Where are they now? Queens’ first female Blue

(Page 2)

Page 6
Mairi Hurrell retires

Page 10
Getting into Queens’

Page 18
Test your maths

Page 19
Global Queens’
Welcome...

We were delighted to hear that many of you feel better informed about Queens’ having read the first edition of *the Bridge* and, as ever, we welcome your feedback.

Our new College website launched in October: you can find the latest news and events on our alumni section, plus details of cutting edge research by Fellows and students.

Victoria Thompson (1995), above left, is our new Deputy Development Director. She manages the legacy programme (Arthur Armitage Society), the Business Contacts Scheme and the Friends of Queens’ Music, among other things. Marisa Sutherland-Brown, above right, who joined last summer, manages The 1448 Society (regular giving), the Telephone Campaign and the *Bridge* publication, as well as our website and social media.

The *Bridge* continues to be a publication focused on alumni and is designed to be a transparent account of the challenges facing Queens’ as well as its successes. Please send us any updates, including news of marriages, births, career progress and awards. Email thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Please remember you are welcome at Queens’ at any time as members of the College. Do let us know in advance when you are visiting and we can help with arrangements.

**Where are they now?**

**Dr Amma Kyei-Mensah (1980)**

*Then:* First female Blue at Queens’ and first Queens’ female to captain a University team (Athletics, 1982). Still holds the Queens’ 100m Hurdles record she set in 1981.

*Now:* Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist; Fellow of the Higher Education Academy; Member of the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme Advisory Group.

Lead Developer of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists national guideline on the management of thalassaemia in pregnancy.

Has two children, aged 14 and 8.

**Why Queens’?**

I particularly wanted to go to a College that was newly recruiting women. I thought I had something different to offer: I had good grades and was already very active in sport. I visited Cambridge and looked at Downing and Queens’ and was struck by the beauty and friendly atmosphere of Queens’. In December 1979, I was visiting Nigeria when my Cambridge results came through – my Mum had to accept my place at Queens’ for me!

**First impressions**

I read Medical Sciences. I came up to Queens’ from Cheltenham Ladies’ College with fellow pupils Sally Boyle and Heather Claridge. It was a boarding school, so being away from home wasn’t too much of a shock to me. 29 women were admitted in that first year and I made some close friendships. I have very fond memories of my two “Academic Fathers”, Alistair Lammie (1979) and Mike Taylor (1979) – also medical students. They were very kind, showed us round and helped us settle in.

I still remember the Chaplain telling us that we’d been brought in to ‘attract a different sort of male undergraduate; one who might prefer to drink orange juice in the bar, but would have been intimidated by the previous all-male atmosphere’. I took part in a mixed touch rugby match as an introduction to sporting life at Queens’. It was meant to be a friendly game with no hard tackles. Because I was a fast runner, the men had to stretch hard for the tackles with less control and I remember hitting the ground really hard. I decided then and there that rugby would be a spectator sport for me! I also took part in rowing at The Bumps but I wasn’t too happy with the blisters on my hands - we tried everything back then.

**Max Bull**

Max Bull was my Director of Studies and he was marvellous. He encouraged me in my studies and my sport. The medical course was fairly rigorous – I certainly remember a more demanding timetable compared to friends reading History! I still had a good time – I definitely worked, but I played even harder. Through sports and college life I gained an eclectic group of friends containing many non-medics; I’ve really benefited from that.

**Cuppers glory**

I captained the first Queens’ Ladies Athletics Team in 1981. I still remember the Chaplain telling us that we’d been brought in to ‘attract a different sort of male undergraduate; one who might prefer to drink orange juice in the bar, but would have been intimidated by the previous all-male atmosphere’. I took part in a mixed touch rugby match as an introduction to sporting life at Queens’. It was meant to be a friendly game with no hard tackles. Because I was a fast runner, the men had to stretch hard for the tackles with less control and I remember hitting the ground really hard. I decided then and there that rugby would be a spectator sport for me! I also took part in rowing at The Bumps but I wasn’t too happy with the blisters on my hands - we tried everything back then.
from the men. The rugby captain, Steve Horrocks (1977), cheerfully congratulated us on our first trophy for Queens’ women and invited us down to the other end for celebratory drinks. As a novice drinker, when asked to choose a drink I simply repeated the preceding order placed by my friends. The trend continued all night with the inevitable disastrous mixing of many alcoholic beverages – I can only remember the last one - a martini. To this day I can’t face a martini!

Blues
I gained my first Cambridge Athletics Blue in 1981. This was fortunate timing: every four years, the Achilles Trust sponsors a combined Oxbridge team against several Ivy League Universities including Harvard and Yale. In 1981 it was Oxbridge’s turn to tour America – a chance to visit some of America’s most prestigious universities. It was my first-ever trip to America and I felt incredibly lucky to be able to compete against their elite athletes. In 1981 I was very much the baby of the team but felt honoured to be involved. It was a fantastic experience.

I won the Dennler Trophy in 1981 and 1982 for Best Female Athlete in the Varsity Match. In my second year, I had the honour of capturing the Ladies’ Varsity Team (1982).

I was very surprised to learn I still hold the Queens’ College best time for 100m Hurdles: I won in 14.4 seconds on 16 May, 1981. The Varsity record is now an impressive 13.86 seconds, set in 2007. I also set a long jump record in 1983 at 5.57m which stood until 1990.

I unwittingly hurled the shot quite far in a Cuppers match on 28th April 1982. I had only volunteered to gain points for the team, so imagine my shock when I threw a record distance of 11.34m – it’s still 4th on the all-time CUAC list. I didn’t want to be known for shot putting (remember this was the era of the masculinized East European female field event athletes). Several old friends have never let me forget my shot putt exploits and have teased me constantly over the years, culminating with them awarding me the gift of a blue engraved shot at my 50th birthday party in Rome.

Kangaroos, Valkyries & Scorpions
When I gained my Athletics Blue, the Kangaroos hastily convened an extraordinary general meeting and voted to exclude women from their membership indefinitely. I wasn’t fazed at all, as we women had plans for a club of our own. We waited until women were present throughout the College and then founded the Valkyries and the Scorpions in our third year. As the founders, we had membership of both clubs but our stated aim was for the ongoing membership to be separate, with sportswomen (Blues and Half-Blues) becoming Valkyries and for the Scorpions to be a dining club.

Back then, the Valkyries’ initiation involved running to Grantchester and drinking a mug of mead - not easy. We designed ourselves a white scarf with a green emblem but unfortunately it was made up in a crimplene-type fabric which was not a good look, so it didn’t last long.

The CUAC Women’s team captained by Amma

After Queens’
I had wanted the option to complete Tripos in two years, as I was keen to study an unrelated subject like Anthropology before embarking on full-time clinical medicine studies. Unfortunately, Local Education Authority restraints prevented that so I took an elective in Physiology instead, studying human reproduction, mainly because the timetable allowed me to pursue my athletics! The course turned out to be fascinating and well taught, fuelling my later interest in obstetrics and gynaecology.

I didn’t stay on to join the brand new Addenbrooke’s clinical course, opting instead to go to St Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical School and I qualified in 1986.

I am now a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, specialising in high-risk pregnancies complicated by maternal medical disorders at a district general hospital in North London. It’s rewarding work and I am also heavily involved in undergraduate medical teaching. It’s still pretty tough to get into medical school these days but, personally, I think it’s a real advantage to study medicine at a university because of the increased opportunity to make friends reading other subjects. I really value the variety and perspective this wider social circle has given me in my life.

In retrospect
I came back in 2001 with several contemporaries to celebrate the 21st anniversary of women arriving at Queens’ and enjoyed a day of lunch and speeches. Others present were Emma Parkinson, Georgia Kaufmann and Louise Dolman.

I had three great years at Queens’ - I have many happy memories and made some important and lasting friendships.

Other Queens’ alumni record-holders:
Mike Turner (1959) 3000m in 1963
Douglas Gunstone (1971) 10,000m in 1970
Andrew Lill (1989) 800m in 1992
An alternative path...

Julian Rimmer (1986)

From a difficult background in Liverpool, Jules ran out of his Queens’ interview in tears. But his life was transformed when he was offered a place to read English Literature.

The interview
First I was asked, “Why Queens’ College?” which threw me. I was applying independently, had no concept of the collegiate system and thought that Queens’ was the University. My school had never sent anyone to Cambridge before and it was closing as I was leaving anyway, so guidance was lacking.

Second, during the course of the conversation I was asked a personal question about my father whom I’d never known. Bizarrely, up until this moment no-one had ever asked me about him before and this, combined with the pressure of being in an unfamiliar environment, prompted a minor emotional breakdown and I ran in tears, out of the interview, down the stairs and away.

The Damascene moment
To his eternal credit (and probable regret), John Green showed a surprising burst of speed, caught up with me and persuaded me to come back into the interview room so they could gauge my potential. I had bunked on the train for my interview so this clearly demonstrated some initiative. I was offered a place. It was a life-defining moment. It would be overstating the case to claim if I had not gone up to Cambridge, I might have ended up in gaol like plenty of people I knew, but it’s fair to say the trajectory of my career, and life itself, would have definitely been lower.

Home
My step-father was, in fact still is, a scaffolder and my mother worked behind the bar in a nearby pub where I joined her four nights a week during my time at sixth-form. Homework was often completed on the bar which set an unfortunate precedent. In fact, it was a customer in this pub, a university lecturer at Liverpool to whom I served a pint most evenings, who randomly gave me the address of Queens’ College and encouraged me to apply. My school, Breckfield Community Comprehensive in Liverpool, wasn’t quite the academic hothouse.

Queens’ days
Life at Queens’ was a huge adjustment for me from a social and cultural perspective. I found it very difficult to adjust and so never quite made the most of my three years there, combining appalling behaviour in the bar at times with a prodigious indolence. I was very surprised Queens’ let me in and, once I was there, even more surprised they never kicked me out. Not all contributions were negative, however. I won a Soccer Blue, captained the College 1st XI at cricket and became, I was told, the first non-democratically elected President of the Kangaroo Club.

Transformation
Queens’ provided me with an amazing opportunity (largely squandered, sadly) to study and play sport and then an unbeatable platform for the Milk Round which launched me into my first job, three weeks after graduating, at a rather fancy investment bank in New York. I’ve been in the world of finance for the whole quarter-century since, travelling widely, living abroad for periods and enjoying a career that once seemed, from the perspective of Liverpool, unimaginable. I met my Turkish wife in the City and we have two young children, Jude and Yasemin (pictured above) who share an exotic heritage. We live in Petersham, SW London, and have houses in Turkey and the south of France.

Retrospective
I look back at Queens’ now with a strange mixture of happiness, regret, intense nostalgia and downright embarrassment which I hope is more typical than it sounds. Many friendships have survived.

Ironically, in light of how sorely I must have tried the patience of some senior members of Queens’ and considering I somehow managed to graduate while still owing money to the College (my only first), I have just started supporting the institution which transformed my opportunities and opened up the world to me. By joining The 1448 Society (regular-giving) I’m delighted to be in a position to make a contribution to the teaching of other students and repay some of the immense debt I owe Queens’ for the faith they showed and the gamble they took.

In life’s giant game of snakes and ladders, Queens’ was a very long ladder and it’s rewarding to express thanks in this way.
Recent news and awards

Please send your news & photos to thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk

Elected to Honorary Fellowships

Robert Chote (1986), pictured left, currently the Chair of the Office of Budget Responsibility. Formerly worked for the Financial Times (Economics editor), Institute for Fiscal Studies (Director) and the International Monetary Fund (adviser).

Professor Paul Ginsborg (1963) Professor of Contemporary European History at the University of Florence. In addition to his work on Italy he has written on more general themes, most notably in his recent prize-winning monograph: Family Politics. Domestic Life, Devastation and Survival, 1900-1950.

Awards (Fellows)

Dr Ioanna Sitaridou, Fellow in Linguistics and MML, has been honoured with the award of a highly prestigious Research Fellowship by Harvard University. Dr Sitaridou will be based for six months at the Centre for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC from September, to conduct research into Romeyka and Asia Minor Greek.

Professor Tony Spearing (Life Fellow) Professor of English at the University of Virginia, graduated as Doctor of Letters of the University of Cambridge in 2014.

Awards (Alumni)

Professor Malcolm Macleod (1984) has been elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor Nicola Anthony (1988), Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of New Orleans, has been selected as a Leopold Leadership Fellow for 2015.

Professor John Keown (1977) has been awarded a DCL (Doctor of Civil Law) from Oxford University.

News

Dr Jamie Shotton (1999) and Bertilla Shotton (née Ng, 2005) welcomed a baby boy, Isaac, in 2014. Jamie and Bertilla were married in Queens’ Chapel in 2011, where Bertilla was the College’s first female Organ Scholar.

We are looking forward to seeing actress Hannah Murray (2008) in the return of the much-anticipated season 5 of Game of Thrones. Hannah is also starring in several films at the moment. She, along with her two co-stars, recently won the Special Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival 2014 for Best Ensemble Performance in the musical film God Help the Girl.

New Year’s Honours List

MBEs were awarded to Hasan Bakhshi (1989) for services to the Creative Industries and The Revd Dr Richard Hills (1957) for services to Industrial Heritage. OBEs were awarded to John Newbigin (1967) for services to the Creative Industries & the Arts and Peter Foster (1979) for services to British aviation in Kazakhstan.

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Insight: Mairi Hurrell – Welfare Adviser

Background:
Training: Registered General Nurse – Western Infirmary Glasgow, specialising in Thoracic Intensive Therapy
State certified midwife – SCM, Scotland
Health education course, CRC, Cambridge

Worked in:
- Orthopaedic Trauma in Geneva
- Cardiac ICU, Guy’s Hospital, London
- Cardiovascular Surgery and Multiple Body Trauma, Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas

Appointed Queens’ Nurse in January 1993
Appointed Queens’ Welfare Adviser in 2013

After 22 years of devoted service to Queens’ students, Mairi Hurrell is retiring this summer. She highlights the changes she has witnessed in student welfare during her time.

Student welfare provision at Cambridge has grown due to:
- the increasing number of students
- greater diversity of backgrounds
- more awareness of specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia
- anxiety caused by the burden of current and future debt and the uncertainty of appropriate post-graduate employment
- distress caused by parental separation and the break-up of the family
- long waiting times after referral by GPs for physiotherapy and mental health assessment

Positive action
The Senior Tutor developed the idea of the Welfare Team in response to student needs which, over recent years, have grown exponentially in number and severity. This has necessitated the expansion of the University Counselling Service (UCS) with the appointment of two dedicated Mental Health Advisors, the Disability Resource Centre, and the Eating Disorders Clinic.

In the vanguard
Queens’ is the first college to initiate, in addition to tutorial support, a Welfare Team. This comprises Mairi Hurrell, Welfare Adviser, Emma Dellar, College Nurse, both with experience
in a wide range of physical and psychological conditions including serious trauma and mental health issues, and the Revd. Tim Harling, Chaplain, who has worked in several parishes and served as a Prison Chaplain at HMP Peterborough.

The need
Students have to be mentally and physically well throughout their time at Cambridge if they are to benefit from expert teaching and produce work of the highest standard. Stress manifests in many ways and if it isn’t dealt with, it becomes distress which, if unchecked, can lead to complete dysfunction. Some students cope well, others need help. There is always a member of the Welfare Team for students to turn to for help when they are distressed, and they do so.

What kind of healthcare issues do you face at Queens’?
At Queens’ we see the same range of issues as are seen in all colleges and the same ones as are documented by Universities UK.

Students today are as amazing and as multi-talented as their predecessors were when I started as College Nurse two decades ago. Society has changed and life, with its concerns and distractions, seems considerably harder to navigate. The ‘digital age’ has come with all its advantages and disadvantages.

We also, on occasions, deal with life-threatening physical and mental illness. The availability of the Welfare Team means that we can support many issues ‘in house’, and are available to accompany students to hospital for assessment or treatment if necessary. Some cases require short term round-the-clock attention, some will have weekly appointments, and others need only occasional contact. Wide and varied past experience is undoubtedly the greatest quality which we bring to our roles, together with the ability to listen and advise.

Knowing when to refer on is a crucial part of the job. When necessary, we refer students to local GPs, UCS, Mental Health Advisers, A&E, and more. When waiting times for therapy are unacceptably long and the need is urgent, or when particular expertise is required, we sometimes refer students, first seeking the GP’s approval, to private psychologists or psychotherapists. This is an added expense but can save a great deal of time, and often allows the student to continue without interruption to their studies.

We have our students for a short but very significant time before they go on to make their way in life. Good student welfare provision is costly but it is not an option, it is an obligation.

After Queens’
Rather than having very specific post-retirement plans, “the best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft agley” after all, I intend taking some breathing space. While my husband completes the violin he is making, I hope to restore with some help from the Cambridge Violinmakers Workshop, a lovely old mandolin which I have acquired. We look forward to being able to spend more time with our four sons and their families, in Surrey, Paris, Zurich and Adelaide – this will involve travel! In time I plan to get involved with teaching young offenders to read.

Fond memories
I have attended every graduation ceremony since 1993. Watching from the gallery of the Senate House, as each student receives their degree, knowing the challenges that many have faced and overcome, is awe-inspiring. That is a wonderfully rewarding part of the job.

Several alumni keep in touch and some have become dear friends. My husband and I have been to many students’ weddings and have been very touched to be invited to join in such a special day. It’s always a great joy to hear out of the blue from a student from way back. They always start with, “…you may not remember me …”

I remember them all with great fondness.

If you would like to send greetings to Mairi, please email development@queens.cam.ac.uk.

‘During my final year at Queens’, Mairi helped me through a delicate personal crisis I didn’t feel I could talk to my friends about. She kept me sane when I really needed it and for that I’ll always be grateful, as will the countless other students she’s helped during her 22 years of service in College.’ – Matt Cain (1994)
Alumni Books

Peter Jukes (1980)

16th edition co-authored by Christopher Knight (2003)

Nigel Cumberland (1986)

A biography of the late Dick Isherwood (1961)

Robert Reuland (1986)

John Jackson (1949)

David W. Tollen (1993)


Daniel O'Leary (1979)

by Anne Cuneo, trans. by Louise Rogers Lalaurie (1982)

Prof Richard Fentiman (1981)

Dr Syed Akmal Hussain (1969)

Eric W. Nye (1979)

Neil Lyndon (1966)

Editor, Roderick Braithwaite (1951)

Matt Cain (1994)
15 Years of Gates Scholars at Queens’

The Scholarships
The Gates Cambridge Scholarship scheme is one of the most prestigious in the world. The programme was established in 2000 by a donation of US$210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge; this is the largest ever single donation to a UK university.

Gates Scholars at Queens’
- Queens’ has hosted 56 Gates Scholars since its inception.
- 17 Gates Scholars are currently studying at the College.

Meet two of our Gates Scholars:

Alice Meyer (2013)
Country of origin: South Africa

I was born and raised in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and studied for a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Cape Town where I majored in English, Classics and World Religion. In 2010, I graduated top of my English class and won a Commonwealth Scholarship to read for a Master’s Degree in Victorian Literature, Art and Culture at Royal Holloway, University of London.

In 2013, I received a Gates Scholarship to undertake a PhD at Queens’. My PhD explores the ability of poetry to act as a voice of radical political critique in post-Apartheid South Africa. I focus on experimental and avant-garde poetry with a view towards tackling the complex relationship between poetic form and socio-economic power.

Once I graduate, I would like to stay in academia. I am excited to spend my life teaching and writing on contemporary poetry, postcolonialism and 19th century culture.

My favourite Queens’ memories involve freezing cold night-punting and lazy weekends reading in our beautiful College library.

Njoki Wamai (2012)
Country of origin: Kenya

I am studying for a PhD in Politics & International Studies. My research focus is on the tensions and agreements regarding the International Criminal Court’s concept of justice, focussing on a selection of victims and survivors who have suffered violence, that the court is representing in Kenya.

Queens’ is good fun; it feels like I have a College family. Graduate students are very welcoming and warm; we often have meals together at the Buttery or attend MCR planned activities. I have a supportive tutor and the staff are very kind.

I am grateful because this support makes all the difference when so far from home. I am very lucky to have found this scholarship; I wish there were more opportunities like Gates Scholarships for students from under-represented countries.

For the short-term, I am interested in publishing my research before moving back to Kenya to become an academic and activist. In future, I hope to enter politics in Kenya.
Are children of Queens’ alumni disadvantaged by family connections if they apply?
- Not at all, because it’s a blind admissions form, so we don’t know if they have a Queens’ connection, nor do we know where else they have applied.
- As long as I’ve been a Fellow, there’s been no discrimination positively or negatively.

Are independently-educated children disadvantaged if they apply?
- The University has a target for numbers of state-educated applicants it is looking to move towards.
- However at Queens’, we look at individuals, not schools because it’s rare that applicants have chosen where they went to school and, what matters, is getting the best students.

How many students at Queens’ are state-educated?
- In 2013-14, 67% of the intake was state-educated.
- This is just above the University average.
- In 2014-15, the figure was lower: around 56%.
- It’s not one continuous line in a certain direction – it can vary from year to year, depending on the field.
- It’s likely to be around 64% in 2015-16.
- Our student body is drawn from a huge variety of schools, but we will typically have students from the top schools, both state and independent, in each intake.
- It’s simple – we take the best.
Is it true that many students arrive at Cambridge unable to cope with the demands of their courses?
- In the first year, we have to think more about transition – moving from exam structure, which provides scaffolding, to one which is asking candidates to think more for themselves.
- Most Cambridge courses are not modularised, so knowledge acquired in week one is needed in the last week of year three.

How many non-UK/EU undergraduates are there?
- Between 10% and 12.5%. It should remain roughly the same.

The proposal to abolish AS Level...?
- AS Level (Lower Sixth) gives us a good prediction about how students will perform once they get here.
- We are interested in marks as well as grades.
- We are likely to lose marking information in the foreseeable future, but we are happy to interview people after their exams so we can make decisions on the basis of results, rather than predictions.

What are interviews like?
- Our sole aim is to give candidates the opportunity to show what they can do.
- Interviewers have training in how to bring the best out of people.
- There are no trick questions and no interest in what they don’t know.

Are more written tests for entry inevitable?
- There are a number of subjects with written tests already (English, MML, Philosophy, Music, Engineering, Computer Science and Medicine) either before coming up or whilst at Cambridge for interview. There are lots of web-based resources to help candidates prepare.
- i-want-to-study-engineering.org, designed by Queens’ Fellow Professor Richard Prager is a great example of providing support for potential candidates.
- The University is looking at a range of options to cope with likely government reforms. The colleges will act collectively on this.

How does the ‘pool’ work?
- There are roughly just over five applicants per subject per place.
- The pool works very effectively: sharing information electronically gives us access to information about all candidates who apply to the University to enable us to monitor the quality of our own field.
- We take 10 to 20 applicants from the pool and between 30 to 40 Queens’ applicants are taken by other colleges.

Are extra-curricular activities important on an applicant’s form?
- Cambridge is making a decision about academic ability and we are an academic and educational charity.
- If I come across applicants with lots of extra-curricular interests or achievements, it simply tells me they can manage their time.
- Work-life balance is vital and there’s probably time for one major and one minor extra-curricular activity outside of work.
- But people do have to work harder here than they did at school.
- Those who excel in one area also excel elsewhere – it happens naturally – not as a result of deliberate intent.

How can alumni help?
- Nearly 100 of our students received University bursary support in 2013-14 at a cost of £250,000.
- We also need scholarships to help the very best overseas students come here at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- We need alumni to support our access work.
- We’d like to develop a partnership in Bradford to enable us to mentor students aged 11-18. Working with an accountancy firm, bank or business would be ideal.
- Our Access Officer needs transport – a car!
Access to Queens’

Queens’ encourages schoolchildren from all backgrounds to aspire to a university education as well as to apply to Queens’. Our University-designated link areas are Kent, Bradford and the London borough of Havering.

What’s the aim?

- Suhaiymah: “We want to make the distant possibility of obtaining an offer to Cambridge a reality, usually in areas where families and schools perhaps don’t have such a tradition.”
- Maria: “Anyone who is able can and should apply; it’s about raising awareness.”

How is it achieved?

- Queens’ Teachers’ Conferences were held in Kent and Bradford last summer; Dr Andrew Thompson (Admissions Tutor) and Maria talked about the applications process.
- Some schools, like Chatham Grammar, bring Year 7s (aged 11) to visit Queens’.
- Queens’ students conduct Roadshows (“the teachers can sometimes be obstructive or naïve about Cambridge, so they need Cambridge explained to them, too” says Suhaiymah).
- Three teams of students from Queens’ go on tour during the first week of the Easter Vacation, visiting two to three schools per day.

Who is involved:

- Maria McElroy, pictured right, has been the part-time Schools Liaison Officer since 2011.
- Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan, pictured left, is a second year historian from Leeds and is the JCR Access Officer.
- This year 82 Queens’ students volunteered to assist with the Queens’ Access Programme.

What are the results?

Queens’ in-take from the state sector:

- 2013-14: 67% (Cambridge average is about 62%)
- 2014-15: 56%
- 2015-16: 64% (projected)
- About 20 pupils from our link schools in Kent won places at Cambridge in 2013.

Maria sends a newsletter to teachers every term (“but messages don’t always sink in”, she says).
- Shadowing: Year 12 pupils can come and stay in College for two nights and follow someone reading their subject. In conjunction with the CU Students’ Union, 27 came to Queens’ this year, which is up from two per week a few years ago.
Why do pupils choose Queens’?
Maria: “usually two applicants say because of Stephen Fry; two say because of the Mathematical Bridge; most say because it’s friendly”.

Suhaiymah: “I wasn’t interested in hearing about the College’s position in the league tables or its reputation in a certain field. It’s more about where you are going to live.”

What is needed to boost Access efforts?
- A car, perhaps with Queens’ College emblazoned on the side. At the moment, Avis Hire is how Maria has to travel.
- There are 120 school visits a year including trips to Queens’ and the roadshows: more resources are needed to bring children to experience the College for themselves.
- Teachers must encourage their students to aspire to come to Cambridge.

Nearly 100 Queens’ undergraduates (about 20% of the total) benefited from Cambridge Bursary support in 2013-14. This cost around £250,000. Some of this is currently paid for by the Newton Trust, but Queens’ will soon have to meet the entire cost from the College’s own resources.

Spotlight on Suhaiymah
The first in her family to attend Cambridge.
Until Year 12 (lower sixth), she didn’t know she had to apply to get into a university.
Got top grades at GCSE and “A” Level from Roundhay School, Leeds.
Came to Cambridge on an Open Day and thought Queens’ was beautiful and well-located (“better than Selwyn” she says).
A Cambridge Bursary pays her accommodation bill to the tune of £3,000. “I was encouraged to apply much more by knowing you could receive a bursary.”
She has found it easy to mix socially at College.
She is not in favour of any social engineering agenda such as giving lower offers to people from poor backgrounds: “it would attach a stigma to being from certain backgrounds, which would only perpetuate issues and avoid the real problems of accessibility”.
Life at Queens’: “fortunately Cambridge is one of the cheapest universities in the UK. There is lots of financial support. I will be able to save to go to the May Ball this year.”
Emeritus Professor Ed Davis read Economics at Queens’ from 1969-72, under the encouraging supervision of Professor Ajit Singh. One of his early tutors was Professor John Eatwell. Ed had a more relaxed fourth year, when he undertook a CertEd. He left England in 1974 and taught at Monash, La Trobe, the University of New South Wales and Macquarie before retiring in 2008, after six years as Dean of Macquarie University’s Commerce Faculty. He is married with two sons. He has lived in Sydney since 1980.

An excerpt from Prof Davis’s short story ‘Halcyon Days’:

“Dinner was served in the beautiful Hall at Queens’. The majestic Angels adorning the ceiling were on watch. There were three sittings: 11.30pm, 12.30am and 1.30am. There was a light buffet from 10pm-3am; coffee and croissants from 3-6am and a steady flow of Champagne. The Walnut Tree Court featured a series of Jazz and steel bands from 10pm-5am; a tent on the Erasmus Lawn housed contemporary bands from 10pm-5am; College students performed a play in Friars Court; there was a tent with Gypsy Syrana telling fortunes and there was a programme of Cartoons and Horror Movies on offer. Additional activities included a disco, a roving Wind Quintet and Roulette. A piper piped in the dawn from the battlements of the Gate Tower at 4am. For those seeking more entertainment, there was free entry from 4.30am to the May Balls at Emmanuel, Caius, St John’s and Trinity Hall, all holding their balls on the same night.

It was an amazing night with spirits not dampened by pouring rain! No one seemed to care. Perhaps these extraordinary and extravagant rituals were also part of our training, preparing us for the roles deemed to lie ahead. I cannot say they gave me any taste for all-night efforts and I seem to have spent the rest of my life going to bed early.

The next day saw me packed and leaving Cambridge. My time was up. It is with hindsight that I look back and declare these ‘Halcyon Days’, filled with love, the company of friends, the pleasure of sport and relatively free of academic study or work.”
Queens’ plays Bach

The Junior Organ Scholar, Edward Reeve (2014), gave a recital in the President’s Lodge in January for an audience containing John Rutter, Stephen and Nicholas Cleobury, and the Chair of the Music Faculty, among others. He performed the whole of Book One of Bach’s The Well-Tempered Clavier - a Prelude and Fugue in each major and minor key on the piano - about two hours of spectacular music.

Edward was Organ Scholar at Salisbury Cathedral before coming up to Queens’. He has been invited back to perform Book Two in January next year.

Queens’ Curiosity

An 167-year old clock has found its way back to the College, having been kindly donated by Martin Riley (1950). It was originally given to a tutor in 1848 “as a mark of affectionate esteem” by six undergraduates who clubbed together to buy the time-piece. They inscribed it with the name of Revd J. Scott, as well as their names. The clock passed to Martin via a descendant of Revd Scott’s who married a Queens’ alumnus, Godfrey Maxted (1919).

Martin’s grandfather, John Riley (1861), and father, Lambert Riley (1899), were also at Queens’.

One hundred years on from the Great War, Queens’ alumni who fought and died at Gallipoli and the Second Battle of Ypres are remembered.

- 409 Queens’ students served in the Great War
- 67 died
- 121 were wounded
- 10 were taken prisoner
- There were only 12 students left at Queens’ in the Michaelmas Term of 1917, down from 107 in 1914.

At the dedication service for the College’s war memorial in 1921, an undergraduate recorded the President, T.C. Fitzpatrick, as being “filled with emotion as he read the list of names of the dead”.

Both Queens’ alumni who died at Gallipoli in 1915 came up to the College in 1913, served with the East Yorkshire Regiment, and were 21 when they were killed in action. Their names are recorded on the Helles Memorial.

- First-class cricketer, Lt Hubert Garrett (1913), came to the College from Australia where he was educated at Melbourne Grammar School.

- A scholar of Haileybury and Queens’, Lt Kenneth McKenzie, died during the Third Battle of Knithia, on 6 June.

Two Queens’ Durham Light Infantry officers were killed at Ypres.

- 2nd Lt Thomas Callinan (1902) was killed in action near Ypres, aged 31, on 25 April 1915. His name is recorded on the Menin Gate at Ypres and in Queens’ College Chapel.

- Lt Alfred Haughton (1900) died two months later, aged 32, and is buried in the Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery.

- Commeorated on the Menin Gate is 2nd Lt Philip Nosworthy (called up before matriculating), who served with the Cheshire Regiment. From Liverpool, he was 19 when he was killed in action near Ypres.

- 2nd Lt Leslie Wells (1904), Lancashire Fusiliers, died at Boulogne from the effects of gas poisoning at Ypres, aged 30. His body was repatriated and buried at Sotwell near Wallingford.
Investing in Queens’ Supervision System

The Lyster Legacy
The most significant legacy to Queens’ in living memory is now funding at least three Fellowships and helping to reduce the annual educational deficit. Tony Lyster (1949), above, left £4.25 million to the College for unrestricted purposes. Professor Richard Weber’s Fellowship is now named the Anthony L. Lyster Fellowship in Mathematics.

Mr Lyster’s father, George, came up to Queens’ in 1921 and also left a significant legacy to the College, in the early 1990s. Two more Fellowships will be named after Mr Lyster in the near future.

To include a gift to Queens’ to your will, please see the enclosed brochure.

Youngest Fellow Benefactor
Funding the supervision system is the College’s top priority and two Fellowships have been endowed through the generosity of Dr Demis Hassabis (1994), above left. His extraordinary donation has secured The Hassabis Fellowship in Computer Science (held by Dr Andy Rice) and The Niccoli Fellowship in Natural Sciences (held by Dr Gillian Fraser). The latter Fellowship is named after Demis’s wife, Teresa (above right), who read Natural Sciences at Queens’, and also matriculated in 1994.

This munificent gift was recognised by the Governing Body which admitted Demis as a Fellow Benefactor in March.

First Geography Fellowship
Queens’ admitted its first Geographer to the Fellowship in January - Dr Graham Denyer Willis, who will also act as Director of Studies. He will give six hours per week of supervisions to Queens’ Geographers. This Fellowship has kindly been funded for the next five years by Mr Phil Cox (1970), pictured right.

Student Support
MPP Bursary
Mr David Cleevely (Fellow Commoner) has generously donated a Bursary for postgraduate students to read for the Cambridge Master’s in Public Policy. One recipient is William Warr (2014) who previously studied at Durham University; the other is Helen Rowbottom (2014), whose first degree was completed at UCL.

John Cuthbert Harvey Memorial Fund
Dr John D. Harvey (1964) is kindly funding equipment for medical and veterinary students, in memory of his father. John attended the Medical Society Annual Dinner in February as guest of honour.
The Donor Experience

Philip Hollingbery (1964)

“I had already decided to become a donor, but it was only after my very enjoyable chat with Isla that I realised that signing up for anything less than the recommended contribution would have been ungrateful. When I was a 3rd year I would never have had the courage to ring a total stranger to ask for funds so sympathetically as she did.”

The President, himself a generous benefactor to Queens’, thanked the student callers for their wonderful efforts on behalf of the College by hosting a dinner for them in the Old Senior Combination Room.

The College is indebted to those alumni who supported the 2014 Campaign.

If you weren’t called and are interested in how you can help the College, there are a variety of ways you can get involved: pledge a legacy to Queens’, join The 1448 Society, and help current students by offering your experience for our Business Contacts Scheme.
Fellow Focus

Dr Julia Gog has just won a Pilkington Prize from the University for outstanding teaching.

Here she explains what a supervision is like in 2015, how Maths is used to study epidemics and sets a Maths problem for alumni...

Background:

Trinity College, Cambridge (1994) undergraduate reading the Mathematical Tripos, Part III Mathematics, then PhD in the Department of Zoology.

Queens’ Fellow since 2002, having started as a Research Fellow. Became a Royal Society University Research Fellow in 2004, appointed to a University Lectureship in 2006 in DAMTP (Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics). Promoted to Reader in Mathematical Biology in 2013.

Director of Studies in Mathematics at Queens’ since 2005.

What form does a Maths supervision take?

Surprisingly unchanged over the years: they are usually one hour long with two students. They will have handed in work a day or two beforehand which I mark, and then in supervision we work through some of the detail where they had difficulties. In addition, for the first years and sometimes for second year students, Queens’ runs Examples Classes before each round of supervisions, where we get all the students together to work through common problems and some extra examples. Sometimes it happens that the students have done so well that we have covered everything before the end of the supervision: I always have an extra challenge up my sleeve!

Gold standard?

It seems like the gap between school and university mathematics has grown in recent years and also the step up to university-style learning is big challenge for many new students. In particular, to get the most out of supervisions, they have to be active in asking questions and contributing to discussions, not sat passively absorbing things as they did in classroom. It is also a real shift for them to adapt from the kind of mathematics exercises they did at school to the more detailed and sometimes open-ended problems that we set here.

I try to help them to see this difference early on and to start to adapt to it. I send them a set of questions in the summer before they arrive. For some of these they write out their best solutions ready to hand in, but for a couple of questions this year I got them to work with their supervision partner to jointly present their conclusions to me in their first supervision.

What happens if they don’t work for supervisions?

They wouldn’t dare! Students are just as talented as ever over the 15 years that I’ve been supervising: but they are now arriving a lot more motivated in their studies – we don’t have any problem persuading most students to work hard! The bigger problem is that mathematicians can lose their confidence in their own abilities, and here we do our best to remind our students how amazing they are.

What is new in Maths at Cambridge?

When I was a student, there was essentially no Mathematical Biology in the Maths Tripos. Now it is a third year lecture course, which I get to teach! This reflects that it is a new and growing research area, and students seem naturally to be sparked by the idea of using applied mathematics in biological problems.

What are your current research projects?

• Looking at an enormous dataset on influenza, based on medical insurance claims in the USA over the last ten years.
• My first big result came from the 2009 pandemic – it spread slower than everyone expected! Untangling this was a big challenge both in dealing with the large and noisy dataset and also using mathematical simulations to try and discover what actually happened that year (as opposed to what everyone assumed happened!).
• I’m currently looking at seasonal winter influenza and looking in more detail at the fine geographic structure of epidemics and how they affect different age groups.

What is the best part about being a Fellow at Queens’?

• The students – we get superb mathematics undergraduates and postgraduates, and they’re very exciting to work with.
• The reality is I really enjoy the teaching as much as the research and I don’t see them as separate, which is not a typical attitude.
• Quite a few alumni come back and tell me what they are up to and how they’re using their mathematical minds. I’m always really pleased when this happens, and it helps me to give a bigger picture to our current students.

Non-Maths

• Plays Football for Queens’ Ladies’ XI which involves undergraduates, graduates and Fellows
• Sings in the Fellows’ Choir
• Keen computer gamer

Maths question for alumni:

For how many (real) values of \(x\) does \(\sin x = kx\)? Plot this number as a function of \(k\)

For the answer see the Alumni Publications page on our website.
Did you know…? There are over 4,000 Queens’ alumni living outside of the UK

The College has begun an extensive programme of encouraging alumni to meet up in their respective locations. We are hoping to encourage more alumni volunteers to organise informal events. The Alumni Office can help with facilitating this. Please offer and contact Fran Johnson alumnievents@queens.cam.ac.uk.

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Queens’ Events Schedule

2015

South West Networking Reception
Wednesday 15 April 2015

Second Year Parents’ Lunch
Saturday 18 April 2015

Cambridge Regional Dinner
Thursday 30 April 2015

2005 10th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
Saturday 9 May 2015

North West Dinner
Friday 15 May 2015

1975 & 1976 Reunion Dinner
Saturday 6 June 2015

Queens’ May Bumps Garden Party
Saturday 13 June 2015

Queens’ May Ball – alumni dining tickets still available
Tuesday 16 June 2015

Alumni Family Garden Party & Friends of Queens’ Music Gala
Sunday 21 June 2015

1448 Society & Arthur Armitage Garden Party
Sunday 21 June 2015

Graduation - Parents’ Luncheon
Thursday 25 June 2015

Cricket Evening - for all alumni players and fans of cricket, celebrating 50 years since the Cuppers win of 1965
Friday 17 July 2015

First Year Parents’ Tea
Saturday 3 October 2015

Queens’ Distinguished Lecture in Law – inaugural event by invitation, sponsored by Redress Solutions
Thursday 15 October 2015

Oxfordshire Regional Dinner
Friday 16 October 2015

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8 November 2015

1995 20th Anniversary Reunion Dinner
Saturday 14 November 2015

Varsity Rugby Match
Thursday 10 December 2015

2016

The Golden Roses Dinner
Saturday 6 February 2016

Alumni High Table Dining

Easter Term 2015
Sunday 10 May 2015
Sunday 31 May 2015

Family Day: 21 June 2015
The second alumni Family Day is on Sunday 21 June. Musical groups will perform around College for all visitors as part of the annual Friends of Queens’ Music gala. There is a bouncy castle, face-painting and other activities for children in the Fellows’ Garden. Punting and cream teas will help you re-live May Week.

Please save the date in your diary and check our website for all the latest event information.

Arthur Armitage & 1448 Society members
As part of Family Day, members of these two groups are invited to the President’s Garden and a complimentary tea. Music and a chance to meet current students will form part of the occasion.

Contact us:
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T7 Fisher Building
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Cambridge
CB3 9ET

alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk
www.queens.cam.ac.uk

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