-existent Cuppers trophy. On discovering last year that there is still no basketball trophy, Pat is now providing the University Club with The Madden Cup and has pledged a significant gift to the College every time Queens' wins it.

*Dr Todd Ulmer is an orthopaedic surgeon in Portland, Oregon.*

*Pat Madden has 500 barrels of bourbon maturing in a barn on his farm in Kentucky. With **David Wild (1983)**, he is going into the whiskey business, creating a bourbon called Never Say Die. It is named after a horse born on Pat's farm, which won the Epsom Derby in 1954.*



# Alumni news

Please send your news & photos to [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)



**Lois Baker (2012)** sailed from Portugal to Bermuda as part of the Transatlantic Tall Ships Race last summer. One of 22 sailors (of whom 19 were female) on the 21-metre yacht *Rona II*, Lois spent five weeks working to a four hours on/four hours off shift pattern throughout the day and night, taking turns to keep watch, navigate, cook, clean, and perform maintenance, with occasional opportunities for sleep!



Congratulations to **Adrian Blockus (2008, MBA)**, who married Nicole Jobs at College in September 2017.

**Robert Costa (2009)**, has been appointed as moderator for award-winning PBS news programme *Washington Week*, while retaining his role as political reporter for *The Washington Post*.

**Dr Ian Patterson (Fellow)** won *The Forward Prize* for best single poem. *The Plenty of Nothing* is dedicated to Ian's late wife, the writer Jenny Diski, who died in 2016.

**Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan (2013)** was runner-up in The Roundhouse Poetry Slam Competition with her piece *This Is Not A Humanising Poem*.

**John Slight (2001)** received the *Trevor Reese Memorial Prize* from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies for his first book, *The British Empire and the Hajj, 1865-1956*.



**Charlie Abrahams (1976)**, caught the largest fish at the English National Loch Style fly-fishing final on Rutland Water last September – a brown trout weighing 7lb 4oz! Charlie will represent England at the Home International on Lough Mask, Ireland, in May.



**Dr Paul Ellison (1978)** was installed as President of the Association of Anglican Musicians at their annual conference in Winchester last summer.



**Gareth and Helen Williams (née Stokes, both 1984)** will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this coming August. Having met in their first week at Queens', the couple became engaged on Erasmus Lawn during the May Ball of 1985, and were married in the Chapel by the Revd Brian Hebblethwaite in 1988, with a reception in Old Hall.

**Dr Rajiv Chowdhury (2009)**, currently leads the Global Health Research team within the University's School of Clinical Medicine. He is serving as the Scientific Director of a four-year programme investigating chronic health problems in Bangladesh.

Former Queens' Rugby Club captains **David Merriott (1966)**, **Doug Dennis (1965)** and **Russell Jenkins (1957)**, joined forces at last year's Varsity Match at Twickenham along with more than 50 other alumni. This summer, rugby players are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the great Cuppers Final win at a dinner in Old Hall on 21st August. If you played for Queens' in 1968 and have not yet informed us of your intention to attend, please contact the captain **Doug Dennis** at [ddgdns@aol.com](mailto:ddgdns@aol.com)

The British Film Institute bestowed its highest honour on **Paul Greengrass (1974, Hon Fellow)** recently, when he was presented with a BFI Fellowship at the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Paul also appeared on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* in September.

Congratulations to **Emily Maitlis (1989)**, who was named *Broadcast Journalist of the Year* by the London Press Club in 2017.

**Girish Shivakumar (2015)** hosts a podcast called *Emerging Tech Radio*, discussing clean energy technologies with project developers and policy makers from around the world.

**Prof Julia Gog (David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics)** and **Dr James Campbell (Seear Fellow in Architecture)** won

Queens' Teaching Awards in 2017, voted for by the students.

**Prof Richard Prager (Fellow)** and **Demis Hassabis (1994, Fellow Benefactor)** have been elected as Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Demis was also made a CBE in the New Year Honours List.

Former Fellow **Dr Rosalie Balkin (1991)** has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia, in recognition of her distinguished service to maritime law. She recently retired as Assistant Secretary-General of the International Maritime Association, and has also been appointed Secretary-General of the Comité Maritime International.

**Natasha Newey** and **Alex Jackson (both 2009)** will be getting married soon in

Queens' Chapel. Other Neweys at Queens' have included Natasha's grandfather **John (1941)**, father **Sir Guy (1977)**, uncle **Robert (1975)** and aunt **Jane (1981)**.

**Richard K. Morgan (1984)** wrote his first novel in 2002 – a dystopian science fiction cyberpunk work called *Altered Carbon*, which is now the subject of a major series on Netflix. Richard read History at Queens'.

Congratulations to **Dr David Evans (1958)**, who was made an MBE in the New Year Honours List. Dr Evans served his community in Budleigh Salterton, Devon, as a GP for 30 years, and was largely responsible for the creation of the Budleigh Salterton Hospital Health and Wellbeing Hub, which opened last year.



The Governing Body has elected **Mr Robert Cripps** as a Fellow Benefactor, representing the Cripps Foundation. Robert is the surviving child of Sir Humphrey Cripps who led and financed the project to build Cripps Court – a truly transformational moment in the College's history.

It is the 50th anniversary this year of the famous conversation between Sir Arthur Armitage (President) and Sir Humphrey which resulted in agreement to build a Cripps Court at Queens', after the opening of the Cripps Court at St John's.

The Foundation gave generously over three decades to build Cripps Court and provided further support in 2007 when disabled access and the fourth floor were added. Robert has given a portrait to the College of his late brother, Edward, who was also a Fellow Benefactor of Queens'.

The best portrait of Sir Humphrey is the one that hangs in Cripps Hall, according to Robert.



Queens' new **Visitor** was in College last month and will be giving the Queens' Distinguished Lecture in Law in October.

**Beverley McLachlin** was the 17th (and first female) Chief Justice of Canada who, in this role, also served as Deputy to the Governor General of Canada.

Her early thoughts about Queens'? "It really strikes me as a Cambridge College that is at the cutting edge of 21st century education. I've been very impressed by people's desire to remain ahead of the curve. And, it's such a wonderful environment for the students."

The Visitor's role at the College is to act as a court of last appeal against decisions of the Governing Body, where all internal College and University remedies have been exhausted.

The last appeal to a Visitor took place in 1828, when one of the Fellows stated that the President's concurrence should not be necessary in College elections. The Visitor, King George IV, determined otherwise.

# Fellow's Insight

## Dr Andy Rice, Hassabis Fellow in Computer Science



### Background:

BA, Churchill College, Cambridge, 2001

PhD, Churchill College, Cambridge, 2006

Director, Invest Solutions Ltd, 2001-9

Assistant Director of Research, University of Cambridge, Computer Science, 2008-10

Hassabis Fellow & Director of Studies, Computer Science, Queens' 2010-present

Reader in the University's Digital Technology Group

### How did you decide that Computer Science was for you?

Computer Science hadn't even crossed my mind when I was at school. Careers advisers get a bad rap, but it was a careers adviser (whose name I sadly can't even remember) who mentioned that it might be something I should consider. I loved tinkering with computers in my own time, but I hadn't done Computer Science at "A" Level or GCSE – I hadn't even realised it was a thing. I thought he was mad, but then I looked up what the course involved and thought "That's me!"

### What's good about the subject at Queens'?

For some time we've held Wednesday Computer Science evenings across all three years of undergraduates, when we work on practical software development, and bring in people from industry to speak. But we also, crucially, work on presentation skills. We begin with a framework on how to give feedback, then we make the students give a talk, and they critique each other's. It's great preparation for job interviews and the world

of work. When former students come back to visit that's the one thing they always tell me they remember.

We've also had a good run of Munro students, who have done their PhDs here, and have got stuck in both with teaching and the extra-curricular life of the College. That's been a great way of keeping us refreshed. Computer Science is a very fast-moving subject – every year I become less relevant!

Having said that, there is a sense now that we're getting a bit more stability about what a Computer Science degree contains, and what students will be expected to have learnt. We have to remain up-to-date, and it's a long way from being like Maths, where the basic content of the course can remain the same for decades, but it has a solid base to it now.

### Dr Robin Walker might be regarded as the pioneer of Computer Science at Queens'. Fact or fiction?

When Robin was an undergraduate at Queens', there was still a curfew in the evenings. Apparently there used to be a

trickle of students sneaking back in after curfew, and Robin sneaking out to make use of computer time. He's passionate about the subject and, as Director of Studies, he built a wonderful cohesiveness into the department. I had no trouble building a cohort when I arrived as it was already there.

Robin achieved amazing results with his students – one year all the CompScis at Queens' got Firsts. We're now building back up to what he'd already created, but we have pedigree as a subject.

### What are student numbers like?

Historically, we've admitted an average of about six students per year, which reflects the general number at Cambridge as a whole. We're looking to grow a little bit, but it's about balance. If you have too few students it's not enough for there to be a cohort; if there are too many we can't pay enough attention to individuals. I think the sweet spot is about eight. What's special about a College is the relationship you build with individual students, seeing them through their degree and fostering their relationships with each other.

We'd like to build on the numbers – we have the capacity to do that, and the calibre of students applying is there. The percentage of women reading Computer Science is rising slowly. We don't discriminate in their favour, the women here are absolutely here on merit,

but statistically the women applying are slightly more likely to secure a place. I think it's because if you're a female applying to do Computer Science you tend to really, really want to do it. It's less of an obvious choice.

### Your Fellowship has been endowed by Dr Demis Hassabis (1994), who has led numerous high profile advances in artificial intelligence, and was recently made a CBE. What is the "Demis effect"?

Demis is inspirational to all our undergraduates, and current Queens' CompScis feel a strong affinity with him. He's contributed hugely back to Queens'. We've taken students to visit DeepMind and Demis has visited for Q&A sessions, and he hosted a screening of the DeepMind film in the department. I don't know whether the students see him as a role model, or whether he's too far removed from normal capabilities for that, but he's definitely an inspiration.

### What did you gain from your sabbatical at Google in California last year?

I wanted to work as part of a professional software engineering team, because I've never done that! I'm aiming to equip students to work in industry, but I've always worked in academia myself. Google has a visiting faculty programme through which they bring in academics from all over the world to work for them on a temporary basis.

Google has the capacity to think about how to provide better tools for software developers. They have a whole internal world of technology which is different from what's available outside. As part of the Java Compiler team, I used more computing power in the first month than I've ever used in my life. I developed new technology, got to make it work for real, saw it in action, and managed to get feedback from the people who were using it. And they're still using it.

My partner spent three months while I was in California as a visiting professor at Stanford, and we also had a baby, Edward, during the same year, so we packed it all in.

### What does your part-time work for Google in London involve now?

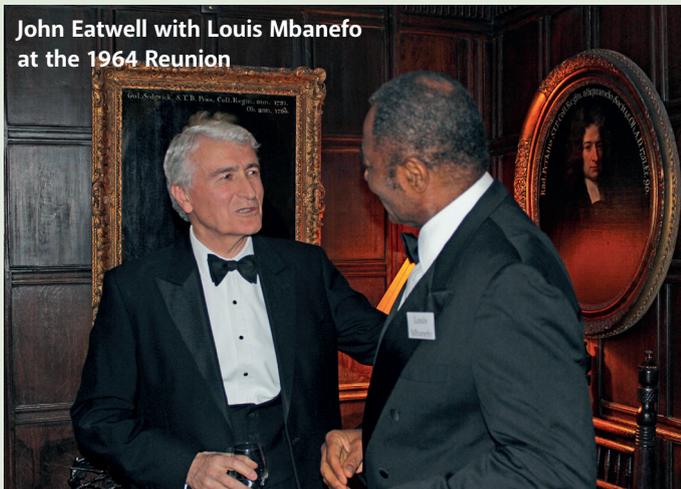
Technically I'm working 'at' Google, not 'with' or 'for' them. When I left California I said to my boss at Google that I still had things I wanted to finish, and he said he still wanted me to finish them. So I'm now doing two days a week at Google in London, but still reporting to my old boss in California.

Juggling it with teaching commitments and an eight-month-old is tricky – you can't cheat the timetable when you have a family! Whereas before I would have clawed back time in the evenings or at weekends to fit in some work, that's now family time.



Robin Walker addresses his disciples at his DoS retirement dinner in 2014

# Floreat Domus



John Eatwell with Louis Mbanefo at the 1964 Reunion

**Lord Eatwell (1964)** retires in July 2020, by which time he will have served for 23 years as President of Queens'. He is the longest-serving Head of House in Cambridge by some margin and is Emeritus Professor of Financial Policy at the University.

To mark John Eatwell's time at Queens', there will be a series of events both in College and around the world over the next two years – save the dates will be sent out in the near future.

The President began his time at Queens' by launching the Q550 Appeal, raising funds for students in financial hardship. The postgraduate population has risen to about 430 students during his tenure. Other developments have included The Stephen Thomas Memorial Teaching & Learning Centre, which was opened ten years ago as the new fourth floor of Cripps Court. The Round development was completed five years ago, all with the generous support of alumni and friends of the College.

## Remembering past Presidents

One of the achievements in this academic year so far is the endowment of **The Arthur Armitage Fellowship in Law** to match the **Sir Derek Bowett Fellowship** of 2015. The inaugural holder of the Armitage Fellowship is **Professor Richard Fentiman** who has just completed his three-year term as Chair of the Law Faculty. The holder of the Bowett Fellowship is **Dr Paul Daly (2007)**.

Both of these historic Fellowships have been made possible through a principal benefactor, **Mr Ewen Macpherson (1961, Hon Fellow)** who was taught Law by both former Presidents.

To honour the Presidency and academic eminence of **Lord Oxburgh (1982-89)**, the College would like to endow an Earth Sciences Fellowship in his name. As well as being a non-executive director of Shell, he was chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence and Rector of Imperial College London from 1993–2000. While President of Queens', Lord Oxburgh featured heavily in the BBC documentary *Queens': a Cambridge College*, filmed in 1984. Ron Oxburgh is an Honorary Fellow of Queens' and still resides in Cambridge.

### Brendan Bradshaw: 1937-2017

With the passing of renowned History Fellow, **Dr Brendan Bradshaw**, the College is determined to endow a Fellowship in his name to mark both his academic distinction and his service. Dr Bradshaw was perhaps one of the leading historians of 16th century Ireland and inspired countless students during his time in Cambridge. His pastoral kindness touched many former students at the College.

We have now endowed 15 Fellowships in the last few years – a quarter of the Official Fellows at Queens'. It is the generosity of alumni that is helping to sustain and expand the supervision system at the College.

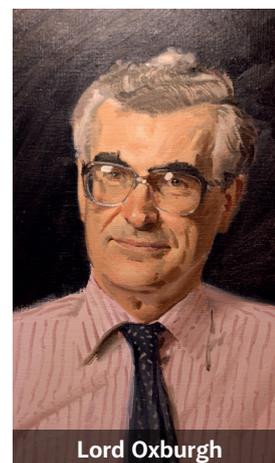
All donations towards these Fellowships are much appreciated. Please contact Mr Sam Davis, Senior Development Officer, at [development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk) if you would like to contribute.



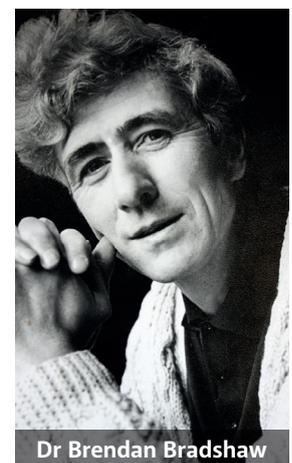
Sir Arthur Armitage



Sir Derek Bowett



Lord Oxburgh

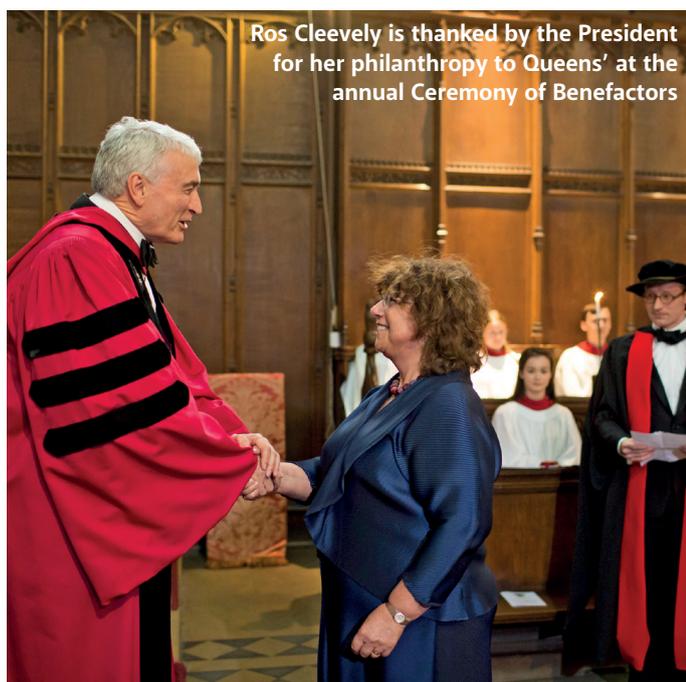


Dr Brendan Bradshaw

## Enhancing the student experience...

The **Haszeldine Fund in Chemistry** has been established to support all academic activities of students in this subject. It is named after the late **Prof Bob Haszeldine (Hon Fellow)** who gave a gift in his will to Queens'.

The **Mike Turner Sports Bursary** has been endowed through the generosity of the family and friends of this former Great Britain cross-country athlete. **Mike Turner (1959)** was President of the Hare & Hounds for over 30 years and was British team manager at the Seoul Olympics. The annual Bursary will support a Queens' student pursuing elite level or international sport.

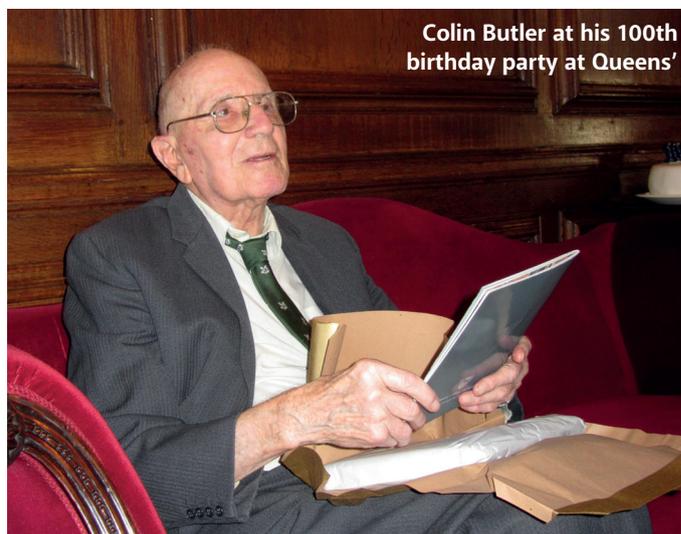


Ros Cleevely is thanked by the President for her philanthropy to Queens' at the annual Ceremony of Benefactors

The **Cleevely Studentships** have been funded for the next five years, providing financial support for MPhil students in Public Policy.

**Dr J.A.C.K. Pang Medical Electives Fund** has been funded generously by **Joseph Pang (1969)** to support medical students to travel and work abroad.

The new **Director of Studies in Music** post will be funded for six years through the generosity of The Friends of Alike Vatikioti for Music & The Arts (**Stephen Farrant, 1956**).



Colin Butler at his 100th birthday party at Queens'

A **Colin Butler Zoology Prize** has been named after one of Britain's most distinguished entomologists who discovered the key "queen substance" pheromone. Colin came up to Queens' in 1931 and died aged 102 in 2016. The Prize is donated by **Ian Mackley (1977)**.

The **Stephen Thomas Teaching & Learning Centre** was opened as the fourth floor of Cripps Court ten years ago. It provides excellent space for supervisions and meetings, as well as accommodation for Fellows and students. **Stephen Thomas (1971)** read Engineering and his widow, **Catherine Thomas (Fellow Benefactor)**, gave the majority of the funding in his memory in 2005.

**Nigel Farrow (1958)** has endowed The Estelle Prize in English, an essay-writing competition run by the English Fellows to help encourage bright school pupils to apply to Queens'.

**Richard Hargreaves (1964)** is funding an additional choral scholarship this year and says "I enjoy hearing who the money has helped. That is much more satisfying than putting money in a bucket!"

## GDPR

As you may be aware, new general data protection rules (GDPR) come into force on 25th May this year. In light of this we are currently updating our Privacy Policy and will make this available to all alumni in due course.

We are committed to handling your personal data confidentially and with sensitivity. We use data which you supply, along with data that is publicly available (e.g. on LinkedIn and company websites) for a range of activities, including the sending of College publications, the promotion of benefits and services to alumni, the notification of alumni events and the raising of funds for Queens'. Selected data is available to the University and occasionally to Alumni Office volunteers and agents contracted by the College for specific alumni-related projects. We will never sell your data.

We are determined that our approach to fundraising should be both transparent and respectful. To ensure this, we have registered with the new Fundraising Regulator, and will always abide by the Fundraising Promise, a copy of which can be found on our website: <https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/giving-to-queens/fundraising-promise>.

We hope you'd like to keep in touch with Queens' but if you ever want to limit the communications you receive, or stop hearing from us completely, just let us know. Alternatively, if you have any questions about how we obtain and use your data or about Queens' fundraising, we would be happy to answer these. Please contact the Alumni & Development Office using the details on the back of the magazine.

# College News

## A first in Bradford

Queens' has led the way among Cambridge colleges by appointing a Schools Liaison Officer based in one of its link areas. **Verity Mitchell** joined the Tutorial Department on a "remote" basis this year, in Bradford, in order to encourage bright children in the area to think about applying to university in general and to Cambridge in particular.

"The number of young people from Bradford applying to Oxford and Cambridge is lower than would be expected," Verity explains. "That's why we've decided to have someone in the area. There is a lot of potential for academic success, and we want to make sure that those who can benefit from it do benefit from it."



Verity Mitchell

Verity has a degree in Sociology from Cambridge and previously worked as a Cambassador with the Cambridge Admissions office.

Queens' link areas include Kent (particularly the Medway towns), Bradford and Havering in east London.



The "1957 & Before" Reunion Luncheon was held last September. Among distinguished guests were **Prof Allan Hayhurst (Life Fellow)** who came up to Queens' himself in 1957 and the most senior member present on the day, **Ken Embleton**, who matriculated in 1942.



## Roofs and lights

Old Hall's lighting was renovated in the Michaelmas Term and is now revealed in all its glory. The replacement of the southern and western ranges of the Old Court roof should be complete by Easter. Forthcoming projects include a major renovation of the Erasmus Building, which is now 60 years old.

Patrick Bevan



**MagSoc's** outstanding Lent Term concert featured performances of Mozart's *Requiem* and *Symphony No. 39*, plus Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*. The violinist was **Patrick Bevan (2016)** who has been selected as the leader of the National Youth Orchestra for 2018. Patrick's instrumental scholarship at Queens' is funded through a donation to the Friends of Queens' Music by **Dr Michael Williamson (1963)**. The conductors were **Carlos Rodriguez** and **Adam McDonagh (both 2017)**.



Tyler Hammond, Nick Koster, Charlie Amesbury, Andrew Craib (2017), Ollie Phillips, Ed Loftus (2016)

Queens' provided a record five players for the Men's and Women's **Varsity rugby** matches in December, both won by the Light Blues. **Charlotte Spruzen (2016)** contributed to a stunning 24-0 win, whilst the Men's XV was captained by a Queens' member, **Charlie Amesbury (2016)**, for the first time since 1968. Charlie was presented

with his winner's medal by the last Blues captain from Queens' (and current RFU President), **John Spencer (1967)**. Blues were also won by **Ollie Phillips (2016)**, **Tyler Hammond** and **Nick Koster (both 2017)**. Nick has been elected as this year's captain, the first time that Queens' has provided two captains in a row.

**Matt Courtis (2017)**, who is studying Gas Turbine Aerodynamics, has been smashing swimming records and helped Cambridge to win the Varsity match this term. He took the University record in the 200m individual medley and swam the butterfly leg for the Cambridge record-breaking 4x100m medley team. He is also the 400m medley holder – having broken a ten-year-old record. Matt is Queens' best male swimmer since Olympian **Geoff Thwaites (1965)**.



Charlotte Spruzen (2016, right) with Lara Gibson, the captain

## New faces in the Alumni & Development Office



**Sam Davis (Senior Development Officer):** Sam read History at Downing and worked at the Cambridge Science Centre as a fundraiser. He is responsible for legacy and gifts up to approximately £50,000.



**Kat Brooks (Events Manager):** Kat hails from Cambridge and read Spanish and Maths at Exeter University. She has worked for the National Film & Television School.



**Marisa Crimlis-Brown** is on maternity leave, after the birth of her first child. **Laura Kenworthy** has joined the team as Regular Giving & Communications Associate. She read English at Trinity College, Dublin, and Journalism at City University, London.

## Queens' Global



Cape Town



Shanghai



Beijing



Edinburgh

Alumni continue to meet globally, partly facilitated by the online community network, Polis. Inaugural events were held in Cape Town, Sydney, Dunedin, Beijing and Shanghai as well as gatherings in Edinburgh and Oxford.

## Queens' Curiosity

### Hobson's Choice

#### Dr James Campbell (Keeper of the Pictures; Seear Fellow in Architecture & Art History)

Hanging in the entrance hall of the President's Lodge is a newly-restored oil painting in a black frame - a portrait of that famous Cambridge figure, Thomas Hobson, mounted appropriately enough on horseback.

As every Cambridge resident knows, Hobson is the source of the phrase "Hobson's Choice". He was actually not a Cambridge boy himself, having been born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1544, but it was in Cambridge that he made his fortune. He ran a livery stable opposite St Catharine's College which was responsible for the delivery of mail

from London to Cambridge and northwards to York. He also made money hiring out horses, boots, bridles and saddles to Fellows, students, townsfolk and travellers. This proved highly lucrative and he soon had a very large stable of horses. He observed that the fastest horses were the most popular but were thus at risk of being overworked. So he established a firm rule that customers must take the next available horse in strict rotation. If they refused then they would have no horse at all. This take-it-or-leave-it rule is "Hobson's Choice."

Why then, you may rightly ask, do we have a portrait in Queens' of this famous Cambridge citizen? Our portrait closely matches one in the Old Schools and presumably one is a copy of the other, but there is much that we do not know



about our picture collection and this is one of many mysteries waiting to be solved. (Suggestions, please, to [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk))

# Fellow's Insight

English Fellow, Dr Ian Patterson, is counting down to retirement this September, after nearly two decades at Queens' and half a century in education.



## Background:

MA, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 1969

PhD, King's College, Cambridge, 1995

Junior Research Fellow, King's College, Cambridge, 1995-9

Fellow in English, Librarian & Keeper of the Old Library, 1999-present

## How has Queens' changed since you arrived?

Queens' has always had a reputation for being slightly outside the mainstream, as well as a reputation for good teaching and seriousness – and for being a good, and enjoyable, place to do English. I hope I've maintained that tradition. The winner and runner-up of this year's British Association of Modernist Studies essay prize were both recent Queens' graduates (**Ned Hercock (2005)**, and **Eleanor Careless (2007)**) so we must be doing something right!

## Have the students, or their expectations, changed?

The students are as good as they ever were, but people do seem to set about thinking and researching in a different way than they used to since the advent of the internet. When they're given a suggested critical reading list, some are more likely to read a recommended chapter rather than a whole book of criticism, which makes it harder for them to contextualise a given opinion. They think more about what a writer says than how they say it, and are possibly more concerned with information than aesthetics.

## How have your own interests evolved over the years?

Poetry has always been my main interest – it's what I write, and what I see myself as doing. Other than that my primary focus has been 20th century fiction, modernism, literature and politics, and literature and psychoanalysis. I used to be able to teach French poetry alongside poetry in English, as the English syllabus included either a foreign language or the history of the English language. I miss the fact that that's no longer possible.

I also now teach a course in contemporary fiction, looking at the writing of the past 15 years. It's always the past 15 years, so it keeps rolling forward and is now, of course, all post-9/11.

## You've been the College Librarian, and the Keeper of the Old Library, since 2001. Is that something you'll miss?

Yes! There are still lots of things I want to do that we haven't succeeded in doing. It's much too small – the smallest College library in Cambridge – but there's not much we can do about that. But we have, over the past two years, been cataloguing and digitising it, which is something I'm proud of.

## What else will it be hard to say goodbye to?

I'll miss teaching very much. I've been teaching in one form or another since 1969, when I was 21 years old. I like seeing people understand things, giving them ideas and seeing them develop their own ideas – and being pleased that I haven't stopped that from happening! Ideally, as a teacher, you're there to facilitate the students' development, and you try not to get in the way.

Also the division of my life into term and holiday, which is the way it has been structured since I first went to school in 1953, will be very odd to lose. In Claude Cockburn's autobiography there's a description of his tutor at Oxford in the 1920s saying to him at graduation "now it's a straight run to the grave!" I hope it will be a long run, but it will be strange to lose those demarcations.

Having said that, retirement is just another job change, and I'm looking forward to having more time to write, and to go away, and to have the liberty to go to London on a Wednesday in term-time!

## A Patterson Fund in English is being set up to mark your departure. How will this help the subject?

It should really just be a fund to help English students do things. For example, if someone would be helped by going to look at some pictures from the period they're writing about, it would be nice to be able to fund them to do that. Or if a student needs help buying books, or to set up an event, or to bring in a visiting writer and be able to pay them. It would be great to have something to dip into for that sort of request.

## What will you remember most fondly from your time at Queens'?

I'm not sure how fondly my colleagues will remember it, but my habit of getting up and singing *The Internationale* at the end of English Dinners in Old Hall!

More seriously, I've always loved seeing first years walk into the room where they were interviewed, watching them realise that it's the same room, and that they're really here.

# Bridging the years

When **Richard Plackett (1982)** was 12 years old, his parents taught him a new game. But rather than merely entertaining him for the afternoon, it was the introduction to a lifetime of friendships, travel and competitive success, and the ideal complement to a career in finance. It was called, fittingly enough, **bridge**.

By the time Richard was applying to Queens', his aptitude for bridge was sufficiently evident that it featured prominently in his application.

"I'd got a school team together, and we played regularly on the school circuit, and reached the final of the *Daily Mail's* School Bridge Tournament," he remembers.

At College, Richard read Economics, tutored by **Andy Cosh (1968)**, who had interviewed him for his place, and Ajiit Singh. Richard quickly found fellow bridge enthusiasts, and was soon called upon to represent both Queens' and the University. He played for Cambridge three times in the annual varsity match against Oxford, partnering Julian Pottage (Trinity), John Hobson (Jesus) and Simon Mason (Caius). Fellow players at Queens included **Neil Smollett, Tom Bannatyne** and **Philip Broke (all 1981)**, all of whom also represented the University Team. Richard also played junior international bridge while at Cambridge and travelled to the Netherlands to compete in the Common Market Bridge Championships.

"I played a lot at University – in fact I probably played a bit too much bridge and didn't do enough Economics," Richard confesses. "Although, I managed a 2:1 in the end. I played a bit of sport, drank a bit too much in the bar... I was a very normal student really. I remember Queens' very fondly. It's a great College, right in the centre of Cambridge, and it was a wonderful place to be."

After becoming one of the youngest ever winners of the Gold Cup – the annual British Championships – in 1988, Richard abandoned the game altogether for over two decades, to concentrate on a successful career in investment management at 3i,

M&G and Blackrock. Following his retirement in 2015 as manager of the UK Special Situations Fund at BlackRock, he found room in his life for bridge once again, scratching an itch which, for 25 years, had been fulfilled by work.

"Bridge demands mathematical skills, an understanding of probability, and memory," Richard explains. "You need a good system, and the ability to remain calm and focused. Psychology is important too – a lot of it is about deduction, hypothesis and inference. Many of the same skills are useful in stock market trading."



Three members of the Varsity team which defeated Oxford in 1983 – Julian Pottage, Ian Popplestone, Richard Plackett



Playing for Wales

Having rediscovered his zest for the game, Richard currently plays bridge for Wales, and in 2016 participated in the European Championships in Budapest. Consisting of non-stop competition between 37 countries over 10 days, and involving a high proportion of professional bridge players, the Championships are a clear demonstration that Richard's renewed appetite for the game is no gentle retirement hobby. He will represent Wales once again this summer, in Ostend.

"When I'm playing in a tournament I take it very seriously – I'm competitive by nature," he says. "I have a 50-page bidding system that I have to memorise before a game. But, as I often did while at Queens', I will still occasionally play socially, have a few drinks and enjoy it. It's like football or any other sport or game – huge numbers of people play for fun, but when you play competitively it's very different. In international bridge there's even a screen so you can't see your partner, to prevent any form of signalling between you."

While technological advances have broadened Richard's approach to the game – he now plays online, and is able to practice with a long-distance partner from the comfort of their respective homes – he hopes and believes there are limits to the extent to which bridge can be automated.

**"The best computers can now often beat the best chess players, but they currently struggle to beat a county-level bridge player, because they can't yet take that leap of inference. Bridge deals with imperfect information, as opposed to chess, which is a game of perfect information. You can play bridge for years and it's still different."**



# An Evening of Wagner

Every seat in the College Chapel was filled when **Edward Reeve (2014)** and **Stephen Fry (1978, Hon Fellow)** joined forces to celebrate a shared admiration of Richard Wagner's music in November.

Edward, who after three years as Organ Scholar is the holder of the Alike Vatikioti Postgraduate Studentship in Music, developed the idea for the evening when he realised that both he and Stephen had formed their appreciation for Wagner at Queens'.

"I knew Wagner as a controversial figure, but I wasn't very familiar with his music until I started at Queens'," explains Edward. "And Stephen also discovered him here, through **Dr Brian Hebblethwaite** (former Dean of Chapel and now Life Fellow), who was in the audience."

Stephen acknowledged the difficulty he felt, having lost family members in the Holocaust, in overlooking Wagner's association with antisemitism and the Nazi regime. However, for him, the emotional power of the music has always superseded the reputation of its creator.

For Edward, too, Wagner's works exert a strong emotional force.

"I'm not attracted to monumentality for its own sake, but the emotion, the attention to detail, and the depiction of human suffering is incredibly powerful."

Stephen discussed his lifelong relationship with Wagner's music in front of the audience at Queens', while Edward played his own arrangements of some of the composer's best known orchestral works, which he had transposed for piano.

The evening was attended by 180 people, including alumni, Fellows, current students and family and friends, and raised £4,500 for **The Friends of Queens' Music**.

"It took months of planning, and emailing and organisation to make it all happen," Edward admits. "But when I actually sat down in front of the audience, it was just me and the piano."



# Queens' College Alumni Events Series

## April

**2008 10th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 21st April 2018

**Cambridgeshire Regional Dinner**  
Wednesday 25th April 2018  
Contact – Simon Mentha  
[cambridge.dinner@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cambridge.dinner@queens.cam.ac.uk)

## May

**The Commemoration of Benefactors' Service & Ceremony** (open to all members) followed by **The Benefactors' Feast** (by invitation)  
Sunday 6th May 2018 at 6pm

**MA High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 23rd May 2018

**1998 20th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 26th May 2018

## June

**QCBC May Bumps Garden Party**  
Saturday 16th June 2018  
Contact – Dan Lafferty  
[queensgardenparty@gmail.com](mailto:queensgardenparty@gmail.com)

**The Alumni Garden Party**  
Sunday 24th June 2018  
(1448 Society, Arthur Armitage Society in President's Garden; all alumni and families in the Fellows' Garden), 2pm  
  
England v. Panama World Cup match screening in Fitzpatrick Hall, 1pm

## August

**Rugby Cuppers 1968 50th Anniversary Dinner**  
Tuesday 21st August 2018

## September

**1958 & Before Reunion Lunch**  
Wednesday 19th September 2018

## October

**Distinguished Lecture in Law & Dinner** (by invitation)  
Speaker: **The Visitor** (Beverley McLachlin, former Chief Justice of Canada)  
Tuesday 16th October 2018

**MA High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 17th October 2018

**Queens' Finance Networking Reception by invitation**  
TBC

## November

**1987 & 1988 Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 10th November 2018

## December

**The Varsity Match**  
Thursday 6th December 2018

## Future Events:

### MA Congregations

For 2013 matriculants – 23 February, 2019  
For 2014 matriculants – 22 February, 2020



Please check the website as additional events are added throughout the year  
[www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/alumni-events](http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/alumni-events)

**The Bridge:** produced by Laura Kenworthy ([thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk))

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