

# THE BRIDGE

The past, present and future of Queens' College



Issue 9 | Autumn 2018



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# Alumni news

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



John Cairns

**Tara Lee (2013)** has been awarded the Keats-Shelley Essay Prize for her essay entitled 'Philosophic Numbers Smooth'. The Prize is given by the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association and encourages writers to respond creatively to the work of the Romantic poets.



**Robert Paterson (1956)** was awarded an MBE by HRH The Duke of Cambridge in March 2018 for services to Paralympic sport. Robert is the Honorary Treasurer of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS), and has been involved in para-sport for 40 years.

**Rob Mukherjee (1990)** North West Regional Chair for Vodafone, was named Best Male Mentor of 2017 in the Women in Sales Awards (Europe), and received the Agent of Change award at the 2018 Northern Power Women Awards, in recognition of his work to accelerate gender balance.

Congratulations to **Demis Hassabis (1994, Fellow Benefactor, Honorary Fellow-elect)**, who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of his contribution to science.

The guest speaker at the annual Blues Dinner was **Annalisa Gigante (1984)**, now a CEO, industry expert and consultant in digital transformation and investment. As a former captain of the Cambridge University Ladies' Volleyball team, member of the CU Athletics Club, half Blue and founder member of the Ospreys (the University sports society for women), she is used to balancing sport with academic and professional achievement. Annalisa described how sport can equip you with decision-making skills, strategy, leadership and resilience.



Congratulations to **Richard Tilbrook (1980)**, Clerk of the Privy Council and Appointments Secretary to the Prime Minister, who married Dr Paul Roberts (Downing, 1980) in December 2017.

Okanaganville Estate Winery and The Vibrant Vine Tasting room, run by **Wyn Lewis (1969)** and his wife Marion, has been rated #1 Winery in Canada by Trip Advisor.



**Wyn Lewis back in the Law Library at Queens' where he studied**



**Dr Cristina Banfi (1992, MPhil Linguistics)** has been awarded a Fulbright Research Scholarship to work at University of California-Davis in 2019 on key factors involved in innovations in language learning programmes. She will be accompanied by her husband, **Dr Raymond Day (1992, PhD History)** and their children.



Queens' men were last **Head of the River** in 1968. Returning members of the Headship crew dined in College with the President to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Queens' **double Headship**, the first time a crew had gone Head of the River in both Lents and Mays in the same year. They joined the current Boat Club for speeches at the May Bumps Supper. The following morning, the crew rowed once more!

**Robert Heanley (1965), Mike Pugh (1965), Michael Ward (1966), Jim Paterson (1966), John Barker (1957, Lents coach), Murray Rogers (1998)** – rowing in memory of his father, **Richard (1966)** who was in the Lents VIII, **Chris Dalley (1967), Lucian Hatfield (1966)** and **Stephen Braithwaite (1966)**.

## Queens' Global Network

**Richard Crooks (1962), India Martin (2004)** and **Christopher Bonner (1948)** joined Fellows **Prof Julia Gog** and **Dr Robin Walker (1966)** for a dinner recently in Christchurch, New Zealand. Is this the most southerly Queens' dinner so far? Other distant meetings in recent times have occurred in Dunedin where **David Jones (1981), Simon Fawkes (1972)** and **Simonne Samuelson (1983)** met with Rowan Kitt. Rowan also met recently with **Angus Gore-Andrews (1997)** and **Fiona Gillanders (2009)** in Kobe, Japan.

The inaugural Queens' Global event in Japan in June, brought together 20 alumni at a reception at the Palace Hotel, Tokyo. In February, there was a gathering in Edinburgh and Rowan met with individual alumni in places ranging from Dublin to Bilbao.

Queens' alumni were well represented at a dinner hosted by the Cambridge Society of Edinburgh in May, at which the President, **Lord Eatwell**, was guest speaker. He discussed the question of 'Long term trends in the British Economy – what are today's real problems?'

Do send us news of far-flung (and other) Queens' reunions and meetings!

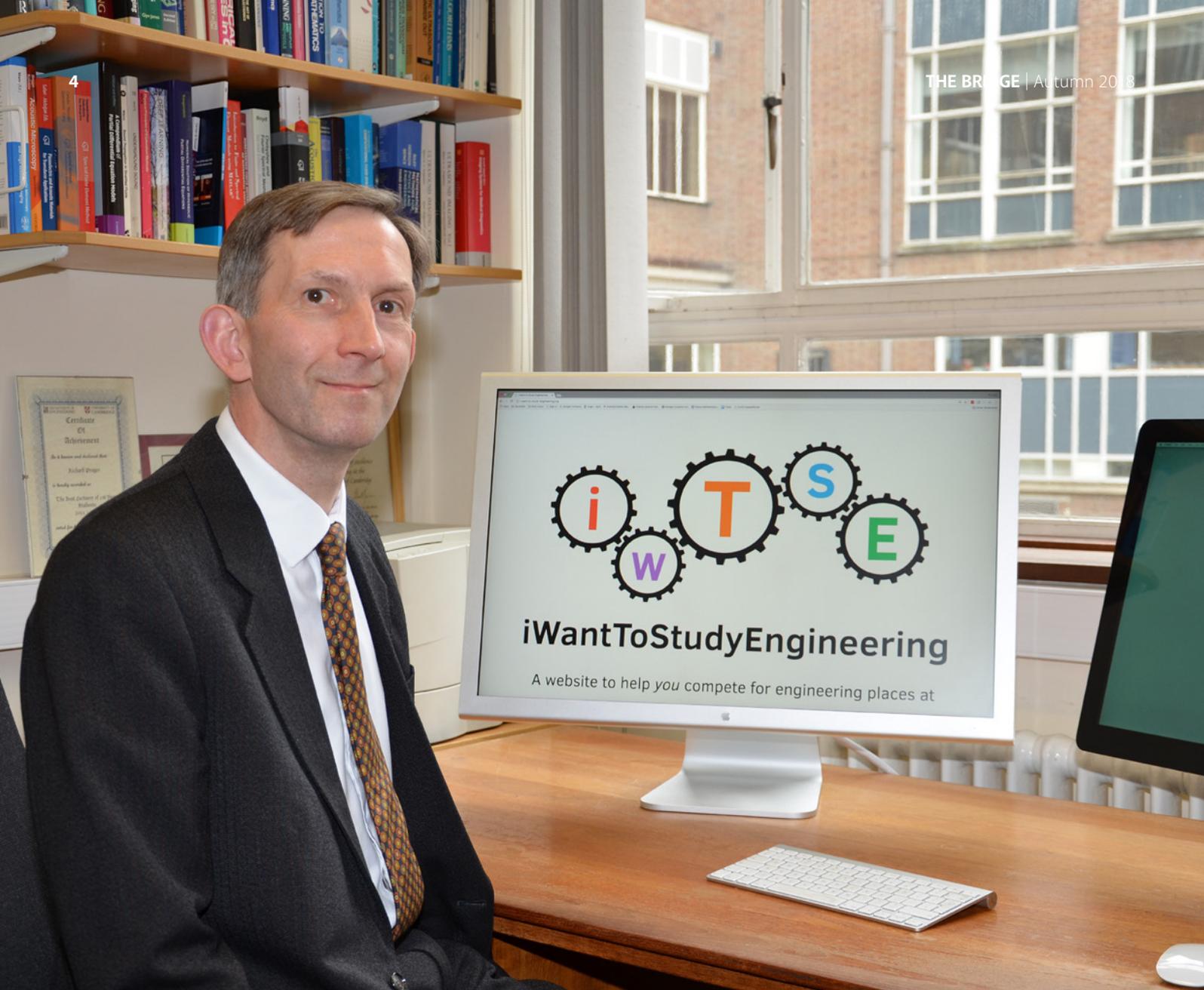
If you would like to host an event, or to catch up with Queens' members in your area, please contact the Alumni & Development Office on [alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk).



Queens' members with the President in Edinburgh



Tokyo event



# I want to study Engineering...

## Fellow's Insight: Richard Prager

### Background:

BA, Trinity College, Cambridge, 1981

PhD, Trinity College, Cambridge, 1984

FREng, Professorial Fellow in Engineering

Formerly Tutor to Research Students and Assistant Director of Studies in Engineering

Head of Cambridge University School of Technology

### What is your role at Queens'?

I started supervising for Queens' during the second year of my PhD in 1986 and taught electrical subjects and Maths to first year engineers. A few years later, I was very lucky to get a Research Fellowship here so I went on supervising the same things. When I became a University Lecturer, I continued with the supervisions and also became one of the Tutors for Research Students. More recently, in 2008, I was running the Engineering Course for the University and no longer had time to teach for the College as well, so I stopped supervising. I now run the **University School of Technology** which comprises the departments of **Engineering, Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology and Computer Science & Technology**; as well as the **Institute for Sustainability Leadership and the Judge Business School**. In the College, I am on the Fellowships Committee and two bodies that deal with academic staff pay.

## ***“I came up with the idea of a website to give all school pupils access to the best possible help when preparing for university entrance interviews in Engineering.”***

### **How did you become involved in Access work?**

#### **i-want-to-study-engineering.org**

In December 2011 I was asked by the University to suggest something really worthwhile that I would do in the field of online education, if the money was available to fund it. I came up with the idea of a website to give all school pupils access to the best possible help when preparing for university entrance interviews in Engineering. I had done admissions interviews for the College for many years and had noticed that some students clearly had access to more material to help them prepare for the interview than others. This meant that we had to be very careful in our evaluation of the candidates, in order to do the admissions purely based on the ability of the student and avoid being biased by the level of the preparation.

I felt that we should make the best possible preparatory material available to everyone. By great good fortune, *The Underwood Trust* was impressed by my idea and offered to provide funding to support it. In 2013,

the first version of **i-want-to-study-engineering.org** went live and it was an immediate success. Since then, many of the applicants for Engineering have used our material to help prepare before their interviews and it has made the interview preparation easier and the interview itself less frightening. We are now working on a smart-phone app that teaches GCSE Maths while linking it to Engineering as well as a game called **‘Wired’** that teaches the concepts of electrical current and voltage.

### **When you’re not inspiring the next generation of engineers, what do you research?**

My early research was in the field of parallel processing adaptive systems applied to computer speech recognition. In 1992, I founded the **Medical Imaging Research Group** in the Engineering Department and worked on acquisition and visualisation systems for three-dimensional medical ultrasound using a variety of tracking systems to measure the position and orientation of the ultrasound probe. This was done in close collaboration with two

other Fellows of Queens’, **Dr Andrew Gee (1987)** and **Dr Graham Treece**. Most recently, I have done theoretical work on the algorithms that are used to form ultrasound images from the backscattered sound signals that are picked up by an ultrasound scan head. This research is called **‘ultrasonic beamforming’**. I work with my colleague **Dr Nghia Nguyen** and, together, we have come up with a new way of producing ultrasound images that are completely in focus at all distances from the probe.

### **Outside of Engineering, what are your passions?**

In spite of being without musical talent of any kind, I am very keen on opera. I worked as a stage-hand at Glyndebourne in my ‘gap year’ and was involved in organising many opera productions as a student, including **Curlew River**, **The Magic Flute**, **La Traviata**, **Gianni Schicchi** and **Nabucco**. These days, I am one of the Managers of the University Opera Society Appeal Fund and sit on their Advisory Committee. I also enjoy running, cycling and walking, preferably somewhere with decent-sized hills.



At the top of Bowfell in the Lake District last Easter



The President, Vice-President and Praelector welcome six new Honorary Fellows to Queens'

# Historic night for Queens'

## First female Honorary Fellows admitted

Among the six members of College admitted to Fellowships by the Governing Body in the Chapel in June, were the first five women to hold this honour.

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***“It was a real delight to return to the place where I was the first female Queens’ Fellow to say ‘socia’ rather than ‘socius’, and to be greeted by so many familiar faces.”***

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Naomi Segal

## Our esteemed new Fellows are:

**Professor Naomi Segal** – the first female Fellow at Queens’, admitted in 1979, and currently Professorial Fellow in Modern Languages at Birkbeck, University of London. She is a graduate of Newnham College and has a PhD from King’s College, London. Naomi featured in the 1984 BBC TV series *Queens’ – a Cambridge college*.

**Dr Amma Kyei-Mensah (1980)** was the College’s first female Blue and the first woman from Queens’ to captain a University team – the Athletics Club in 1982/83. Amma still holds the University record for the 60m Hurdles. She is Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Whittington Hospital, where she recently led the development of new national guidelines on the management of thalassaemia in pregnancy. Amma teaches at UCL Medical School’s Whittington campus, and has published pioneering research in pelvic ultrasound scanning.

**Professor Dame Alison Peacock (1994)** completed her Master’s in Education at Queens’ after gaining a BA from the University of London and a PGCE from the University of Warwick. As head teacher of The Wroxham School, Potter’s Bar, she took the single-form primary from special measures to an Ofsted rating of ‘outstanding’, where it remains. In 2012 the school established The Wroxham Foundation, enabling it to host international delegations interested in its inclusive approach to school improvement.

Alison is Chief Executive of the Chartered College of Teaching. She is the author of *Creating Learning Without Limits* (2004), which has also been published in Spanish and Japanese, and *Assessment for Learning Without Limits* (2016). She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to education in 2014.

**Emily Maitlis (1989)** read English at Queens’ before launching a highly successful career as a broadcast journalist and documentary maker. Following stints at Sky News and NBC News (Hong Kong), Emily has worked for the BBC since 2001. She is a regular and much-lauded presenter of *Newsnight* and also frequently presents *BBC News at One* and rolling coverage on the BBC News Channel. Emily has also written for *The Guardian* and *The Spectator*.

**Dr Pippa Wells (1983)** completed both her BA in Natural Sciences, for which she was awarded a double First, and her PhD in Physics at Queens’. She balanced the life scientific with a keen interest in music, playing the violin in the University symphony and chamber orchestras. In later years these twin preoccupations have continued to co-exist. Pippa has worked for the past 20 years as a physicist on the ATLAS project, and is currently Head of Member State Relations at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. She also plays as an amateur violinist in the Geneva Symphony Orchestra.

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***“I feel very proud to have my achievements recognised and honoured in this way. I hope this will be an inspiration to others like me.”***

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Amma Kyei-Mensah



Prof Naomi Segal



Caroline Hilley, Achilles Trophy Winner 2018, with Amma Kyei-Mensah – first female Athletics captain

**Dr Andrew Bailey (1978)** was awarded a double First in History at Queens', staying on to complete his PhD. He began his career at the Bank of England in 1985. From 2004-11 he was Executive Director Banking & Chief Cashier, meaning that his signature appeared on all bank notes issued in that period. Having served as Deputy Governor and CEO of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority from 2013-16, Andrew became Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority two years ago.

The College has also elected **Dr Demis Hassabis (1994)** to an Honorary Fellowship. A child chess prodigy, Demis spent several years designing computer games at Bullfrog Productions (including *Theme Park*), before achieving a double First in Computer Science at Queens'. He then founded the independent games developer Elixir Studios, before completing a PhD in neuroscience at University College London.

In 2010, Demis co-founded DeepMind, the world leader in artificial intelligence research. He was made a CBE for services to science and technology in the 2018 New Year Honours, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in the spring of 2018. Demis will be admitted in the Michaelmas Term.

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***“As the longest-serving female Fellow at Queens’, I’m delighted that, with the election of our first female Honorary Fellows, we are celebrating the heritage of Queens’ women across nearly four decades and recognising their individual achievements. I am sure that their stories will inspire our current and future students, as well as the Fellows of the College.”***

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Professor Lisa Hall, Vice President



Dr Janet Maguire with Dr Brian Callingham



Prof Paul Ginsbourg – Honorary Fellow



The Ceremony



The congratulations



Emily Maitlis with her mother

*“Many congratulations for helping transform our profile of Queens’ Honorary Fellows. It is really great to see these impressive women among the group.”*

Prof Jackie Scott (Fellow 1996-2017)

*“I am delighted to accept this honour. As a lifelong teacher of children and young people I believe that society should do more to recognise the value of education. My Honorary Fellowship of Queens’ has been noted by many teaching colleagues and, I hope, provides satisfaction and pleasure that a career in education is valued so highly.”*

Dame Alison Peacock



Dame Alison Peacock and family



Dr Pippa Wells with her husband Dr Tim Bell (1983) and friends Dr Jane Dominey (1983) with her husband Mr Jim Warwick

*“I was delighted to be invited to be an Honorary Fellow, and particularly pleased that several science disciplines were included in the new nominations. To me, this reflects the important role of science in society and the prominent role that CERN has had in recent years. College history was made, as the Latin text we had to read in Chapel had been annotated in blue pen to give the feminine option in the last line!”*

Dr Pippa Wells

# College News

## Students



Queens' came 12th in the latest exam rankings, with four students being awarded starred Firsts. There were 137 Firsts in all for Queens' students with no failures – the first time since 2009. Several Queens' members came top of the University in their respective years including **Megan Wilson**

(Medicine), **Holly White** (Natural Sciences (Biology)), **Alex Davenport** (Economics), **Leo Reich** (English), **Ryan Montgomery** (History & Mod Lang) and **Hannah Huzel-Steele** (HSPS). All of our students got Firsts in Anglo Saxon, Norse & Celtic and in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies.



Current Queens' English student **Charlotte Cromie (2015)** has won this year's Kinsella 'Other' Prize for Best Original Play, administered by the Marlowe Society, for her composition *I don't cry much in public so it's alright*.

The **Joshua King Prize** winners in the summer were **Bobby He** (2014, MMath) and **Basil Mustafa** (2015, Chemical Engineering). Bobby is going on to a PhD in Statistics at Oxford; Basil will be continuing on for his MEng year at Queens' – studying computational neuroscience and statistical signal processing, with a Master's project using machine learning techniques for pharmaceutical drug design.

## Fellows

Two Fellows from Queens' have won **Vice-Chancellor's Impact Awards** which were established to recognise and reward those whose research has led to excellent impact beyond academia, whether on the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life. Each winner receives a prize of £1,000. **Prof Julia Gog** (David N. Moore Fellow in Mathematics) won her award for harnessing mathematics to help control influenza and **Dr Sophie Seita** (Junior Research Fellow in English) won hers for a collaborative, multi-media, creative project which was performed at the University's Festival of Ideas.

**Professor Richard Fentiman**, Arthur Armitage Fellow in Law and former Chair of the Law Faculty, has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Athens. He received the title of Doctor *honoris*

*causa*, the highest honorary title awarded by the University, at a ceremony in May, in recognition of his contribution to scholarship, legal education and the development of the law.



Junior Research Fellow, **Dr Freya Jephcott (2013, PhD)** has been working with Médecins Sans Frontières as Manager of Epidemiological Activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, looking at the country's response to the Ebola crisis. In her position, she provides support to both MSF and the national health authorities through a combination of data analysis and on the ground logistical assistance with surveillance activities.



**Dr Freya Jephcott (2013, PhD)**

## Extra-Curricular

**Mark van der Lande (1981, Fellow Commoner)** has conducted a comprehensive review of the College's extra-curricular activities (mainly music, drama and sport) to assess whether they are providing opportunities for all students to be involved, to be physically fit and active, and to acquire leadership and organisational experience. **Rowena Macaulay MBE (1983)** also gave valuable input. Mark reported to the Governing Body in April, resulting in a committee being set up to action many of the recommendations under the leadership of **Prof Peter Haynes (1976)**. Improvements to facilities, organisation of the old College Union, funding and improved communications are all on the agenda. A similar review is being conducted of the Boat Club by **Simon Harris (1980, Fellow Commoner)**.

MagSoc's Lent Term concert at West Road featured, notably, **Patrick Bevan (2017)** (violin) who is a first year Mathematician and, in his spare time, leader of the National Youth Orchestra. **Carlos Rodriguez (2017)** and **Adam McDonagh (2017)** (both Music students). Patrick also played a stunning solo at the Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors service in Chapel in May.



Tyro prize winner and benefactors

This year's Tyro Music Competition Prize winner was **Daniel Morales Valdivia (2017)** for his performance in Old Hall on the piano. The Prize was generously endowed by the late **Professor Peter Watson (1950, Fellow Commoner)**, a distinguished ophthalmologist and founder of the Cambridge Eye Trust. It encourages musical "tyros" who may not be serious musicians, but who play an instrument, to continue to play and enjoy music at Queens'.



Blues Dinner



Water Polo team members



Laura Foster (Blondie) & Rebecca Hartwell (Lightweights)

Queens' enjoyed a vintage sporting year: Cuppers champions in Water Polo; Cuppers finalists in both rugby and cricket for the first time in living memory (the next step will be to win a final); Men's 1st XI were league champions; and, there were at least 16 resident Blues in College. Cambridge won every Boat Race for the first time in many years: Queens' provided postgraduates **Laura Foster** (Blondie), **Rebecca Hartwell** and

**Lucy Harris** (Lightweights) and **Gerard Kuening** (Goldie). **Caroline Hilley** (2015) was awarded the Achilles Trophy for outstanding performance over three years of hurdling in Athletics. **Matt Courtis (2017)** broke an incredible five University swimming records during his postgraduate year. Caroline was given the *Andrew Lill Sports Bursary* and Rebecca Hartwell was the inaugural recipient of *The Mike Turner Sports Bursary*.



Queens' first "sponsored" punt, generously funded through a donation from **Dr Robert Barnes (1989)**, was launched this summer. A second punt has been funded by **Steven Roth (1989)**. Our last fleet of punts had been sinking constantly and rotting away. There are two more to be named...



# Altered Carbon

The author of a Netflix Sci-Fi hit **Richard Morgan (1984)** talks to *The Bridge*

## Bibliography:

The Takeshi Kovacs novels:

- Altered Carbon (2002)
- Broken Angels (2003)
- Woken Furies (2005)

Black Man (UK) / Thirteen (US) (2003)

Market Forces (2004)

A Land Fit for Heroes trilogy:

- The Steel Remains (2008)
- The Cold Commands (2011)
- The Dark Defiles (2014)

Comics:

- Black Widow: Homecoming (2005)
- Black Widow: The Things They Say About Her (2006)
- Crisis (2012)

Computer Games:

- Crisis 2 (2011)
- Syndicate (2012)

When **Richard Morgan (1984)**, first found himself at Queens', his reaction, in common with many students used to being the brightest in the class, was a slight bemusement at having to put in any effort.

"For much of that period I was on autopilot," he says now. "I showed up for the interview, Queens' having been selected for me through a very mechanical process, as my school had contacts at the College. Everyone was very nice, and I just assumed that was the track I was on – I don't think it even occurred to me that I might not get in. When I got here, it was like always having had a souped-up sports car, but suddenly finding yourself in traffic. I still had the engine, but I didn't know what to do with it."

A difficult first year, during which he switched from MML to History and went through the breakdown of a serious relationship, gave way to a student experience which he enjoyed, but believes he ultimately failed to take advantage of.

## Crashing a BMW

"Blaming Cambridge for the fact that I failed to exploit the privileges available to me would be like crashing a top of the range BMW and blaming the car manufacturers. There are all these opportunities at Cambridge, and if you fail to avail yourself of them, that's on you. I didn't work hard enough and, despite knowing I wanted to be a writer, I didn't join any of the literary societies, write for the student papers, or leverage any of the advantages Cambridge offered."

**“Visiting the set in Vancouver, and being taken to the armoury, seeing the weapons I invented brought to life, seeing characters speaking lines to camera that I wrote down 20 years ago...it’s extraordinary.”**



Despite this, he treasures a memory of the May Ball in 1987, a moment which he recalls mentally filing away at the time and thinking “this is what I will remember of Cambridge”. Punting one-handed, with a cigarette in the other hand, he drifted down the Cam as a hot air balloon rose behind King’s.

## The breakthrough

Graduating and moving to London, Richard pursued his ambition to write but publishers proved frustratingly resistant to what he had to offer. Taking the “line of least resistance”, he trained as a teacher of English as a foreign language, a career which took him to Madrid and Istanbul before a role at Strathclyde University. He was comfortably ensconced in Glasgow, with his Spanish wife, Virginia, when his first novel, *Altered Carbon*, was published in 2002. Almost simultaneously, Warner Bros bought the film rights and everything changed.

“The fact of the movie deal put me on magazine covers, and gave the publishers a huge lever to market the book.”

The fee from Warner Bros enabled Richard to give up the day job and focus on writing full-time. But, while he is now the author of eight novels and has amassed a fan base with the kind of intense, obsessive loyalty only science-fiction can attract, the film never materialised. Richard continued to receive payments to keep the movie rights valid, but had almost given up hope of actually seeing his novel on screen, until last year. The Warner Bros deal having finally expired, *Altered Carbon* was picked up by Netflix. The first series streamed globally in February.

## Takeshi Kovacs

Richard’s face lights up when he is asked how it felt to see his work fully realised.

“It was awesome. It really honoured the book – entire scenes are exactly the way I wrote them. Visiting the set in Vancouver, and being taken to the armoury, seeing the weapons I invented brought to life, seeing characters speaking lines to camera that I wrote down 20 years ago...it’s extraordinary.”

Set 400 years in the future, *Altered Carbon* imagines a world in which human consciousness can be digitally stored. An individual self, with its memories and personhood, can be preserved on a ‘cortical stack’, fitted at birth. This becomes the essence of the person, of far greater significance than the body, or ‘sleeve’. An intact stack can be ‘re-sleeved’ in another body (or a clone of the first one) in the event of death or traumatic injury, now downgraded to ‘organic damage’. Against this context, the protagonist, Takeshi Kovacs, is brought out of digital storage to solve a murder. The wealthy victim, safely re-sleeved in a pre-grown clone, is sufficiently angry to want to know who tried to kill him.

The novel is compulsive, disturbing, highly entertaining and spectacularly violent – although Richard has little time for criticism on that score.

“There’s been a strange reaction against the carnality of both the book and the adaptation, as if those things don’t form an essential part of the human condition. The basic human drives are to stay alive long enough to reproduce. So when people say that there’s lots of sex and violence – of course there is! I’m always a bit taken aback

by literary writers who can really write, but who draw away from the carnal stuff.”

He acknowledges, however, a certain disquiet at the response of some readers to the character of Kovacs.

“Kovacs is morally bankrupt – he doesn’t have a place to stand when it comes to judging the people he’s investigating, because it’s clear he’s done some pretty horrible things himself. If I was writing it now, though, I would be a lot more careful to show that he isn’t a hero.”

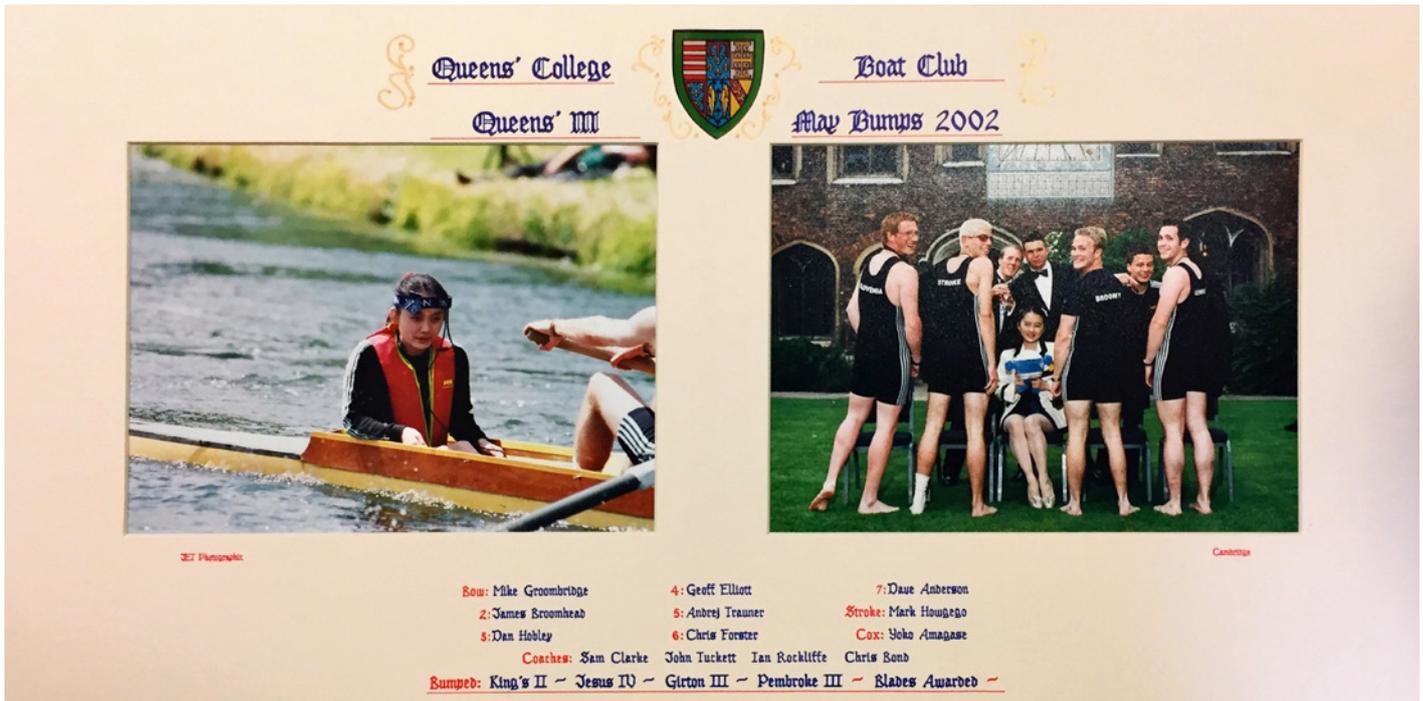
## Sci-Fi’s future

Science fiction, with its invented technologies and its freedom to innovate, has long been Richard’s genre of choice.

“The cynical side of me says that sci-fi is great because you don’t have to do as much research! You make up the rules yourself, but once they’re developed you live or die by them. But actually, I think that in order to say anything about the modern world you have to have a sci-fi slant. It’s now become very much the mode, although it wasn’t when I was reading it as a teenager. I just loved the sheer exuberance of it.”

Despite his insistence that he didn’t make the most of his Cambridge experience, Richard Morgan doesn’t seem to have done too badly for himself. And a recent reunion with his contemporaries appears to have laid to rest a few old ghosts.

“I was struck at our 30 year matric dinner by how gentle we all were to each other. Young people can be very casually cruel to each other, and that all seemed to have gone.”



Yoko coxing the Blades-winning M3 crew in 2002

# Halcyon Days

Dr Yoko Amagase (1998, PhD in Pharmacology)

## Why Queens'?

Not much information and advice for choosing a college were available in Japan; I looked into the college data in the prospectus and the Cambridge map. Because I was going to study in Cambridge, I wanted to choose a college with a bridge and history. Queens' is the first old college with a bridge walking down towards the town from my department in Tennis Court Road. It is not the only reason but definitely one of them.

## Which rooms did you have?

I was quite lucky in the room allocation. I had W16 Fisher Building in my first year; then the Organ Scholar's room in Docket Building with a piano over the summer; and Norwich Street for the next three years.

## The Queens' effect...

The College introduced me to such a wonderful sport: rowing and coxing. The blade I won with my crew at May Bumps 2002 is my treasure for life.

When I had a little trouble in my life, my College tutor sorted it out. When I was worn out and unwell, the College nurse

was very kind to me, when I was short of funding, the College offered me bursaries and a travel grant. I was the President of the CU Japanese Interdisciplinary Forum and organised seminars in the Armitage, Bowett and Erasmus rooms. There were good times and challenging times during my PhD in Cambridge, but Queens' was the place where I always felt secure. The College supported my study and my life in Cambridge so well.

**Yoko is now an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts in Kyoto, Japan. She helped organise the recent, inaugural Queens' Global Network event in Tokyo.**



Yoko (r) with Dr Harumi Goto (2001) at the recent Tokyo alumni gathering

## Centenary Armistice

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the College's Remembrance Sunday Service in Chapel will be open, as usual, for all members to attend. There will be refreshments served in Old Hall from 10am to 10.45am, as well as drinks after the Service, also in Old Hall.

At least 67 Queens' members were killed in the War and another seven died of accident or illness. 121 were wounded and taken prisoner. At one point during the war, the College's student population numbered only 12.

There will be an exhibition of *Queens' & the Armistice* situated at the west end of Chapel during the week leading up to the centenary celebrations.

Please let us know if you are planning to join us for the refreshments before or after the Service, by emailing [alumnierevents@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumnierevents@queens.cam.ac.uk) or calling +44 (0)1223 761422. All members are welcome.

# Running a business...

## The Varsity Hotel, Cambridge

### Owner – Will Davies (1993)



An MPhil in Church History and an early career as a teacher isn't an obvious route into running a boutique hotel. But for **Will Davies (1993)**, the progression has made perfect sense.

"Studying makes you think in a certain way – it teaches you to be logical and to plan. One of my tutors was Kathy Curtis, at Selwyn, who was brilliantly incisive and taught me to get to the point, which stands me in good stead, even when it comes to dealing with the Council."

### The Bradshaw factor

Following an undergraduate degree in Theology at Durham University, and an MPhil at Queens', Will intended to pursue a PhD on Sir Thomas More and a life of academia. A conversation with the late **Revd Dr Brendan Bradshaw (Fellow)** changed his mind.

"Brendan was very supportive of the idea, but he said to me, 'If you do this PhD, this is what your life will look like...' and I decided that wasn't what I wanted. He was a wonderful man, so easy-going, so warm, someone you trusted completely. He was a hugely important part of my time at Queens'."

Instead, Will moved back to London and became a teacher. But, after a running injury, a conversation with a friend about the lack of physiotherapy provision in central Cambridge led to an experimental project – the launch of Glassworks Gym and Spa.

"I was living in London, and did look at setting up a business there, but I was a bit out of my depth. Everyone wants you to have prior experience, but where do you get that from? You have to start somewhere."

Cambridge was familiar, smaller and seemingly a more welcoming context for new, untested ventures. A government DTI loan enabled Will and his business partner, **Tariq Muhmood (1992)**, to give it a go.

"The government loans system is a bit faceless now, but 20 years ago the local bank manager had a bit more of a say, and ours was very supportive."

### A bar with a view

After the gym and spa, the set-up gradually expanded, adding The Varsity Hotel, with its enviable rooftop bar and, in 2016, SIX restaurant, immediately below the roof terrace.

"Things take off and go in different directions, but we do our own research and see where things are going, and have added things as the opportunities have arisen and the market demand has been there."

The hotel now employs 150 people, and Will has learned to tread a delicate balance between allowing the managers of the separate aspects of the business to oversee their own affairs, and making his own imprint on the business.

"The place is only as good as the people in it. We have an excellent general manager, and I love it when ideas come from the staff, but obviously sometimes we need to direct it. But if we're too hands on we risk losing sight of the bigger picture, so it's a balancing act. You have to be responsive. We're lucky enough to have a roof top bar, and when you get a good summer like now, everyone wants

to be outside and it's a great asset. But if the weather's not so good and it's not being used, we still have to employ those staff."

### Challenge versus reward

But people, whether staff or guests, are at the heart of the business, and dealing with them provides both the greatest challenge and the greatest reward.

"We get lots of University parents staying, but the corporate side of Cambridge has expanded massively. The city attracts all sorts of different people. I enjoy having prospective students staying, whether for interviews or open days, and being able to reassure them."

Having thoroughly enjoyed his years as a teacher, Will now scratches the pedagogical itch by working as a boxing coach for the University of Cambridge, a role which grants him both a connection with the students and a break from the demands of the hotel.

But it's clear that the association with the city, begun as a student, and cemented by choosing it as the base for a gamble which has well and truly paid off, is now central to Will's sense of self.

"Cambridge is home now," he smiles.

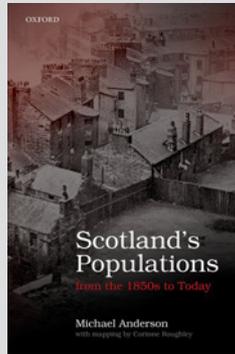


# Alumni Books



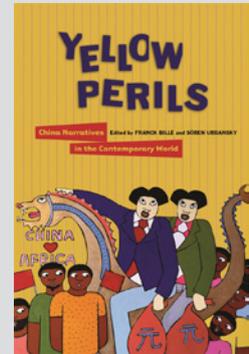
Splinter

**Shery Alexander Heinis (1986)**



Scotland's Populations from  
the 1850s to Today

**Michael Anderson (1961)**



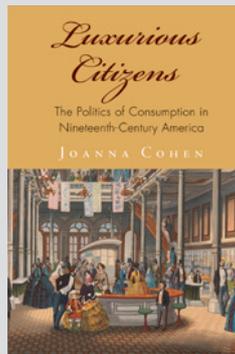
Yellow Perils: China Narratives  
in the Contemporary World

**Franck Billé (2004)**



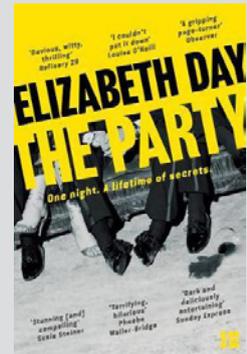
The Madonna of Bolton

**Matt Cain (1994)**



Luxurious Citizens: The  
Politics of Consumption in  
Nineteenth-Century America

**Joanna Cohen (1998)**



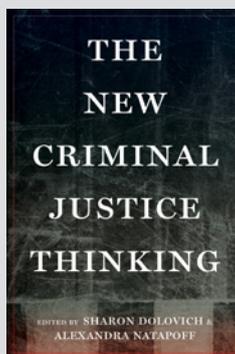
The Party

**Elizabeth Day (1998)**



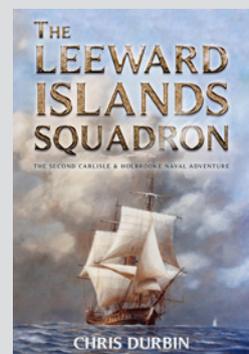
Dead Stick

**Steve DeWolf (1982)**



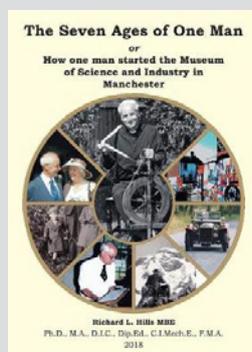
The New Criminal Justice Thinking

**Sharon Dolovich (1989)**



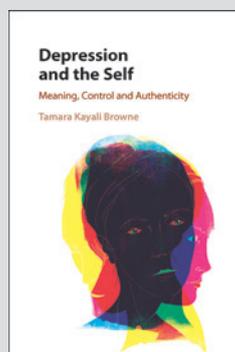
The Leeward Islands Squadron

**Chris Durbin (1995)**



The Seven Ages of One Man

**Richard Hills (1957)**



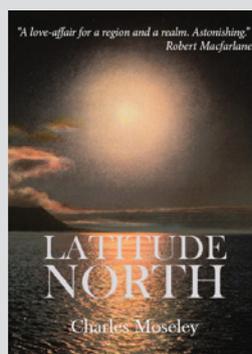
Depression and the Self: Meaning, Control and Authenticity

**Tamara Kayali Browne (2005)**



Coming to Terms

**Charles Moseley (1959)**



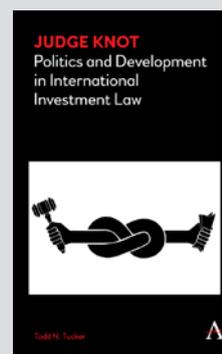
Latitude North

**Charles Moseley (1959)**



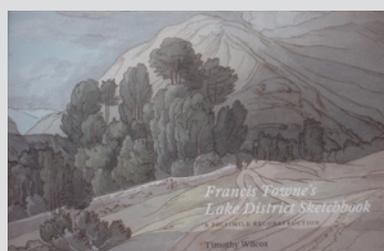
Stand and Deliver!

**Ian Nichol (1974)**



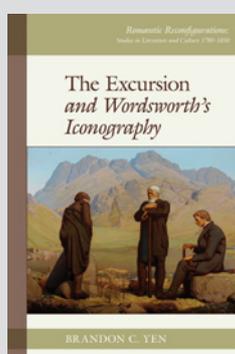
Judge Knot

**Todd Tucker (2012)**



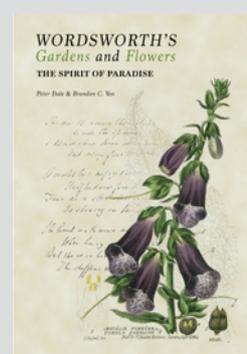
Francis Towne's Lake District Sketchbook: A facsimile reconstruction

**Timothy Wilcox (1973)**



The Excursion and Wordsworth's Iconography

**Brandon C. Yen (2012)**



Wordsworth's Gardens and Flowers: The Spirit of Paradise

**Brandon C. Yen (2012)**

# Floreat Domus

The generous contributions of alumni and supporters have helped make many things possible at Queens' this year...

## Teaching

**Director of Studies in Music, funded by The Friends of Aliko Vatikioti for Music & the Arts** – to support the Fellow's post for six academic years. This further generous gift to music at Queens' comes via **Stephen Farrant (1956)** who has already endowed the Senior Organ Scholarship, the Friends of Queens' Music, a fully-funded postgraduate scholarship in music and provided new lighting in the Chapel.

The campaign to endow a second **Computer Science Fellowship** at the College is underway. The subject continues to grow and alongside **Dr Andy Rice** is now **Dr Alastair Beresford** with **Dr Ramsey Farragher** as a Bye-Fellow. Our students continue to excel and one graduating CompSci, **Tamara Norman (2015)**, is taking up a job at Google DeepMind. The Fellowship will be named after **Dr Robin**

**Walker (1966, Fellow)**, the first Director of Studies in the subject at Queens'.

The College is also hoping to endow Fellowships in the names of the late **Dr Brendan Bradshaw** (History) and **Lord Oxburgh** (Earth Scientist and former President 1982–89) who still resides in Cambridge.

## Student Support

**The Patterson Fund in English**, created to mark the retirement this year of **Dr Ian Patterson**, has been endowed thanks to generous contributions from 19 years' worth of appreciative students. As a result, around £3,000 will be available per year in small grants to support the academic activities of undergraduates and postgraduates reading English.

**The Macpherson Fund in Law** has been endowed in honour of **Ewen Macpherson (1961 & Hon Fellow)** who is the greatest benefactor to Law in modern times. As with the Patterson and **Milgate** Funds, this will provide an annual amount to support Law students in their work. Several donors gave to this Fund, which included a legacy from the estate of **John Denham (1949)** who read Law at Queens'.

**The Haszeldine Fund in Chemistry** – named after Prof Bob Haszeldine (ex-Fellow) whose legacy gift has begun the endowment for this fund, it will support Chemistry undergraduates and postgraduates.

**The Dr J.A.C.K. Pang Medical Elective Fund** – to be used over the next three academic years to support Medical students with their electives abroad and in the UK, generously funded by **Dr Joseph Pang (1967)**.

**The Cleevely Studentships** – to support graduate students studying for the MPhil



**Dr Joseph Pang at the Benefactors' Feast**

Public Policy at Queens' for the next five academic years. This is thanks to a gift from **Ros and David Cleevely** (Fellow Commoner).

**The Eleanor Duck Sports Bursary**, generously funded by **Jonathan Duck (1979)** and named after Eleanor who matriculated in 2013 and was Osprey of the Year. Eleanor is now at Oxford reading clinical medicine.



**Eleanor Duck – centre**

## Prizes

**Dr Robert Barnes (1989)** has also funded the **Robert Barnes Prize in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology**. This is the first endowed prize for postgraduate students. Robert was Vice-President Professor Lisa Hall's first PhD student and remains a stalwart of the Boat Club. Thus, Robert also sponsored an **honours board** for the Boat House, listing Captains and Presidents of QCBC since 1924. The boards have capacity to 2065!

### **The Estelle Prize in English**

– an endowed, annual essay-writing prize for sixth-form students, set and marked by Queens' English Fellows. This complements the important access and outreach programme that the College runs.

It is a gift from **Nigel Farrow (1958)**.

**The Colin Butler Prize in Natural Sciences** (Zoology, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) – endowed by **Ian Mackley (1977)** it is an annual award for outstanding academic performance. **Colin Butler (1934)** was a centenarian Queens' alum who was one of the world's leading entomologists.

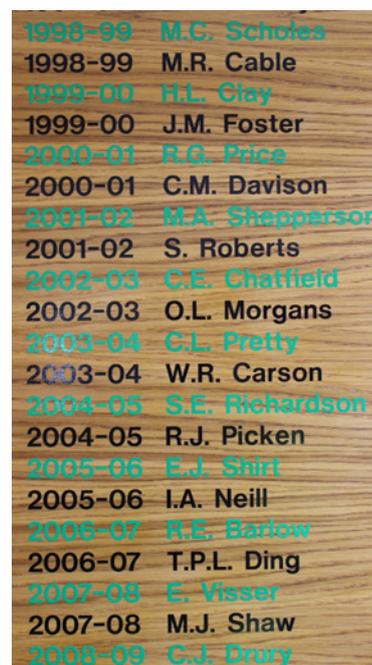


## Variou

The generous gift to **Access** work three years ago from two alumni has resulted in Queens' leading the way in this vital field. We now have an Access Officer based in our link area of Bradford and the Access Office taking on a graduate assistant for the forthcoming academical year.

An honours board is being mounted in Barton Road's **Venn Pavilion** listing Queens' Rugby Captains (male and female) plus our list of internationals and patrons, thanks to support from several alumni. Old members are, of course, welcome to visit the Venn Pavilion and, indeed, the Boat House to see the boards.

Among many legacy gifts to the College from old members was one from **Mr Keith Armistead (1958)**. He wanted to have a bench installed at the Barton Road sportsground, allowing spectators to watch the cricket in comfort – as his parents did.



## Benefactors' Feast

Almost 30 benefactors and their guests attended the traditional Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors in the College Chapel in May. The President read the list of benefactors from previous centuries and then current benefactors were thanked in front of the assembled Fellowship.

**Dr Anna Paterson (2000)**, Pang Kam Ping Fellow in Medicine, gave the address highlighting the positive impact of philanthropy on the College, and The Michael Williamson Instrumental Scholar, **Patrick Bevan (2017)**, closed the proceedings with a sublime performance of the *Thaïs Méditation* on the violin. The Choir, conducted by the Aliko Vatikioti Senior Organ Scholar **Jack Spencer (2015)** and **Mr Ralph Allwood (Fellow Commoner)**, sang Byrd's *Sing Joyfully* and Stanford's *Iustorum Animae*.

The drinks reception in the President's Garden was followed by the Feast in Old Hall.

For more information about how to become a benefactor at Queens', please email **Mr Sam Davis** (Senior Development Officer) at [development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk)



**Dr Anna Paterson gives the address**



**Patrick Bevan plays Thaïs at the Feast**

# Queens' College Alumni Events Series

## 2018

### September

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

**The Patterson Fund Celebration Dinner**  
*(by invitation)*  
Friday 28th September 2018

### October

**Queens' Distinguished Lecture in Law & Dinner** *(by invitation)*  
Tuesday 16th October 2018

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

**Diversity in Finance – Goldman Sachs, London** *(by invitation)*  
Wednesday 31st October 2018

### November

**1987 & 1988 30th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 10th November 2018

**Remembrance Day Service, 100th Anniversary of Armistice** *(open to all members)*  
Sunday 11th November 2018  
Light refreshments served before and after the Service

### December

**The Varsity Match**  
Thursday 6th December

## 2019

### February

**MA Congregation for 2013 matriculants**  
Saturday 23rd February 2019

### March

**High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 6th March 2019

**1969 50th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 16th March 2019

### April

**Cambridgeshire Regional Dinner**  
Thursday 25th April 2019  
*Contact – Simon Mentha*  
*Cambridge.dinner@queens.cam.ac.uk*

**Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors** *(open to all members)*  
Sunday 28th April 2019

**The Benefactors' Feast** *(by invitation)*  
Sunday 28th April 2019



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)

### May

**Blues Dinner** *(by invitation)*  
Wednesday 8th May 2019

**2009 10th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 11th May 2019

**1999 20th Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday 18th May 2019

**High Table Dining**  
Wednesday 22nd May 2019

### June

**The Alumni Garden Party**  
Sunday 23 June 2019  
including Family Day *(all alumni welcome)*,  
The 1448 Society & Arthur Armitage Society  
garden parties

### Future Events:

**MA Congregations**  
For 2014 matriculants – 22 February, 2020



Any feedback on or queries about *The Bridge* can be sent to: [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)

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