Your impact

In the last financial year...

Largest single donation this financial year
£725,000
From Stephen Farrant (1956) through The Friends of Aliki Vatikioti for Music & The Arts

“My fond memories of Queens’ are still so strong. It feels like a part of my DNA.”
John Creed (1990)

“Great to see so much enthusiasm and support from across the globe for this magical corner of Cambridge.”
Dr Damian Nussbaum (1988)

Year groups with the most donors
- 1993
- 1995
- 1964

Total number of donors this financial year
1,855

“Youngest donor age
21
Oldest donor age
101

“Yes, Queens’ will always be the home of my favourite memories, and I hope it can continue to give opportunities to students for many centuries to come.”
Kate Holland (2003)

“Here’s to the next 500 years...”
Jo Owen (1977)
Queens’ in pictures

Jane Richbell visited the College to donate a variety of pictures of Queens’ owned by her late father Pat Richbell (1950). Pat sadly passed away in 2022 aged 90. Jane has given several pictures, including a painting by Pat’s friend, the artist Robin Toogood. There is also a matriculation photograph from 1950, as well as a reunion photograph. Pat kindly left a legacy to Queens’ in his will.

Pat did his national service in the Royal Artillery before coming up to Queens’ College in 1950. He read Modern Languages in his first year and changed to Law. After he graduated, he took an LLB degree and in 1957 received his MA. He qualified as a solicitor in 1957, and later worked for Segas and Thorn EMI until his retirement in the 90s.

1. “Margaret Wife of King Henry VI” drawn by A. Pugin, print by J. Bluck from R. Ackermann’s History of the University of Cambridge (1815)
2. Watercolour painting of the Mathematical Bridge by Robin Toogood (20th c.)
3. “The Hall of Queen’s College” print reproduced from History of the University of Cambridge (1815)

Giving back to Queens’

The Fentiman Fellowship
“We are very happy indeed that the Fellowship in Richard’s name meets with such well-deserved success. As he was honoured to have thrived in Professor H.L.A. Hart’s orbit as a student, we will both be very proud to tell future generations that we were Law students and a Fellow during his time at Queens’. It is a privilege to commemorate Professor Fentiman’s unflagging commitment to Queens’ and the College’s Law students. Paul and I will be forever grateful for his support and kindness.”

Dr Marie-France Fortin (2008) and Dr Paul Daly (2007 & ex Fellow)

“Queens’ College was an extraordinarily magical place for a young American undergraduate in the late 1980s. I arrived in 1987 as my “junior year abroad” and expected to return to Stanford University for my degree. After immersing myself in the tutorial system and learning to write history from scholars such as Dr Brendan Bradshaw and Dr Philip Towle it was clear to me that I could never return to the large classrooms and anonymity of a university in the States. And, of course, experiencing student life in the JCR, evensong in the Queens’ chapel, daily salutations with the Porters in the Plodge, and weekend walks to Grantchester, why would I want to leave? The College encouraged me warmly to stay for a full degree program, so I was blessed to have three years in the hallowed halls and cobbled streets of Cambridge, and to meet a postgrad at Jesus who became my husband! Now nearly 40 years later, I still count among my dearest friends fellow Queens’ historians Naomi Symes (1987) and Dr Ruth Symes (1985) and erstwhile economist Jane Midgley Simister (1987). Every donation I make to Queens’ is a thank you gift for the magic I experienced, the intellectual rigour that I learned, and the friendships that we cultivated while at Queens’.”

Tanya Holton (1987)
What is Queens’ Giving Day?
Giving Day is a 36-hour digital giving initiative. Over these 36 hours, we’ll be raising money to support some of the College’s current fundraising priorities, as well as sharing stories of the impact which the kindness of donors makes to our students. We’ll also be celebrating the College and its history and encouraging our community to get involved by sharing their own stories too. We’ll be keeping you updated on our progress and sharing our celebrations from College throughout the Giving Day. This may mean you hear from us a little more than normal, but we hope it will help to make you feel a part of this special day for Queens’ and our community.

What makes Giving Day special?
As well as celebrating Queens’, the Giving Day is a day like no other for donations. Thousands of pounds in matched and challenge funding have already been pledged, which means that your kindness could have more than double its own monetary value.

A large number of donors also helps to show that our community believes in the values which our projects represent.

Gifts of all sizes help towards making a real difference. Together, we can make a life-changing impact on current and future generations of Queens’ students, as well as sending a message about the strength and support of our community.

Why is the College holding a second Giving Day?
We were delighted with the results from our first-ever Giving Day. Our community came together from almost 40 countries to kindly support our students, our projects and our collective ambitions. The money raised last year is already having an impact at Queens’, with new Alexander Crummell scholars having joined our community as postgraduates and The Nourhan Nassar Fund already in use to provide assistance with academic-related costs in AMES.

As well as marking the College’s 575th anniversary, this second Giving Day also serves to launch new projects such as our highlighted subject funds in Education and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. Other funds which we raised money for in 2022, including Access and Outreach, the Mairi Hurrell Fund and the Unrestricted Fund have been in constant use since the last Giving Day. We are asking for your continued support for these funds, which are so vital to the whole community at Queens’.

How can I get involved?
Make your gift:
You can support the Giving Day with a gift on the day, or give early through our online platform: queensgivingday.queens.cam.ac.uk.

Giving online is the easiest way to make your donation. However, if you are unable to do this you can also send a cheque to The Development Office, Queens’ College, Cambridge, CB3 9ET. Cheques should be made payable to Queens’ College, and please include a note that you would like your gift to support the Giving Day.

Spread the word:
Our trailer video is now available to watch, and we’d love it if you would share this, or your own memories of Queens’ on social media, with the hashtag #Queens’575. You can also reach out to your friends and network from Queens’ and encourage them to join us for the Giving Day. We’ll be sharing lots of progress updates and stories on the day itself, so please do like and share these when you see them.

“Thank you for everything you have done for Queens’ and, on this year’s Giving Day, we invite you to continue to support the College as we mark 575 years of achievements and imagine what’s next.”
Giving Day Projects

This year's Giving Day projects reflect the range of life at Queens', from supporting the next generation of Educationalists and Psychologists to widening access for prospective students and ensuring the very highest standard of clinical support for mental and physical well-being.

The projects you can choose to support with your gift this Giving Day are:

The Subject Fund in Education
Education at Queens’ is a thriving and diverse community. It includes undergraduates studying a varied interdisciplinary course, postgraduates conducting research into important social topics, as well as trainees who will become the next generation of teachers. Current Queens’ students’ work ranges from studying educational reform in São Paulo, to increasing understanding of neurodiversity in Poland, to implementing policy and practice here at the University of Cambridge. This new subject fund will equip them with the tools they need to continue this impactful work. Your kindness will allow them not only to excel in their studies at Queens’, but to allow them to go out into the world and work on some of the biggest questions in our society today.

The Subject Fund in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Students of PBS at Queens’ study a wide range of modules, incorporating cognitive neuroscience, sociology, criminology, anthropology and beyond. PBS was only established as a separate Tripos subject in 2013, but it continues to grow in popularity and reputation at Queens’. This new subject fund will put it on an equal footing with other subjects such as Natural Sciences which already have an endowed subject fund. In helping students to pursue research projects, attend conferences and undertake placements, gifts to this fund will enable our students to reach their academic potential, as well as to go out into the world where they have a real impact on society and our understanding of human behaviour.

The Mairi Hurrell Fund
The Mairi Hurrell Fund was established in 2020 in response to the pandemic. Since then, it has been in constant use and is a vital source of support for the physical and mental wellbeing of students at Queens’. We are proud of the clinical support available to our students, and our Welfare team has expanded since the last Giving Day. Your kindness to this fund will help our students to continue accessing a high standard of clinical assessment, adjustments and treatments. The Mairi Hurrell Fund also helps the whole Queens’ community by promoting positive well-being habits, including giving information around sleep, healthy eating and keeping a work-life balance.

Unrestricted Fund
Since the last Giving Day, the College has continued to face difficult financial headwinds. Despite these challenges, we have worked hard to ensure that we do not compromise the quality of education and the level of support that we provide our students and indeed to our whole community. The Unrestricted Fund is a vital tool which the College can employ to serve our most urgent financial pressures. The flexible nature of this fund means that your gift this Giving Day will go to wherever the need is greatest in our community, allowing us to address current difficult circumstances, and putting us in a position to embrace exciting opportunities in the future.
The 1448 Society Talks

The inaugural talk in a new series for members of The 1448 Society took place on the evening of January 19th. Over forty five attendees tuned in to the Zoom call from as far away as the USA and Germany to hear Dr Claire Warrior (1993), Queens’ Archaeology and Anthropology alumna and Senior Curator at the National Maritime Museum, speak on the topic: ‘Of ice and men: displaying British polar exploration at the National Maritime Museum’.

The talks are a new initiative to give back to our regular donors, giving alumni speakers from Queens’ a platform to give presentations on a range of accessible topics.

Rebecca Sharkey, Queens’ Development Officer (Regular Giving), introduced Claire, who discussed the National Maritime Museum’s new gallery on the Arctic and Antarctic. From the 19th century onwards, polar exploration has been tied to ideas about British national character, exemplifying qualities such as endurance, bravery and stoicism. Claire addressed the difficulty of balancing the traditional narratives of heroic discovery with the reality of everyday life onboard the ships, which she illustrated with some fascinating objects from the museum’s collection.

The 1448 Society Talks will be held each term on a range of topics of interest to alumni. Stay tuned for announcements of future talks, and if you are a member of the Society and are interested in delivering a talk, please contact development@queens.cam.ac.uk.

The Richard Fentiman Fellowship

October 1st 2021 marked the 40th anniversary of Professor Richard Fentiman’s admission as a Fellow of Queens’ in 1981. After many years of teaching Law at Queens’, Richard will be retiring at the end of this academic year. To mark his outstanding contribution to Law at Queens’, and to generations of Law students by whom he is fondly remembered, we are delighted to endow a Fellowship at Queens’ in his name. The Richard Fentiman Fellowship will join those which already exist in the names of Sir Arthur Armitage, Sir Derek Bowett and His Honour Judge Stuart Bridge.

A reception was held at the Oxford and Cambridge Club on Wednesday 19th April to say thank you and farewell to Richard.

Richard holds The Arthur Armitage Fellowship at Queens’ and continues to make a remarkable contribution to legal teaching and research. A University Pilkington Prize for teaching excellence in 2014 was followed by Chairmanship of the Law Faculty 2015-18. He is also a King’s Counsel honoris causa, and he was recognised with an honorary doctorate from the University of Cyprus in 2022.

“This Fellowship will continue the important work done to strengthen the sustainability of Law teaching at Queens’ for current and future generations of Queens’ students. It will help us continue to attract the best students and academics from a diverse range of backgrounds well into the future. Thank you for being an important part of the Queens’ community and to all those who have supported the Fellowship and Law at Queens’ for generations to come.”

Professor Richard Fentiman KC

What is The 1448 Society?
The 1448 Society recognises loyal donors who give to Queens’ on a regular basis. Membership of the society begins when an alumnus/a or friend signs up to a regular donation by direct debit or standing order; this donation can be monthly, quarterly or annually. We have alumni, friends, parents and Fellows in The 1448 Society, with every year group from 1948 to 2021 represented and with gifts of all sizes. We are incredibly grateful to donors who choose to give regularly, as these gifts provide a sustainable income for the College, our students and our projects. If you are interested in making a regular gift to Queens’ and joining The 1448 Society, then please contact development@queens.cam.ac.uk.
The History Subject Fund

The study of History continues to grow and thrive at Queens’. New joint degrees in History & Politics and History & Modern Languages mean that we now admit around 11 undergraduate students in a typical year. Queens’ also has an active student History society, the Erasmus Society, which provides opportunities for Fellows and students to hold debates and invite visiting academics to discuss their work.

The new Subject Fund for History will support undergraduate and postgraduate historians with the cost of their academic-related activities. The fund will ensure that all our students can take full advantage of the opportunities open to them.

Thanks to the kindness of two donors, we have already raised £30,000 of the £200,000 we need to endow the Fund in perpetuity. This endowment will provide an annual spend of £6,000. Grants from the Fund will be overseen by Dr Gareth Atkins, the Director of Studies in History, and Andrew Thompson, the Senior Tutor, who is also a History Fellow at Queens’.

“We hope to expand the scope of the Erasmus Society and continue to encourage students to engage with all that a Cambridge History degree offers. It is vital that prospective students see Queens’ as a place where there is support for all their academic endeavours. Adding a subject fund will help us to continue attracting the best students and the best academics as we build for the future.”

Dr Gareth Atkins, Fellow and Director of Studies in History

Latest News

Chapel AV Equipment

In response to popular demand and the move towards more online content following the COVID-19 pandemic, a fund has been established to finance a state-of-the-art audio-visual system in Chapel to allow alumni from all over the world to watch recorded and live-streamed footage from events.

A demonstration of this system’s capabilities was held for staff and students in February, which offered a glimpse of the possibilities for future events, services and recitals. This technology will be integrated discreetly and navigate the acoustical challenges of the space while offering a high-quality viewing experience for audiences streaming the feed.

Revd Anna Jones, Chaplain, said:

“... we’ve certainly felt that in doing an AV project we want to do it well. With these types of projects you really get what you pay for, so we are trying as far as we can to future-proof the Chapel and try and imagine what sorts of uses we might have for it beyond streaming our major choral services.”

Queens’ Squash Fund

Squash has been played at the highest levels at Queens’ for many years, so much so that squash courts were incorporated into the design of the Cripps building in the 1970s. Queens’ has had over seventeen Blues squash players since the 1960s, and to continue this strong tradition, we are securing the future of this sport for students through a permanently established fund. This will provide professional coaching for Queens’ players in a weekly training session, ongoing funds for new equipment, and social events to encourage new players. This new fund will go even further to ensure that all students at Queens’ are able to take part in squash, and that cost need not be a deterrent to accessing the mental and physical benefits which sport can provide.

The Stuart Bridge Fellowship in Law Celebration Dinner

The Law Fellows at Queens’ and Professor Beverley Glover were pleased to host major donors at The Stuart Bridge Fellowship in Law at a special dinner in Old Hall on the 29th January. Senior Fellow, Professor Richard Fentiman KC, presided at the event, and Professor Beverley Glover spoke of Stuart’s passion for teaching and interacting with students. The inaugural Stuart Bridge Fellow, Professor Martin Dixon, spoke of Stuart’s dedication to the subject of Law, and noted that, due to the generosity of our donors, there will now always be a Stuart Bridge Fellow in Law at Queens’ to succeed him in years to come.

Captain of CUSRC and Queens’ Squash Club, Ellie White (2020), with Queens’ Squash Club members
Join us on 3rd-4th May for Queens’ Giving Day

Many thanks to our Giving Day student ambassadors (pictured)