

The  
Bridge

Spring 2022

# Escape from Ukraine



# From the Lodge

Just as we started seeing a brighter light at the end of the long Covid tunnel, the tragic war broke out in Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers are with the millions suffering inside and outside Ukraine, including the many families who have lost loved ones. While our sense of helplessness has been deep and frustrating in the face of such an enormous human tragedy, we moved quickly to look for and help members of our community and beyond.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, our College hardship funds are again proving resilient in supporting members of our community in need. This includes students who have lost access to their academic funding from Russia and Ukraine, as well as those who need additional accommodation support. We have also reached out to alums impacted by the war, including **Oksana Lemishka (2016)** who fled Ukraine to Munich where she received support from **Sara Schoeller (1988)**, also a member of our wonderful community.

You will not be surprised to hear that our welfare services have seen a new wave of demand. In the process, we have been again reminded of the importance of having established this function in College, a step that is now being adopted by a growing number of other colleges in Cambridge.

The external shocks, while consequential for our community's wellbeing and College finances, have not derailed our efforts to do even better on what Queens' has already been doing well for years. As detailed in this edition, the excellence of our teaching and research is attracting additional third-party validation; our students continue to excel both in academic and extra-curriculum activities; we are deepening our subject expertise and expanding our multi-disciplinary resources; we continue to secure additional funding opportunities for students from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds; and, more generally, we are pressing forward on a further broadening of access, participation, diversity and inclusion.



I would be remiss if I did not mention the work being done on our five strategic initiatives, including moving forward on the exciting revamp of our Owlstone Croft site to make it a more vibrant part of our academic society. We have also created a Faith Centre, a first for a Cambridge college.

None of this would be possible without the insights, feedback and philanthropic support we receive from so many of you. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** for your commitment and dedication to Queens'. Simply put, your College would not be able to do what it does for so many brilliant students without your support.

Wishing you the very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mohamed A. El-Erian". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Mohamed A. El-Erian**



*'Transforming Queens' donor call February 2022*

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

# From our Alumni



Happy 100th Birthday to  
**Bob King (1940)**

## Celebrating alumni in the New Year's Honours List

**Louise Smith (2005)** has been awarded an OBE for public services to the Arts during Covid-19. Louise is the Deputy Director for Arts and Libraries in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. During the pandemic, she oversaw support for the sector by securing and delivering the £2bn Culture Recovery Fund.



**Richard Tilbrook (1980)** has been awarded a CVO for his work as Clerk of the Privy Council and the PM's Secretary for Appointments. Richard read Classics and says that "It was a particular thrill to be in the same honours list as my Director of Studies, James Diggle".

## Environmental efforts in Venezuela

**Cristina Burelli (1981)** was interviewed by the *Financial Times* on her environmental efforts in Venezuela. Cristina is the founder of SOS Orinoco, which commits to document and create in-depth diagnostics in this area, where mining for gold, diamonds, coltan and rare earth is popular.



## Gondoliers

**Hebe Hamilton (2013)** starred in the University's production of *The Gondoliers* in February. Hebe studied Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic studies and has just completed her Master's at the Royal Northern College of Music.



## Sudoku Sensation

**Simon Anthony (1991)** has become an online sensation by solving sudoku puzzles on YouTube. *Cracking the Cryptic* now has over 420,000 subscribers. Simon studied Economics at Queens' and has an MPhil in Management.



## Awards & Grants



**Or Rosenboim (2010, former Junior Research Fellow)** has been shortlisted for the Jane Grigson Trust Award, made to a first-time writer of a book primarily about food or drink. *Air and Love* is a personal reflection that illuminates the legacy migration has on cuisine, identity, belonging and culture.

**Richmond Ehwi (2016)** has been awarded the *Cambridge Africa ALBORADA Research Fund* to investigate "the impact of housing characteristics and households' circumstances on adherence to COVID-19 health and safety protocols in Ghana".



**Paul Michael Kurtz (Rokos PDRA 2017-19)** has been awarded a €1.5 million Starting Grant from the European Research Council to start his own research group at Ghent University, Belgium. "There is no doubt in my mind that the optimal environment at Queens' – personally and professionally – did much to make this pathway possible."

**Oliver Reiche (2013)** was named one of the 'Top 10 Future Leaders' in the UK by the British LGBT Awards for his efforts at former law firm Reed Smith, in London. He helped draft the firm's first transitioning policy and promoted trans and bisexual inclusion through interactive workshops.



# OPINION... from Ukraine



Oksana Lemishka (2016)

**Oksana recently escaped from Ukraine and managed to reach Munich. There, she met up with Sara Schoeller (1988) through an Alumni Office introduction. Our alumnus in Ukraine, Iaroslav Cheker (2016), has not been allowed to leave.**

One of the biggest treasures Cambridge gives is the people. I am writing this piece now from Munich. When **Martin Valdes-Stauber (2016)** heard that I was in a bombed Kyiv, he was the first one to offer help.

I graduated from Cambridge in 2017. I studied Sociology of Media and Culture. My dissertation was about the Ukrainian pop singer **Jamala**, whose victory at the Eurovision in 2016 meant the Ukrainian war with Russia and Crimea captured the world. Culture said what politics could not. The majority of media outlets back then wrote that 'Ukraine won over Russia' (Russia had placed third that year behind



Sara Schoeller & Oksana Lemishka

Australia), thereby symbolically declaring their support for Ukraine. Concerns were repeatedly expressed. Politics at that time negotiated how strong the sanctions should be.

Recently, German culture radio station *Deutschlandfunk Kultur* asked me to give examples of how Ukrainian pop culture deals with the war. Among other examples I mentioned a lullaby, *If you don't close the sky I will die*, (I'd recommend a Google search, it is very beautiful), written from Ukrainian children to NATO asking them to close the sky. **Denys Nesterovych**, from Ukraine's top PR agency *Banda*, wrote the lyrics while waiting for his mum in the bomb shelter of a cancer hospital in Kyiv. At one point, he writes: *'if you don't close the sky, he might win. Now look in these eyes and think again'*. He told me that pain was breaking his chest to see those children in a basement hospital. Millions of people around the world are now protesting on the streets, including celebrities like **Maye Musk** and **Benedict Cumberbatch**, asking NATO to do the same. Meanwhile, NATO is entertaining the idea, calculating 'correct' political moves.

Since Cambridge I have been leading multiple research projects in Ukraine, collecting public opinion and consulting Ukraine's ministries and international organisations on how we best strengthen democracy in our society. International experts were coming to give advice and to help. Nobody told us, though,



that democracy in the 21st century costs thousands of lives and can be fatal to millions. The international community declares it is ready to fight for its democratic future. But I ask, is sending weapons fighting?

I have personally given too many interviews correcting the same question. 'What about democracy prospects in Ukraine?' they ask me. I answer and keep wondering why politics is so far from people these days. Isn't democracy the will of the majority?

These days I am also a part of the '**Oxbridge Defence Team**' chat. We are in contact with top international companies, politicians and the media, to get information at the forefront of this war. I also believe in the power of culture. Concerts, exhibitions and discussions on cultural platforms are my aim now to spread the news of what's happening. To all those interested participating, supporting and creating such initiatives, please write to me at [lemishka@gmail.com](mailto:lemishka@gmail.com)

Deeply concerned,

Oksana

Trusted donation vehicle recommended by Oksana: <https://how-to-help-ukraine-now.super.site/>



# Our Leading Lady

Many congratulations to **Joanna Scanlan (1980)** who received the BAFTA for Best Actress in a Leading Role, where she was up against Lady Gaga and Tessa Thompson.

In *After Love* (2020), Joanna plays a widow who discovers her late husband's secret family after his sudden death. While in mourning, the main character, Mary, is also struggling with her splintered identity as a white woman who converted to Islam for her husband.

Though she has been known previously to star in comedic roles, Joanna delivers an outstanding performance that has been praised as a 'masterclass in drama'. It is anticipated that this role will become her big-screen breakout.

Joanna Scanlan was one of the first cohort of women to study at Queens' in 1980. She has appeared in *Getting on* (2009-12), *The Thick of It* (2005-12) and *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (2003).

Joanna has previously appeared in an article of *The Bridge* (in 2017) and spoke about how being a part of the first intake of women was difficult at first, as well as life after Cambridge and becoming an actress in her thirties.

Her most recent visit to Queens' was last term to meet the President.



Joanna's visit to Queens' in 2016



*Olympic rowers with Simon Harris (1980, CUBC President 1983). Simon has previously umpired the Boat Races on many occasions.*

# Queens' Olympians in Blue

**For the first time ever, the College provided two Olympians for the Women's Blue Boat.**

**Grace Prendergast and Ruby Tew, both one-year Master's students, rowed for New Zealand in Tokyo with Grace winning Gold and Silver in her events.**

## Grace Prendergast

- MPhil in Planning, Growth and Regeneration
- BA and MA in Business Studies, Massey University
- Olympic champion, Women's Pair, Tokyo 2020

Grace is a four-time world champion from Christchurch. The day after winning Gold in the Women's Pair, she competed in the Eight, winning a Silver medal.

## Ruby Tew

- MBA at Cambridge Judge Business School
- BA in Finance & Accounting, Massey University
- Participated in the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

In Rio 2016, Ruby rowed in the first New Zealand Women's Eight to compete at an Olympic Games.

Grace will continue to row after Cambridge but Ruby has decided to retire (after the May Bumps) and will pursue her business career. Both are living at Owlstone Croft this year and have had to get used to the Cambridge regime of early morning trips to Ely for training, then studying and lectures, finished off by more fitness in the evenings.

## Boat Race glory

On Sunday 3rd April, The Gemini Boat Races returned to the Championship Course in West London, between Putney and Mortlake, stretching over 4.17 miles. The course has been used for every race since the first Men's Boat Race 193 years ago in 1829, with the exception of 2021 when COVID restrictions were in place. This year saw the 167th Men's Boat Race and the 76th Women's Boat Race.

It was an exhilarating race, with both Cambridge and Oxford showing great strength and determination. Ultimately, Cambridge Women defeated Oxford in a record-breaking time of 18:22.8. The Women's Boat Race now stands at 46-30 in favour of Cambridge.



*Ruby & Grace at College formal*



*The Women's crew training on the Cam*



*Ruby at the Crew announcement*



*Grace & Ruby in the President's Lodge with Bosa*



*Freddie Markanday & Hannah Badger  
(Captain of Boats & President of QCBC)*

## Lightweight Races

**Freddie Markanday (2017)** rowed for the winning Lightweight Men's crew on the Thames. Cambridge won by an incredible five lengths. The Women's Boat was also victorious. Freddie hails from Manchester, has been Captain of Boats and is doing a PhD in Materials Science and Metallurgy.

“At Queens’, you have this unique curation of super interesting, very open, smart and very friendly colleagues from all kinds of disciplines.”



# Generating a sustainable future: a study on behaviour

Professor Lucia Reisch

## Background

Inaugural Professor of Behavioural Economics and Policy at the El-Erian Institute, Cambridge Judge Business School

Joined Queens' from the Department of Management, Society & Communication at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Founded the *Consumer and Behavioural Insights Group* (CBIG) at CBS

Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Consumer Policy* (SpringerNature Publishers)

Elected lifelong member of the *German National Academy of Science and Engineering*

## From Copenhagen to Cambridge

I had been at Copenhagen Business School for almost 20 years until I received a call from a head-hunter about the opportunity of taking a Professorship at Queens' and the El-Erian Institute. Being a chair with some visibility, I would sometimes receive calls like this that I hadn't given the slightest thought previously, but we were a year into the pandemic and I felt like the world was at a standstill. I wanted to do something exciting. I was ready for an adventure and a new challenge.

The difference this time was that **this was Cambridge, and this was a chair in an institute which was 100% what I always wanted to do, so it was simply too attractive not to throw my hat in the arena.**

I now have the opportunity to work with such generous endowments and it was a mixture of good timing, the right job in an attractive place, and being ready for change.

## Developing the field from scratch

When I started in the field 20 years ago, we had to develop everything from scratch. I have heavily been involved in developing a field that didn't exist beforehand. Behavioural Economics and Policy is much more established now.

Today there are conferences, an international association, and academic journals devoted to our research. At Copenhagen Business School, I set up the *Consumer Behavioural Insights Group* (CBIG) that uses Behavioural Economics, Psychology, and Data Science to explain why

consumers act as they do. We would deliberate how we can influence consumer behaviour for their own good, as opposed to marketing which manipulates consumers to maximise profits.

This is one theme I plan to continue in the new El-Erian Institute at Cambridge. I will be taking what I've learnt from Copenhagen and continue researching methodologies and new tools into changing our behaviours for sustainable development, with a keen interest in using this knowledge to improve individuals' welfare and health.

### The sustainable path: breaking with old habits

Environmental consumer behaviour has a strong social element. "Nudge theory", developed by my colleagues in the US, Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, states that you can nudge people for good and bad by curating and changing the choice setting. For example, digital "dark" nudges on a website can make consumers subscribe to online services they do not really want. And a school canteen can curate healthy/sustainable food choices to make them the easy and attractive option.

One of the strongest and most robust nudges is automatically enrolling people into choices, such as green energy tariffs or sound pension plans. It is not about bans, laws, taxes or subsidies, but about making the welfare-enhancing choice easy, attractive, timely and social. People tend to stick to what they have been exposed to or given and only opt-out if they have strong preferences. For instance, we conducted research on green energy tariffs within private households who had just moved to a new city (based in Heidelberg, Germany). The green tariff was part of the city's welcome package and people tended not to change it, even when the tariff was slightly more expensive.

Another example is that European Law dictates that the default on new printers must be two-sided to make printing more environmentally friendly. The idea is that no one would change it to one side unless they really wanted to. Another example is that the new Mayor of New York is implementing a plant-based diet day in public hospitals and schools. Defaults are everywhere once you carefully screen your everyday choices.

The hope is to change behaviour automatically, make people experience alternatives, learn from these experiences, and ultimately shift their values and social norms. What we are doing by nudging people in these ways is

creating new and environmentally friendly habits and breaking with old habits.

### Designing and challenging economic models

People tend to work with two systems. Psychologist Daniel Kahneman, author of *Thinking Fast and Slow*, has condensed the research of many who have looked at how we make decisions in everyday life. System 1 shows that we are fast thinkers, and have quick, emotional subconscious reactions. System 2 says we make slow, cognitive, deliberative decisions. When policies are designed, they assume people are rational human beings who engage in cognitive time-consuming decision making, but we typically use both systems and roughly 80% of daily decisions are habitual, non-reflected, System 1 based.

Economics has been dominated by models of rational man and System 2 thinking. Behavioural Economics changed this view. It is now accepted that people use mental shortcuts, are influenced by all sorts of biases, are often under time and social pressure or make choices automatically. We have accepted that people are not always rational beings but are instead dependent on our own biases.

Consumers do not always work in the way the models want them to and we need something more to change people's behaviour. Knowing more about quick thinking can be harnessed by policies, big or small. If we make solutions easy, attractive, social, and timely then we can influence the behaviour of individuals and institutions to use less energy and encourage sustainable decision-making.

### Becoming a professorial Fellow of Queens' and the El-Erian Institute

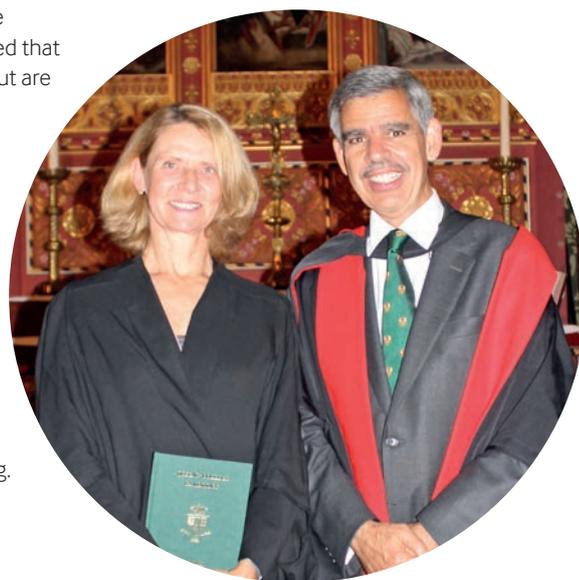
Becoming a Fellow of Queens' has been absolutely wonderful and it's a highlight of my experience of coming to Cambridge. Moving from a different country can be isolating but you are instantly embedded into a community of academics.

**At Queens', you have this unique curation of super interesting, very open, smart and very friendly colleagues from all kinds of disciplines.** At lunch, you sit in the first free chair available which means that you talk to someone different every day. It's not like other big institutions where you keep to your own department. The College creates a setting that allows communication and social exchange.

The Collegiate system makes it easy to meet other scholars across the University who are interested in your research. It's the best system when you are moving to a new country you have never previously worked in. It's a safe, interesting, stimulating, welcoming and open environment to work in.

### An interest in behaviour from the start

In my 20s, I wanted to be a Primatologist, and work with Gorillas and Orangutans. I spent time in Uganda and Rwanda tracking mountain gorillas and wanting to be like Dian Fossey, one of my heroes. However, there is only one chair in Primatology in all of Germany so there were not a lot of opportunities available and I shifted my focus to Behavioural Economics. It's a clear case of System 2 winning the battle over System 1. Maybe this shows a general interest in studying behaviour, how groups interact, how decisions are made. We are social animals, after all.



**“This was Cambridge, and this was a chair in an institute which was 100% what I always wanted to do, so it was simply too attractive not to throw my hat in the arena.”**



# IntoUniversity Learning Centre

**Queens' donors have generously funded the renovation of a safe space that will be used to support young students from as young as eight when applying for university. This is the first standalone centre funded by a College in the UK.**

On an evening in April, we celebrated the launch of the new IntoUniversity Learning Centre in Bradford. The Senior Tutor, **Dr Andrew Thompson**, made a speech to gathered alumni and supporters.

IntoUniversity is a charity that works with young people based in areas where they're statistically unlikely to go to university. The centre will provide young people with additional academic support, mentoring, and programmes to aid them in attaining a place at their chosen university. The centre hopes to inspire them to consider Cambridge as an option they may not have beforehand, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Our Bradford Schools Liaison Officer, **Siân Bex**, tells us about her hopes for this centre.

### My Role...

My role entails working with students in Bradford to give them information on Cambridge. This might be dispelling myths that have warned them off, supporting them throughout the application process, or preparing them for interviews. I speak with

sixth-form students and younger year groups to float the idea from a young age. In Bradford, most young people will go to university 40 miles from home and there are at least 20 universities nearby, such as Leeds, Manchester, or Huddersfield. So why contemplate Cambridge? We want to show people that it is an option for them to consider rather than disregard it straight away.

### Widening participation at Queens'...

Within the last ten years, the work that Queens' has done has made a difference for accessibility, but it's still a slow-moving process. It comes down to financial income, geography, and that

some people may not understand the benefit of putting time into Cambridge. In many cases, it's not a consideration until you speak to people directly. We work to show younger students that people at Cambridge don't have two heads to get them to consider it as an option.

A former student, **Rebekah Hinton (2017)**, only applied after speaking to our previous Liaison Officer, despite being told she shouldn't bother by her school. Rebekah excelled at Cambridge and won a prize in her year group. By continuing talking to young individuals, then we can make them passionate about studying here. Sometimes secondary schools





“I hope that the new Bradford centre sends young people forward with more of an idea of what is out there for them beyond their immediate environment.”

Siân Bex

can have an idea of the type of person who Queens' wants and won't necessarily push students in our direction. I've worked with a previous student from Cambridge, Zainab (Newnham College), who was coincidentally a year behind Rebekah at the same school. She was originally told not to apply to Cambridge because Rebekah hadn't. Luckily, she ignored this advice, applied and got a place.

So many young people are told they won't be successful so they won't apply, but we want to get them to realise that they can achieve this goal. That's one aspect the centre can help provide us with – a space to inspire.

**Hopes for the centre...**

I hope that the new Bradford centre sends young people forward with more of an idea of what is out there for them beyond their immediate environment. It should get them to think more widely about what they can do in the future and have a belief that there are



Victoria Ayodeji

options that come out of going to university, like different and creative career paths. Mostly, I want them to think that they deserve it. If we are reaching students at a younger age to say that they can achieve this then we can get more young people aiming for this goal.

**Why it matters...**

**Victoria Ayodeji (2018)** is a recent graduate who benefitted from access initiatives and achieved great things at Queens'. She was only the second person from her school to study at Cambridge but was a high achiever. She received the *Cyril Bibby Prize* for her role in the JCR, was nationally recognised with the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' at the House of Lords for the UK Student Social Mobility Awards and was selected as Powerful Media's Top 100 Future Leaders. Most recently, she became one of the global winners of the prestigious *McKinsey & Company Achievement Award*.

Now, Victoria uses her personal experiences to help young students apply to Cambridge and is passionate about enacting social change through access to education. Through public speaking, coaching and advocacy work, she supports people from diverse backgrounds to overcome barriers to education and employment, providing them with access to opportunities to reach their full potential. So far, she has mentored 12 state school students with their Oxbridge applications and continues to work with students who have the potential to do well.



**The new JCR Access Officer:  
Emily Giles (2021)**

“ My role involves working on access initiatives throughout the year, such as the Queens' Roadshow in Spring. Access events are essential for reaching young people who may not have considered applying to Cambridge and for widening the diversity of our intake. I think that young people from all backgrounds should have the opportunity to apply for Cambridge and I'd like to be a part of furthering that.”





*Graduation: Phil (left) and Julian (right)*

# My room (mate)

**Julian Rimmer (1986)** came from a tough background in Liverpool and was the first in his family to go to university. His school had never sent anyone to Cambridge before so, initially, he thought that Queens' was the University. On arrival, he suffered from impostor syndrome but came to love his time at College and is now a regular donor.

My first impression when the porter gave me the room key to FF12 was that he must have had a stutter. Once inside a few minutes later, I was stuttering something resembling FF12 myself. So much for dreaming spires and cloistered quads. The window's panorama revealed a construction site, hard hats, builder's bottom and pile-driving which started at 7:30am, an hour at which no self-respecting student of English literature would be rising.

I went to Cambridge on the train and carried all my worldly belongings in two suitcases. As a consequence, the decor was somewhat spartan. Apart from clothes and footy boots, my only two possessions were an alarm clock and an Everton mug which struggled to personalise the room. In any case, I never set the former and I had no kettle so there was no use for the latter.

I met my future room-mate on the first day when **Phil Crispin** confessed a similar weakness for food rich in saturated fats and, feeling intrepid, we crossed town for a Wimpy burger, a franchise long since passed its sell-by even then, I think. Now I would cross town to avoid it. Over gristle, grease and time we discovered that Phil had the highest number of A-Level grades of any applicant to Cambridge that year and I had the lowest, that we played sport with enthusiasm and commitment but without talent, and these factors formed the basis of a solid friendship.

Driven by voracious, teenage appetites and sessions in the bar to whet them beforehand, Phil and I bonded over late-night 'cooking' sessions which involved emptying tins of low-quality ingredients into a saucepan and drowning instant pasta in it. Like ruminants, our eating took place in silence.

After a year spent watching Sir Robert McAlpine's employees churn up the hinterland of Cripps, I was obsessed with a garden view for my second year and complained bitterly about having to settle for V2 in Fisher. Windows here faced the bike sheds directly and, as a popular junction for many journeys across College, it seemed like every bugger stuck their face in the window to see what Phil was doing and I was not. It was a bit like being on the telly for a year.

Phil and I rubbed along pretty well (I think, though he may well disagree), helped by the fact we barely saw each other. Early on, I discovered Phil attended these things called lectures, which sounded ghastly and started at 9am, continued till noon and then sometimes after lunch too. The English student, meanwhile, kept late hours and spent many of them contemplating the comings and goings of various bicycles.

## “Apart from clothes and footy boots, my only two possessions were an alarm clock and an Everton mug which struggled to personalise the room.”

Apart from a harrowing schedule of study, Phil played rugby and spent a lot of time playing soldiers with the Royal Electrical Engineers. By the second year I was semi-destitute at Queens' and much of my calorific intake that year consisted of army rations I foraged from among Phil's kit. It tasted like dog food, but not appreciably worse than what we occasionally knocked up ourselves.

Phil was sponsored by British Rail and seemed affluent by College standards. Affluent enough, at least, to keep all his excess coppers and small change in a saucer which, showing ingenuity and financial acumen, I would skim occasionally to subsidise my grant. Militant Labour put Liverpool Council in bankruptcy that year, delaying the despatch of student grants (among other things) and if it were not for Phil's slummy, I might have struggled to pay my bar bill in the JCR.

Our bedder was called Greta, who seemed ancient at the time but was probably younger than I am as I type this. She cleaned our room with astonishing nonchalance considering the state in which she found it most mornings. Phil was very, almost medically, untidy. When I mustered the energy to rouse myself at noon, I would always find his cereal bowl on my desk to welcome the (short) day ahead. I would put it under his pillow sometimes. He would sleep on it without noticing. Drunkenness often characterised our sleep.

Phil's taste in music was questionable and the rota consisted of AC/DC, Sam Fox and Cliff Richard (surely the only time in history a shelf combined that trio). I listened to *The Drifters* which he complained put him in the wrong mindset for rugby and the Army.

Towards the end of the second year, Phil and I, by now both members of the Kangaroo Club during one of its more boisterous eras, agreed to team up again for third year. Once again failing to contribute to the collective effort, I think I came 84th but Phil came seventh. We just missed out on the tower. We could be

princes' – I'd fantasised with a startling lack of historical awareness, but were able to land A2, the most beautiful room I'd ever stayed in at that time and still is now.

At last, I had a view of something mediaeval and I spent a great deal of my third year gazing out of the lattice windows having existential crises while Phil was busy making the most of his time at College. He was training to be the heavyweight boxing Blue and had taken up rowing, where his prodigious strength saw not one, but two oars snap in half during a stretch at ramming speed for the 1st VIII.

During the summer term he spent so long either sitting in a boat or at a desk studying that he developed a painful condition of fluid on the buttocks known as 'Weaver's Bottom', no case of which had been seen since the Industrial Revolution, I think. To ease his discomfort, Phil took to sitting on bags of frozen peas or sweetcorn which he would then, much to my disgust when I found out later, add to our supper when they thawed.

In that third year, we had a telephone (that I left without paying the bill for), a kitchen, a turret room, a television, and the best of times. Looking out onto Old Court, I felt like I was living on a film set and I marvelled that the view had been largely unchanged for the occupants of the previous 540 years. The view of what was going on inside the room would most probably have shocked those previous 540 occupants. It was not a set for the faint-hearted. I would have liked to stay there forever. I think the College was less enthusiastic.

After Queens', Phil and I saw each other on and off for several years. I attended his wedding after a stag weekend in Amsterdam that went disastrously wrong, way beyond the normal parameters of wrong, and this might have persuaded him to reduce our interaction. We last met at a College reunion in about 2005.

Haven't seen him in years.



*View from A2 window*



*Julian & Phil*

If you'd like to write a *My room (mate)* article, please get in touch with Sophie at [thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)

# Alumni Return

To keep up to date with alumni news and events, and what the Alumni & Development office is currently up to, follow our new Twitter account @QueensAlumni



## Football Cuppers 10th Anniversary Celebration

Some of the 2010 Cuppers-winning *Men's 1st XI* reunited in February to celebrate their famous win against Fitzwilliam (1-0). Vice-Captain **James Davis (2009)**, **Laurynas Miksys (2007)**, **Tom Rex (2007)**, and **Oliver Hart (2008)** were joined by **Gary Hoffman (1979)**, former Chairman of the English Premier League. Also present were football fans and former team mates **Nick Knight (1979)** and the **President**, plus the Development Director.



## Stephen Fry (1978, Hon Fellow) and Tara Howell (1990)

In November, **Tara Howell** was invited to meet **Stephen Fry** for lunch in the OSCR. In 2014, Tara was paralysed from the chest down after falling from her horse. During her recovery, she found solace in listening to the audio version of her favourite series of books, *Harry Potter*, narrated by Stephen, helping her on the road to recovery. The Alumni Office connected Tara with Stephen so that she could share her story and thank him directly.



## Dr Andrew Bailey (1978, Hon Fellow)

**Dr Andrew Bailey** was invited to join an *In Conversation* event hosted by the President at the Cambridge Union. Andrew Bailey, who read History at Queens', has been the Governor of the Bank of England since March 2020 and an Honorary Fellow of the College since 2018.



## Dr Richard Hargreaves (1964)

**Dr Richard Hargreaves** was invited to talk to the MCR about his recent book *Business Angels Investing*, a guide for aspiring entrepreneurs wanting to attract investors. Richard is now a professional business angel and is the donor of two major sports bursaries at Queens'.

# The Angevin Talks:

## The Rt Hon Gordon Brown

*The Angevin Talks* invites a diverse range of eminent speakers for an informal chat, hosted by **Anna El-Erian** and organised by the MCR committee. Previous speakers include **Dr Dambis Moyo**, **Prof Michel Spence** and **Prof Adam Grant**.

We were pleased to welcome Gordon Brown, who gave a lively and engaging performance. Audiences tuned in from across the world, including the UK, America, Canada, Europe, and South Africa. The attendees extended widely beyond the Queens' community across the University and Cambridge colleges.

Students were invited to the President's Lodge and watched the discussion "live" from the Long Gallery. Fifth-year medic **Shukri Abdullahi** (the MCR's Environmental Rep) moderated the Q&A session from students in the Long Gallery and from alumni remotely.



This talk is available on YouTube for alumni:  
<https://youtu.be/RbsSZEj6ebY>

## Where are they now?

### Background

#### MCR President 2014-2015

Worked with Dr Mohamed El-Erian, advising Sir Mark Sedwill on the G7 Summit

#### Why Cambridge and why Queens'?

As an economist, Cambridge held something of a fascination for me, with its rich history of important contributions to the field.

Queens', to me, felt like the perfect balance of old and new, of tradition as well as modernity. I knew I wanted to join a large and vibrant graduate community and definitely found that in Queens'. By the time I was bitten by the research bug and wanting to pursue a PhD, staying on at Queens' was a no-brainer.

#### Running the MCR

Queens' MCR definitely became something of a home; some of my closest friends now I met there. It was great to get involved in the committee and of staying connected, doing my bit and contributing back to the community. The role was definitely an eye-opener on how the institution of the College worked, as well as a chance to meet lots of different people.

#### Working with Professor Ajit Singh

One of the real highlights for me during my time at Queens' was working with (the late) Professor Ajit Singh. He was interested in everything and took a very wide lens on the world – his way of thinking has been a huge influence on my own research and thinking too. Though retired, Ajit remained involved at the Centre of Development Studies and at Queens' and, despite his declining health, we ended up working together on several of his final projects.

### Dr Shachi Amdekar (2012) former MCR President

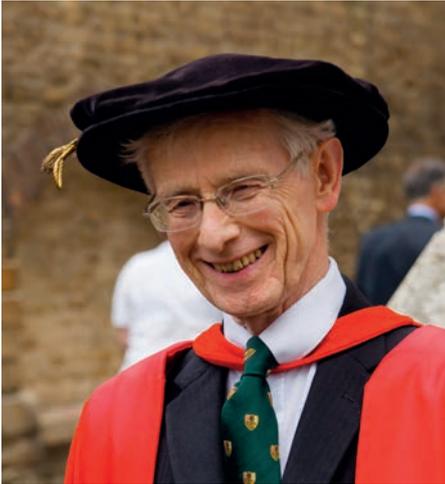


#### The Road after Queens'

I recently started a new position as First Secretary – UK Seconded to the German G7 Presidency at the German Federal Chancellery.

# College Highlights

## From our Fellows



**Professor James Diggle (Life Fellow)** has been awarded a CBE for his services to classical scholarship. James Diggle is a Professor of Latin and Greek who has overseen the 20-year production of the new *Cambridge Greek Lexicon*, which received widespread acclaim soon after its release in 2021. He joined Queens' in 1966 as a Research Fellow and previously served as Praelector and Director of Studies in Classics.



**Mr Paul Greengrass (1974, Honorary Fellow)** has been awarded a CBE for his services to the Arts. Paul Greengrass is a renowned British director, screenwriter and producer known for *Captain Phillips* (2013) and the first three *Jason Bourne* films, starring Matt Damon.

## Awards & Prizes



*David N. Moore* Fellow in Mathematics, **Professor Julia Gog** received her OBE in November for her services to Academia and the Covid-19 response. The Investitures Ceremony was held at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge. The Mayor of Cambridge, **Dr Robin Walker (Life Fellow)**, Anna El-Erian and the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire all attended.



Congratulations to **Dr Ella McPherson** (*Anthony L. Lyster* Fellow in Sociology) and **Dr Peter McMurray** (Faculty of Music) for winning Pilkington Prizes, which acknowledge excellence in teaching at a Department, Faculty or the University as a whole.



**Professor Marie Edmonds**, *The Ron Oxburgh* Fellow in Earth Sciences, has been named a 2022 Geochemistry Fellow of the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry. Marie's research focusses on how volcanoes shape the climate and planet through the outgassing of volatiles, like water and carbon dioxide. The awards will be presented at the society's Goldschmidt Conference this summer.



## From our Students

### Varsity

Queens' has been represented in Varsity matches across the board... Hockey **Owain Houghton (2015)** & **Frankie Harley (2019)**, Netball **Tabbie Brough (2016)**, Women's Basketball **Elizabeth Neri (2020)**, Rugby League **Elliott Stockdale (2019)** and Swimming **Flynn Ryan (2021)**, to name a few.

On 2nd April, the much-anticipated matches at Twickenham Stadium had a good turnout of alumni guests. **Archie Smeaton (2019)**, **Suwi Chibale (2020)**, and former England World Cup International, **Toby Flood (2021)** all played for the Men's Blues, while **Tabbie Brough (2016)** played for Women's Blues.



*Suwi Chibale & Archie Smeaton*

*Tabbie Brough in the 88s game against Oxford*



### MagSoc Concert

MagSoc performed their Lent Concert at West Road Concert Hall, conducted by *The Aiki Vatikioti Senior Organ Scholar*, **Benjamin Markovic (2020)**. The concert opened with *Magnificat* and *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi, sung by the MagSoc Chorus with soloists **Eleanor Medcalf (2018)** and **Katja Ruda (2020)**, followed by Mozart's *Piano Concerto No.20* featuring the incredible **Einav Grushka (2020)**.

### The new JCR President

**Jed Quinn (2020)** has been elected as the JCR President for 2021-22. Jed is in his second year studying Law and was previously the Male & Non-Binary Welfare Officer.

*“I'm really excited to be leading the JCR this year! This year presents a great opportunity for the JCR to bring together the amazing community of Queens' undergraduates who have lost out on so much over the course of the past two years and play our part in ensuring everyone has the chance to get everything they desire from their time here.”*



### Tyro Prize Winner

Congratulations to **Parth Deshpande (2021)** who has won £100 prize for his classical performance in 'Raga Kirwani' on piano, accompanied by a tabla player (Indian twin hand drums). The performance started with a free improvisation and concluded with a composition, written by Parth himself.

*Dr Janet Maguire, Parth Deshpande, Noah Jay & Prof Julia Gog*



## Our third cohort of Stamps Scholars

### Grace Mueller

“I am honoured to be part of the Stamps Scholarship community, which has allowed me to join a network of incredible scholars, as well as pursue a PhD in Human Geography at Queens. I look forward to the many adventures and humbling learning opportunities ahead as our cohort pursues pathways for meaningful research at Cambridge and beyond.”



### Pablo Johnson

“I am deeply grateful to the Stamps Foundation and Queens’ for opening the door to the opportunity of pursuing my PhD in Theology here at Cambridge. Belonging to the Stamps Scholarship community is an honor, and will no doubt continue to prove an invaluable resource as I pursue my aim of serving my community back home.”

## The MCR-SCR Talks

The *MCR-SCR Talk Series* has returned for Lent Term and is more popular than ever.

The series has been run by MCR Academic Officer, **Tarrion Baird (2019)** and Rokos Postdoctoral Research Associates, **Dr Tamsin A. Spelman (2009)** and **Dr Eduardo Machicado Murillo (2010)**.

### **The hidden power of trees**

John Ambler (2021), MCR, Cambridge Judge Business School

### **Informal regulation of education in authoritarian countries**

Sonya Smyslova (2021), MCR, Education

### **Power asymmetries in philanthropy: research agenda and methods**

Dr Juvaria Jafri, Rokos PDRA, Economics

### **Towards “net zero carbon”: one nudge at a time?**

Professor Lucia Reisch, Fellow, Behavioural Economics

### **CT scan: Askja Caldera, Iceland**

Jifei Han (2020), MCR, Earth Sciences

### **Found in all parts of the known world: colonial connections in the collection of John Woodward (1665-1728)**

Alice Whitehead (2015), MCR, History

### **The experiences of autistic adolescents and adults regarding their health and healthcare**

Dr Elizabeth Weir (2017), Rokos PDRA, Psychiatry

### **The journey to inclusion of migrants: Hukou and city development and joint determinants of household financial inclusion in urban China**

Aihong Li (2018), MCR, Sociology

### **Using evolution to predict cancer years before traditional diagnosis?**

Dr Jamie Blundell, Anthony Lyster Fellow, Natural Sciences



John Ambler



Dr Juvaria Jafri



Sonya Smyslova



Jifei Han

# The Intellectual Society

## Junior Research Fellows

We welcomed two new Junior Research Fellows in January and will be expanding our programme to further enhance our intellectual society. These Fellowships are designed for people who are beginning their research career, having just finished their PhDs.



**Krisztina Ilko**

Kristina is a medievalist with a PhD in History of Art from Cambridge. Her research will be investigating how the game of chess and surviving chess pieces find a tangible approach towards the global medieval past.

“Scholars have often approached the multicultural Middle Ages either through its connectivity or as a period of barrier making and cultural difference. Chess, however, opens up the possibility to trace interconnectivity between different geographies, cultures, and social strata, but also show how the same connections could be used to create separation and distinctiveness. Ultimately, my project addresses how the ‘global’ was experienced in the medieval era and contributes to broader discussions about how the Middle Ages overlaps but also differs from the modern global world.”



**Hamish Symington**

Hamish’s research spans the disciplines of plant science, food security and pollination, aiming to make flowers easier for insects to find and more rewarding for those that visit them. As part of his PhD, he worked at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, under the supervision of **Professor Beverley Glover (Fellow)**, developing trails for adults and interpretation material.

“In my PhD I focussed on characterising bee responses to variation in flower shape and nectar production in strawberry, and the mechanisms of floral colour development in *Aethionema* x ‘Warley Rose’. For my Fellowship, I will be switching focus to broad bean flowers, aiming to find out why they have spots and vein patterning on some petals but not others, and the relevance of this to insects.”



**Eamonn O’Keeffe**

A new Research Fellowship has been generously funded by a donor and the National Army Museum, through **Dr Paul Schreier (1987)**. Eamonn will join the College in October 2022 as a *Junior Research Fellow in History of the British Army c.1650-c.1800*.

Eamonn is currently a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Oxford exploring British military music and musicians during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

He has previously appeared in the BBC programme *Who Do You Think You Are*, featuring in episodes with Kate Winslet (in 2019) and more recently Pixie Lott (in 2021).

## Post-Docs

The Blavatnik Cambridge Postdoc Fellowships programme enables Israeli scientists of outstanding ability to pursue their research, while fostering a scholarly exchange and greater understanding between researchers in Britain and in Israel. Two of them are offered membership at Queens' which gives them a collegiate experience and further diversifies the College's intellectual society.



**Dr Michal Eisenberg-Bord**

Michal is studying tuberculosis and aims to shed a light on the interaction between the bacteria and the host cell. Her research questions how bacteria manage to get what they need from the host cell, without triggering the macrophage's defence mechanisms or alerting other parts of the immune system.

“ I am enjoying being part of Queens' community. I believe it is essential to be exposed to scientists working on different topics, coming from different backgrounds and life experiences. I've enjoyed establishing friendships and collaborations with Queens' members. The importance of being part of a community of like-minded individuals, all striving to realise their full potential and contribute to our understanding of the world, cannot be overstated.”



**Dr David Benisty**

David's research focuses on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity by looking at how the cosmological constant helps to explain the expansion of the universe. His research tests alternative theories of gravity with different astrophysical systems in an effort to determine whether the cosmological constant is the on modification or if this is a small part of a bigger theory.

“ While most of the scientific community test modified gravity on cosmological scales, my recent research with Professor Anne Davis uses the orbital stars surrounding the Black Hole Sagittarius A\*. The new dataset gives us new bounds for alternative theories. As a Research Associate at Queens' College, I am combining research from different fields, mainly from Maths and Data Science, that would promote possible modifications to GR from different perspectives. I also teach at the University and would also like to promote students from different fields.”

# Making a Difference

## Current Campaigns

### The Richard Fentiman Fellowship in Law

Last October, Professor Richard Fentiman celebrated his 40th anniversary as a Fellow of Queens'. To mark this occasion and his forthcoming retirement in 2023, Queens' hopes to endow a Law Fellowship in his name. We wish to raise **£600,000** to cover the cost of a senior University Teaching Officer from the Faculty of Law teaching at Queens' and aim to complete this by 1 May 2023.



*Prof Fentiman & Marius Nasta*

Alumnus **Marius Nasta (LLM 1990)** reflects on Professor Fentiman's impact as his Director of Studies:

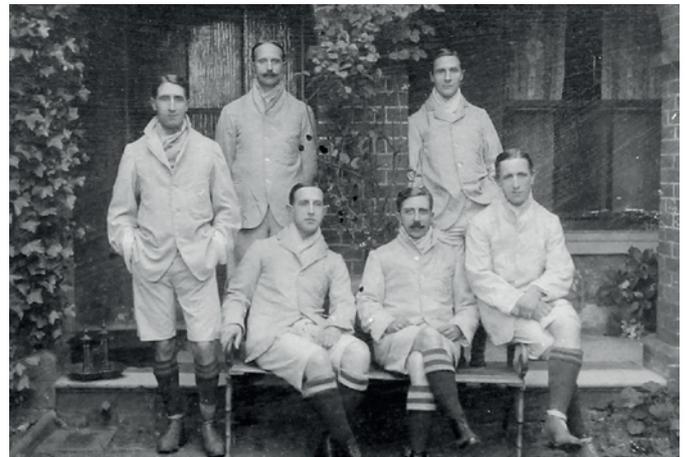
“In the late 1980s, I was offered a place at Queens' to study International Law. For someone like me, who just a few years earlier had arrived in Belgium from Romania as a political refugee who spoke poor English, a place at Cambridge was beyond my wildest dreams. Richard encouraged me to stay in Cambridge and supported me in getting my first job as a trainee solicitor at Slaughter & May. I remember him telling me at the time, 'People always remember their Director of Studies and invite them over for dinner in Downing Street when they become Prime Minister.' After thirty years, I know I will never be Prime Minister, but I was delighted to honour Professor Fentiman and his wife Alicia at the Annual Livery Banquet of the Worshipful Company of Coopers.”

### Football Fund

Thanks to a gift from **Trevor Bradley (1989)**, Queens' has established *The Farnfield Football Fund* to endow the College's Association Football Club. The purpose of this endowment is to provide an annual sum that will support any aspect of the club, such as kit and travel expenses.



The Fund is named after the six extraordinary Farnfield Brothers, **Algernon (1893), Archibald (1900), Gilbert (1903), Herbert (1904), Percy (1908), and Bernard (1909)**, who all won football Blues. Algernon went on to win a full international cap in 1901, while three other brothers played for England in amateur internationals.



*Six Farnfields at Queens'*



### Legacies

A legacy gift of £50,000 from **Dr Nigel James (1960)** has enabled Queens' to digitise its collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts. We are extremely grateful to his widow, **Dr Virge James**, for making this gift in his memory. Virge visited the Old Library to see the project progress so far, which we hope to be completed later this year.

She was hosted by **Dr Tim Eggington**, the Keeper of the Old Library.

## Ongoing projects

- The College has created 20 **Alexander Crummell Scholarships** in STEM and Art & Humanities subjects for candidates from non-traditional backgrounds. In October, we welcomed the first three beneficiaries. We are now looking to welcome seven MPhil and nine PhD students for October 2022 and 2023 entry. The College is keen to keep adding to this community of Scholars.
- Over **£35,000** has been raised so far for **The Nourhan Nassar Fund in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies** in honour of the late Nourhan Nassar, a Queens' MPhil student who unexpectedly passed away in 2019. We are now working towards a target of **£100,000** by 4 September 2022, which would have been Nourhan's 28th birthday.



Nourhan Nassar

- Thanks to generous initial gifts from Professor Hall and several other donors, **£810,000** has already been raised towards **The Lisa Hall Postgraduate Scholarship**. An endowment of **£1,000,000** will produce an annual amount to cover the cost of a full scholarship for postgraduate students.
- **The Mairi Hurrell Fund** has been established as a permanent fund to help support students' mental and physical wellbeing. To date, over **£26,000** from alumni, Fellows and friends has been raised. In October, Mairi was admitted as an Honorary Fellow of Queens' for her services to the College.
- **The Unrestricted Fund** allows Queens' the flexibility to continue to fulfil its important obligations and meet new challenges. Regular unrestricted gifts are welcomed to help the College, which invests over £4 million in education every year.

More on our ongoing campaigns can be found in *Floreat Domus*, or you can email [development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk) to enquire about giving.

Van Phillips



Landing over kangaroos at the last Championships in Australia

# Women's World Gliding Championships

**The next Women's World Gliding Championship (WWGC) will be hosted in the UK. Charlie Brooker (2018), former Captain of the University Gliding Club, interviews Liz Sparrow (1980) and Dr Philippa Roberts (2009) on their roles in organising the competition, which are being held 13-27 August 2022 at The Gliding Centre, Husbands Bosworth in Leicestershire.**

The WWGC is a fortnight-long event where pilots will follow a 200km-600km fixed course. Once launched, a glider uses energy generated by the sun's warmth and is a completely sustainable form of flight running on renewable energy.

## Backgrounds

**Liz Sparrow** was one of the first cohort of women to come to Queens' in 1980 to study Engineering. Liz didn't fly gliders until after graduating, but mostly enjoyed being social and rowing at College. She was the second Women's Captain of the Boat Club.

**Philippa Roberts** studied a PhD in Biochemistry at Queens'. She originally started gliding at Oxford and continued when she came to Cambridge. Philippa was also an Instructor at the Cambridge Gliding Club at Gransden Lodge Airfield, and Treasurer of the University Gliding Club.

**Charlie Brooker's** first flight was a present for his 13th birthday and he's been gliding ever since. He studies Astrophysics and is the former President of the Cambridge Gliding Club (2020-21). Now the Captain, he has obtained Half Blue recognition for University gliding.

### Charlie: How did it all begin?

**Liz:** I have been a member of the British Gliding Team since the first time I competed internationally in 2003 in the Czech Republic. In 2017 we thought it was overdue that the UK hadn't hosted a Championships, so we bid to the international organisation and won. I have been heavily involved as the Championship Director, and I'm broadly involved in managing the project.

**Philippa:** Originally, I stepped away from competing to focus on my work but hosting the WWGC has really inspired me to get back into cross country flying. I hope to qualify for the next WWGC in Spain in 2023. This year, I will be helping as and when needed. Most importantly, Liz and I are working together to train the next generation of pilots.

**Charlie:** At CUGC, we are keen to show all members of the University that they can get involved in gliding. My little sister once asked if girls could fly planes too. What would you say to her and others like her?

**Liz:** That there's nothing better to do. It's conditioned in society these stereotypes that pilots are men, but I've been instructing for a very long time and we find that, on average, women tend to be less confident but are more competent than suggested. And it empowers women and increases self-confidence.

In gliding, women are significantly under-represented. Although it is essentially an even

“In gliding, women are significantly under-represented. Although it is essentially an even playing field, only 7% of pilots are women.”

playing field, only 7% of pilots are women. When we pitched having the Championships in the UK, we hoped that we could inspire more women to discover that you can go gliding. Through public events, we can show the sport to a wider demographic of people.

**Philippa:** Last year, the number of female glider pilots entering competitions went through the roof. Seven of the top eight pilots were women in the Challenge Cup, the pre-Worlds practise competition. Beforehand, I had never been to a competition that has more than two female pilots.

It's the most awesome and life-changing thing to get involved with. My niece only knows me to be a pilot and it's interesting because she now asks if boys can be pilots. It's breaking down those boundaries through getting more women involved.

**Charlie:** There are skills that I have developed in organisation and teamwork that have really been my top take home from the sport. What are the best lessons you've taken away from your gliding career?

**Liz:** For me, it's self-reliance and personal resilience. When you're flying there are the literal highs and lows and it's about how you deal with those. Each flight can last up to six or seven hours from launch, and you are making decisions every three or four seconds. The constant decision-making helps you become more resilient in dealing with everyday life.

**Philippa:** I come from an academic background and I used to overthink everything. With all the thousands of different options you have when flying, gliding taught me how to make quick decisions. Up there, any decision is better than no decision. You learn to speed up the process and use these skills in real life.

**Charlie** was awarded *The Mike Turner Sports Bursary* in 2021. When he joined the Cambridge Gliding Club, gliding had Women's Half Blue status but had never had recognition from the Men's Blues Committee. Within the year of being Captain, he obtained Half-Blue status and organised club expeditions as far as Scotland. He recently gave a tour of the Cambridge Gliding Club airfield, Gransden Lodge, to Glenda Teasdale, widow of **Dr Mike Turner (1959)**.

You can reach Liz and Philippa through their website: [www.wwgc2022.co.uk](http://www.wwgc2022.co.uk) or get in touch with CUGC through their website: [www.cugc.org.uk](http://www.cugc.org.uk)



Philippa, Charlie & Liz at The British Gliding Association Conference 2022

Fran Roberts



The Bridge: produced by Sophie Beedell (Alumni & Donor Communications)  
thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk

Alumni & Development Office  
T7 Fisher Building  
Queens' College  
Cambridge  
CB3 9ET

 Follow us on Facebook: [QueensCollegeCambridge](https://www.facebook.com/QueensCollegeCambridge)

 Follow us on Twitter: [@QueensAlumni](https://twitter.com/QueensAlumni)

 Follow us on LinkedIn: [Queens' College, Cambridge](https://www.linkedin.com/company/queens-college-cambridge)

 Follow us on Instagram: [queens\\_college](https://www.instagram.com/queens_college)

The Queens' College of Saint Margaret and Saint Bernard in the University of Cambridge is registered with The Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1137495.

