



Our new Honorary Fellows

*Dr Jane Osbourn (1984), Sir Robin Millar (1970), Tom Holland (1986),
Baroness Moyo, Prof James Maynard (2005), The Rt Hon. Sir David Latham (1960), Joanna Scanlan (1980),
Sir John Chisholm (1965), Khalid Abdalla (2000) & Grace Prendergast (2021).*

From the Lodge

Welcome to the latest edition of The Bridge Magazine. We deeply appreciate your time and interest in staying updated on the latest happenings at Queens’.

I write this introduction during a time of both profound sadness and hope for your College. As the term began, we experienced the sudden loss of Dr Emily Webster. As you will read about in more detail in this publication, her tragic death took from us a remarkable colleague. Emily’s engaging teaching, dedicated service on various committees, infectious laughter, and admirable wit left an indelible mark on our community and extended far beyond. She will be sorely missed by so many of us – students, Fellows and staff.

The tragic news hit us just as a new intake of approximately 350 students, both undergraduates and postgraduates, were settling into their new academic home. Susan Haines, our Admissions Tutor, along with our colleagues in the Admissions Office, did an exceptional job in selecting highly qualified students. Coupled with the six new Fellows we admitted, they bring intellectual depth, curiosity, and vitality to our already thriving academic community.

The recent addition of our new facility on Grange Road has bolstered our capacity to accommodate these new students. This accomplishment is part of our ambitious estate program, which encompasses decarbonisation, expansion, and renewal.

In just a few weeks, we will have the privilege of welcoming ten distinguished Honorary Fellows to our community. Their remarkable accomplishments and inspiring contributions are sure to enrich our academic community in so many ways.

In addition to presenting updates on these developments, this edition of The Bridge Magazine contains information on the important ways in which the generous contributions from our alumni and friends support the pursuit of academic excellence within our increasingly diverse and inclusive community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions. Without it, the College would not have been able to navigate well such considerable challenges, particularly in light of the past three years during which our conference revenue was devastated

by the pandemic, our costs were amplified by inflation, and our financial reserves had to carry a heavier burden.

This brings me to my final point—the pivotal role played by our Alumni and Development Office. Many of you have interacted with our exceptional team. Under the capable leadership of our Development Director, Rowan Kitt, who has just completed a decade at the helm, the Office has been instrumental in expanding our alumni network and philanthropic initiatives.

As we approach the holiday season, I extend warm wishes to you and your families. Thank you for your unwavering support and guidance.

All the best,



Mohamed A. El-Erian



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

From our Alumni

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

575th Anniversary Organ Recital

In April, we welcomed back two former Organ Scholars, **Ralph Woodward (1991)** and **Bertilla Shotton (2005)**, for a recital to celebrate the 575th anniversary of the College’s foundation. Ralph and Bertilla were joined by **Ben Markovic (2020)**, the current *Aliki Vatikioti Senior Organ Scholar*. Music by Bach, Stanford and Boëllmann rang out from the Chapel to commemorate this historic milestone, with many alumni in attendance. Bertilla’s family attended the recital, including her husband **Dr Jamie Shotton (1999)** and his father **Dr David Shotton (1962)**.



Ralph Woodward



Ben Markovic



Bertilla Shotton & family

A new King’s Counsel

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh (1994) has recently been appointed a King’s Counsel. Her celebration of taking silk was attended by her former tutor Professor Rod Jones (Life Fellow) and Mairi Hurrell (Honorary Fellow), the former College Nurse after whom *The Mairi Hurrell Fund* for mental and physical welfare of students is named. Several Queens’ alumni were also in attendance. Blinne is primarily a human rights and public international lawyer, acting in high-profile protest law cases including the defence of one of the ‘Colston Four’ in 2020.



The King’s Birthday Honours

Mark Cutts (1996) has been made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to Humanitarian Assistance. The Order recognises prominent and highly distinguished contributions overseas and in international affairs. He has managed relief operations in some of the world’s biggest crises in countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

British Council Alumni Awards

Yijing Wang (2019) is one of the two Global Winners of this year’s British Council Study UK Alumni Awards from the University of Cambridge, coming top of the Business and Innovation category. Yijing is a Founding Partner at 2060 Advisory and the first person featured on the *Forbes 30 Under 30* list for impact investment.

Nick Koster (2017): 1989-2023

The College was saddened to hear of the passing of Nick Koster, an inspirational postgraduate student and talented rugby player, who captained the University. Nick read for a Master’s degree in Social Innovation while at Queens’, having played professional rugby for Western Province, the Stormers and then Bristol Bears and Bath Rugby.



The Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award

US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh presented the Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest honour bestowed upon an Article III federal judge in the United States of America, to **The Honourable Judge José Cabranes (1965)**. In his 44 years as a judge following his Master’s in International Law at Queens’, he has contributed to the areas of national security and international law in the US.



Admissions Tutor Dr Susan Haines

What motivated you to become Admissions Tutor at Queens', and what do you find most rewarding about the role?

I joined Queens' in July 2022, having previously been the Admissions Tutor for undergraduate students at Murray Edwards College, and before that at St Edmund's. In my prior roles I found it incredibly rewarding to work with school students considering an application to Cambridge and seeing them subsequently arrive and develop throughout their time here. I was thrilled to join Queens' to continue this work in a new community. At Queens' I am also responsible for postgraduate admissions and the College's postgraduate studentships, which bring additional opportunities to identify and aid the students who will benefit most from studying here. Leading the process that encourages and supports all applicants is an extremely fulfilling and enjoyable experience for me.

How do you ensure a fair and comprehensive evaluation of each applicant for undergraduate courses?

Every application we receive is assessed individually, and all admissions decisions are based solely on academic criteria. At each stage of decision making within the process we use all of the information available to us, giving applicants as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate their strengths and potential. This includes an applicant's academic record, a reference from their school or college, the personal statement from their application, any work they have submitted to us (for example, school/college essays), their performance in any written admissions assessment, their interview performance (if relevant) and additional contextual information that provides a more complete picture of the educational and social circumstances behind

their application, academic performance, and performance in our assessments. A commonly held misconception is that if an applicant is invited to take part in interviews, this is a "final hurdle" before receiving an offer; in fact, although the interviews take place towards the end of the application process, performance at interview is never considered in isolation.

What initiatives or programmes does the College have in place to promote a diverse student body?

As part of the University's outreach and widening participation programme for potential undergraduate applicants, we work extensively with schools and colleges in our Link Areas of Bradford, Havering, Medway and Kent. In Bradford, thanks to the generous support of donors, we have established a local learning centre with IntoUniversity, an organisation that works with young people to provide mentoring and a safe space for study within their community.

During the academic year 2022-23, Queens' joined the STEM SMART and ClickCambridge programmes for the first time. STEM SMART is a collaborative initiative between the University, Isaac Physics and some of the Colleges, providing teaching and support to UK school students who are considering applying to study science or engineering, and who have either experienced educational disadvantage or belong to a group that is statistically less likely to progress to higher education. In collaboration with other Colleges, ClickCambridge provides support specifically tailored to UK-domiciled prospective Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab undergraduate applicants.

For postgraduates, addressing the barriers to progression to postgraduate study is now a key focus of the College and the wider University. Work is ongoing to understand and address the factors affecting both UK-based and international students. Queens' is able to offer a number of studentships and grants to facilitate study; some are targeted at students studying particular courses, while others, such as the *Alexander Crummell Scholarships* and *Lisa Hall Scholarships*, are more focused on supporting students who have faced disadvantage or who are from underrepresented groups.

What is the new Foundation Year initiative?

The Foundation Year in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is a free, fully funded one year course designed to offer a stepping stone to Cambridge for UK-resident students who have experienced significant educational disadvantage and/or disruption. The eligibility



In recent years we have worked hard to establish more scholarships to support postgraduate students.

These include the following:

- The Alexander Crummell Scholarships** – to support MPhil and PhD students from access backgrounds
- The Queens'-Daim Zainuddin Scholarships** – to provide top-up scholarships for non-UK postgraduates
- The Lisa Hall Postgraduate Scholarship** – to support a PhD candidate studying STEM and provide fees and living costs
- The Sigmund Sternberg and Redress Solutions LLM Bursaries** – to provide bursaries to LLM postgraduate students

criteria for the course cover a wide range of factors and have been chosen to reflect experiences that negatively impact educational attainment. The Foundation Year equips students with the skills and understanding they need to continue to an undergraduate degree course within relevant subject areas, either at Cambridge or elsewhere. Queens' welcomed our first Foundation Year students in October 2023, and we look forward to selecting our second cohort.

What advice would you give to prospective students who may feel anxious about the admissions process?

There is a lot of information and excellent advice about the process available for free on the University's website. I would recommend that applicants check this regularly, as well as reading any correspondence about their application carefully; being familiar with what might happen at the different stages of the application process can help to calm nerves. We understand that many undergraduate applicants find admissions interviews particularly daunting, but our best advice is to try to relax and be themselves so that we can learn more about them and how they think about their chosen subject.

The College Open Days in July 2023



Queens' Couples...

If you and your other half met at Queens', we would love to hear your story. Please send us an email and photograph at thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk.



Greg Watson (MML, 1983) & Elfreda Tealby (History, 1984)

I first met Elfreda ('Fred') at a party on my second-year staircase in her freshers' week. After a walk around town attempting to re-stock the party, which had disastrously run dry, we decided that we weren't much drawn to each other. Fred already knew Cambridge well, having had family who lived there, so my attempts to impress the newcomer fell rather flat. I in turn thought she was rather too full of herself for one so recently arrived.

After I had spent my third year as a linguist in Germany, we became a couple just before Christmas in our shared final year. Fred thereby finally discovered the name of the previous occupant of K23 who had left behind a poster of a pig in a hammock when he moved out! We were married by the Dean in Queens' Chapel, with a reception on the Erasmus lawn, two years after graduation in 1989. Elf (as she is now mostly known) and I have been married for thirty-three years, have two daughters and live close enough to Cambridge for it to be a regular haunt for us. This photo was taken on our most recent wedding anniversary at the same York Ebor race meeting we went to just after our wedding.

Hannah Melia (Natural Sciences) & Tobias Berger (Mathematics) (both 1996)

We met in early 1998 when our best friends decided to organise a walking holiday in Devon during the Easter holidays. Already on that holiday, Hannah proposed to me in jest and I accepted, having not heard the question. Three months later we were a couple and three years later we were married. The wedding took place at Cambridge Registry Office and the reception consisted of a picnic on Jesus Green.

I did a five-year PhD in the US and a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute in Bonn. Hannah worked in Germany and then co-founded a company in the US, so two of our first six years of marriage were spent separately on different continents. Having decided we really were Europeans, we moved back to the UK and Tobias got a Junior Research Fellowship at Queens'. It was a little surreal dining on High Table after being a student, but the lovely food and interesting company were a real perk of the job.

In 2010 we moved to Sheffield, which is a really friendly city and now feels like home. Our son Sebastian came along in 2011 and is now twelve. Hannah continues to work for tech start-ups as a Product Manager and I am now a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield. We both remember our time at Queens' very fondly and are grateful to have found each other so early in our lives.

Lily Stancliffe (ASNAC) & Fran Penrose (Engineering) (both 2015)

I actually met Fran first by failing to meet her. I moved into College a little later than everyone else because I didn't want to seem too keen, choosing Friars because it was the cheapest and quickly making friends with everyone else on my staircase, because we shared the common attributes of pragmatism, stinginess, and trying not to seem too keen. My P staircase friends weren't big on going out at night, so I bade them farewell each evening at around 10pm and would return in the early hours to philosophise with my still-awake neighbour or eat condensed milk out of the can with my nocturnal future Fisher roommate.

Often, I'd return from my adventures in the town to stories of a miraculous and utterly wonderful person who they'd happened to meet without me. I was highly threatened by the competition, and absolutely livid when she was added to the group chat without consultation. I think I actually put my head in my hands when I sent a message asking if anyone wanted to come with me to a talk about Catalan and only Fran responded. It turns out that my very wise friends were right – she is indeed miraculous and utterly wonderful, and we have rarely been separated since that first meeting. I asked Fran if she'd like to marry me earlier this year and luckily, she seemed pretty keen.

Reunions at Queens'

Reunions provide an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, relive fond memories, and celebrate shared experiences at Queens'. While the official alumni reunions organised by the College are highly anticipated events, many alumni in recent years have also taken the initiative to plan their own reunions, bringing together people from their matriculation year who share a common bond of friendship and academic journey.

The Alumni & Development Office supports and assists with alumni-organised reunions. From providing resources and guidance to connecting alumni with each other, the team is on hand to help facilitate these special events. Here are just some of the ways in which alumni have created their own gatherings in the past year.



November 2022: **2002 20th Anniversary Reunion**
Over 70 Queens' alumni celebrated the 20th anniversary of their matriculation, organised by **Jen Phillips**. **Ed Hobbs**, former JCR President, gave a brief after-dinner speech.



2024 Official Reunion Dates:

- 1984/5 40th Anniversary Reunion
Sunday 4th February
- 2014/5 10th Anniversary Reunion
Friday 1st March
- 1964 & Before Reunion Luncheon
Wednesday 16th October

Please note that these are subject to change.

For more information about how you can organise your own reunion, email alumnierevents@queens.cam.ac.uk.



June 2023: 2001 20th Anniversary Reunion

James Piper organised a reunion for 70 alumni who matriculated in 2001 who missed out on their 20 year dinner due to Covid. A drinks reception was held in Old Kitchens before dinner in Old Hall. James said, "Everyone seemed to really enjoy it, and it was great to be back in college."



July 2023: 2003 20th Anniversary Reunion

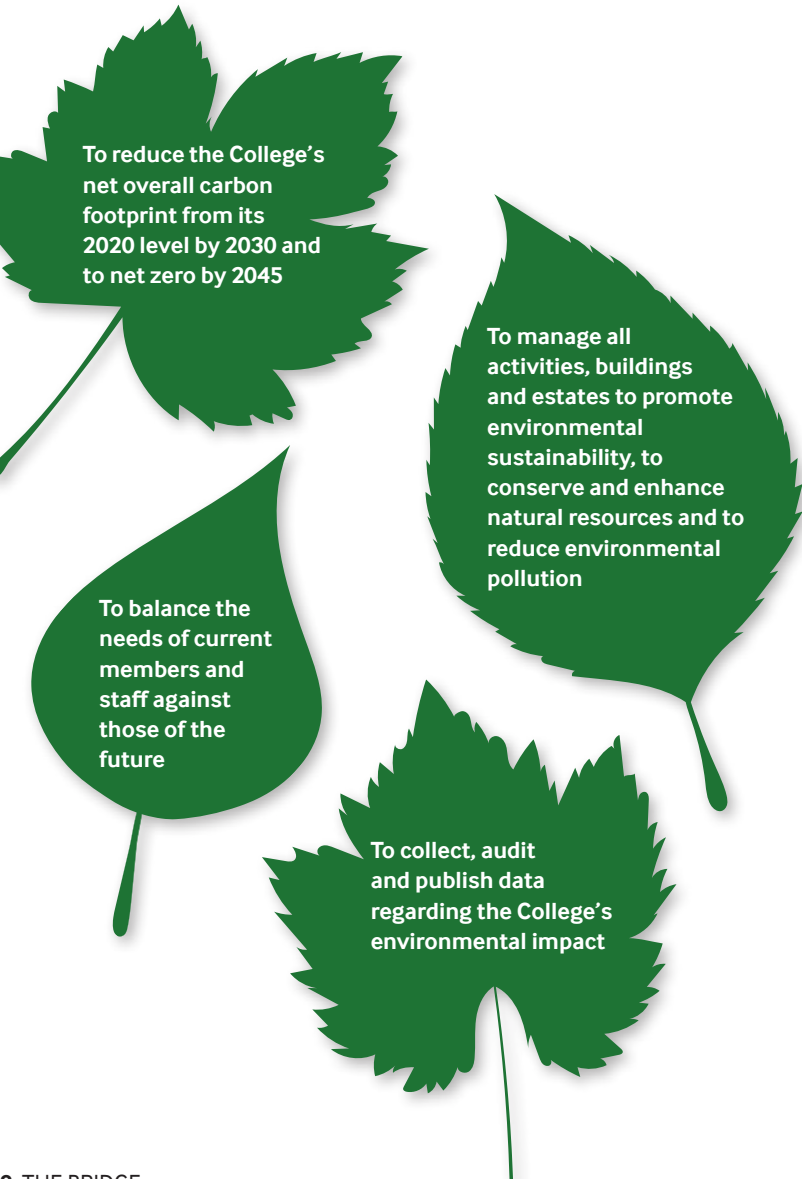
Adam Fudakowski and **Hayley Davidson** organised a reunion for the 2003 cohort.



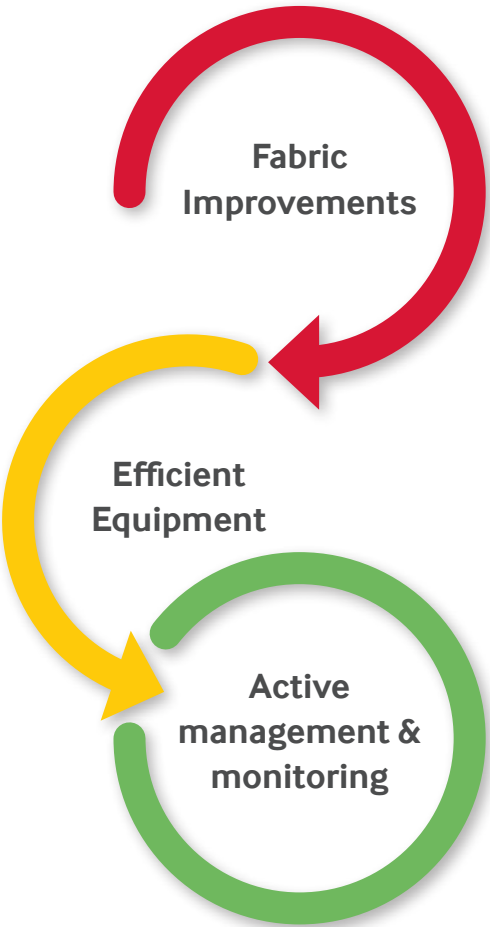
The future of Queens' buildings

As a historic College, many of Queens' buildings have endured centuries of use. We continue to develop the site to meet the needs of the many students and Fellows who call Queens' home, but in line with the increased need for environmentally conscious decision making, we have developed a strategy for the future that ensures the College is making progress towards clear environmental goals.

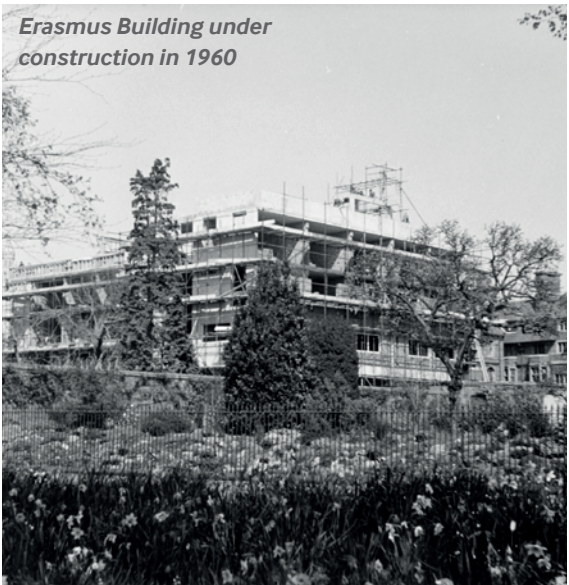
Our Environmental Policy outlines four goals to reduce the College's carbon footprint and waste output and improve biodiversity on the College site. These four goals are:



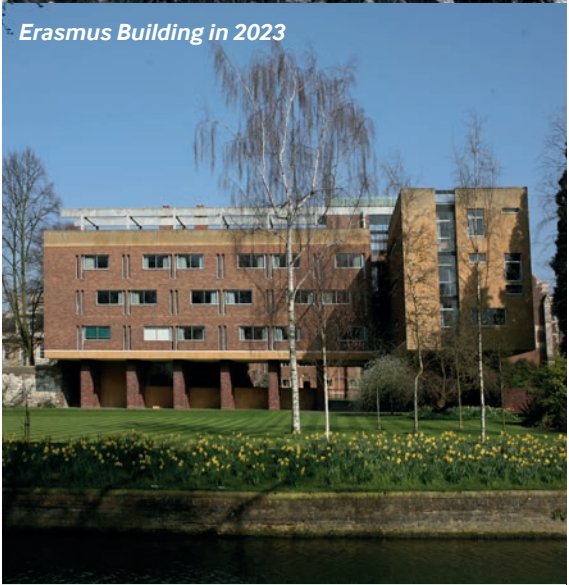
One of the key plans to help achieve this is to reduce energy consumption, especially of energy derived from fossil fuels, in all College property. Unsurprisingly for the type and age of buildings, provision of space heating is the dominant energy demand, comprising 46% of the total across both on and off-site properties.



Demand Reduction Sequence for future college development



Erasmus Building in 2023



Erasmus Building

Erasmus Building was constructed from 1959-60, the first Modernist building along the Backs. It was the first student accommodation at Queens' to have central heating, fed from boilers in the basement of Dockett Building. Although an advantage when it was originally built, this method of heating is now inefficient and environmentally unsustainable. As a result, Erasmus Building will undergo an **£8.5 million refurbishment project**, with £4 million being allocated for degasification. In addition, the building's life-expired roof will be repaired, and a lift will be installed to provide disabled access to **43 bedrooms**. There are also plans to provide solar shading to windows to reduce the need for summer cooling. During these works, the majority of residents will be temporarily relocated to Owlstone Croft. The cumulative effect of these changes are projected to result in a reduction of around 50,000kg of carbon emissions per annum.



Owlstone Croft

Owlstone in Newnham was purchased in 1988. The College has submitted a planning application to enable the decarbonisation of Blocks A and B. Improvements to the building include double glazing windows, improving roof insulation, insulating external walls and replacing gas boilers with air source heat pumps. The cumulative effect of making these improvements should result in a reduction in carbon emissions of 160,000kg. Plans to improve biodiversity on the site include the creation of extensive green roofs, rain gardens and ornamental planting for new postgraduate accommodation. This will be 60 postgraduate rooms across 13 new homes, built to Passivhaus standard and carbon zero in operation.



Grange Road

In September, the College took ownership of the former Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology on Grange Road. The property will provide over **30 bedspaces**, study and work rooms. This strategic purchase will enable the series of refurbishment and sustainability projects, including the Owlstone Croft development, which will result in a disruption to student accommodation over the next 10-15 years. With the Grange Road property, the College will be less dependent on seeking alternative accommodation solutions. The old chapel there will become an archive for Queens', allowing the safe storage of documents and objects from the College's history.



The Richard Hickox Memorial Prize

Richard Hickox CBE (1967), 1948 – 2008, one of Britain’s most famous conductors of the 20th century, read Music at Queens’ and held an Organ Scholarship. He founded the City of London Sinfonia, as well as holding prestigious roles such as Music Director of the Sydney Opera House and Associate Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. Richard won a Grammy in 1997 and was elected to an Honorary Fellowship at Queens’ in the same year. He was described by BBC Wales as “one of Britain’s most gifted and versatile conductors”. Richard sadly passed away in 2008 at the age of 60.

The Richard Hickox Memorial Prize has been established to ensure that Richard’s name is preserved in perpetuity at Queens’, thanks to a gift from **Henry Lesser (1965)** who fondly remembers Richard from their shared time at Queens’. The Prize acknowledges and celebrates a Queens’ student who displays outstanding contribution to music through leadership.

In this initial award year, the Prize has been split between two deserving students who graduated this summer: **Georgia Edwards (2020)** and **Ben Markovic (2020)**.



“My highlight of music making in my time at Queens’ was my work with the MagSoc Chorus in Michaelmas 2022, where I worked alongside **Katja Ruda (2020)** and **Matthew Mayes (2020)** to bring the chorus back to life post-Covid. We had a concert in Queens’ Chapel, and it was a full house! I am thrilled to be the joint inaugural winner of the Hickox Prize and would like to thank Henry Lesser for setting up the prize to celebrate musical achievements in Queens’.”

Georgia Edwards, Former Vice President and Secretary of MagSoc, and former Vice President of the JCR



“It is an honour to be jointly awarded this prize. The opportunities afforded by Queens’ are second to none, and this is clear from the extensive list of notable musical alumni. Making music in College has been an integral part of my undergraduate years, and so to be recognised for this is special and greatly appreciated. Knowing that Richard was himself Organ Scholar here at Queens’ makes me wonder what might come next!”

Ben Markovic, Alik Vatikioti Senior Organ Scholar and member of the Royal College of Organists



Linda & Henry Lesser

“As a Queens’ alumnus (1965, Law) it has given me great pleasure to endow the Richard Hickox Memorial Prize. I hope the Prize will serve not only to honour Richard’s achievements as one of the finest British musicians of the past sixty years, but also to remind all in college and beyond that he was one of ours, a Queens’ undergraduate and organ scholar.

I also hope the Prize will highlight the crucial importance of individual Queens’ students in keeping music alive as a vital part of the College’s tradition and culture, which Richard so well exemplified. In that regard, I sincerely congratulate Ben Markovic and Georgia Edwards as the inaugural co-winners and look forward to reading about their future plans.

Endowing this Prize has a personal meaning for me. Richard was my next-door neighbour on Q staircase for a year and popped in periodically, mostly to chat about whatever classical music I was then listening to (graciously, he never complained about the decibel level!). Little did I know I was talking to a future star, such was his modesty. This memory is all the more poignant because of his tragic death twenty-five years ago at age 60 but fortunately his legacy lives on through his extensive discography.”

Henry Lesser (1965)

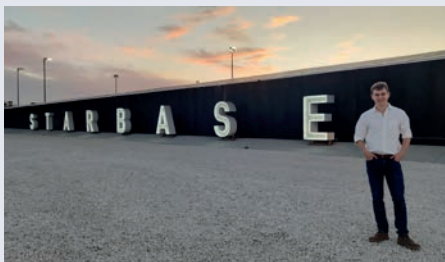


Travel Awards



Lucy Kirkwood (Veterinary Medicine) – India

Last Easter, I travelled to South Goa on the west coast of India with my classmate and housemate, Joe. We completed two weeks of small animal medicine at the Animal Rescue Centre in Canacona. As a clinical vet student, I am expected to undertake up to 20 weeks of work experience in veterinary practices, including companion, farm animals and horses. The purpose of these weeks is to improve our clinical skills, including surgical skills, and to see diseases and conditions we learn about in our lectures in practice. Unlike many of my previous placements in the UK, where I simply shadowed in a working practice, work at the animal shelter was very hands-on. We ran consultations, administered drugs, assessed emergency cases and performed desexing surgeries under the supervision of a volunteering vet from Australia. The experience was incredibly enlightening and enriched my knowledge, skills and perspective of shelter medicine. The **Graduate Students Travel Award** from Queens’ made this experience accessible to me, which I am very grateful for. I hope I can return to volunteer as a qualified vet to aid stray animals in developing countries.



Henry Free (Engineering) – USA

Thanks to the travel grant generously awarded to me from Queens’ **Treglown** and **Spearing** funds, I embarked on an unforgettable journey to witness the first complete flight test of SpaceX’s Starship rocket in South Texas. Each leg of my trip brought new sights and experiences; the urgent dash to Heathrow; a brief rest in Houston; a long drive on quiet Gulf Coast highways; arriving at the production and launch site; and finally, the anxious wait leading up to the eventual flight test. The flight was an awe-inspiring sight, with continuous cheering from the crowd lining the beach competing to be heard over the visceral, low rumbling of the engines. I concluded my trip with a visit to Space Centre Houston, home of a historic Saturn V rocket, leaving me wondering what the future of human exploration might hold. I am immensely grateful for the travel grant that made this all possible and will forever cherish my memories of this adventure.



Vee Ubenyi (Land Economy) – Mexico

I’m so grateful for the **Professor Ajit Singh Travel Award** which funded my educational trip to Mexico and further expanded my knowledge of its economic setup. Whilst I was there, I explored first-hand the informal economy in both Mexico City and the Cancun area. I came into contact with locals from all ages and collected qualitative data regarding their wages, perceptions and life experiences. Accompanied by a tour guide, I also explored the unique tourist hotspots of the country which gave me an insight into the country’s culture, such as the Tulum ruins and Labnaha cenote. My favourite part of my trip was my bike journey around Tulum speaking to the locals and the educational tour of the cenote learning about its history.



New Honorary Fellows



The Rt Hon. Sir David Latham
(1960) – former Lord Justice of Appeal

Sir David Latham, a retired Lord Justice of Appeal, presided over some of the most sensitive and challenging cases in recent times. As Vice President of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), he was the country's second most senior judge in criminal matters, and on retirement he was appointed by the Government as Chairman of the Parole Board. He is a committed supporter of the Law community at Queens' who regularly attends College events and gives talks to current Law students. He is also a stalwart of the Boat Club.



Sir John Chisholm
(1965) – scientist & businessman

Sir John Chisholm is an engineer and former Chair of QinetiQ and the Medical Research Council. Sir John and Lady Kitty founded the Melete Foundation in 2019 to support talented students with ideas that have the potential to benefit disadvantaged people and create self-sustaining social good. The first Melete Scholarships at Queens' were awarded this year. Sir John was also Chair of Genomics UK when the 100,000 Genomes Project was completed to sequence and study the role our genes play in health and disease. He was knighted in 1999.



Sir Robin Millar CBE
(1970) – music producer & disabilities champion

Sir Robin Millar is one of the UK's most successful music producers, responsible for 44 "number one" hits and 160 Gold and Platinum discs. He is Chair of the disability charity Scope and is an advocate for equity in all areas of society, having organised concerts for causes such as UNICEF and Artists Against Apartheid. He has no sight due to a progressive eye condition and he was already partially blind when he went up to Cambridge. He was knighted in King Charles's first New Year Honours list for his services to charity and young people.



Joanna Scanlan
(1980) – Best Actress BAFTA winner

Joanna Scanlan is a writer and versatile actress in television and films, including *The Thick of It*, *Getting On* and *Puppy Love*. She was among the first women to be admitted to Queens' in 1980. In addition to her accolades for writing comedy, she won the BAFTA for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her sensitive, nuanced performance as Mary Hussain in the film *After Love* in 2022. *The Scanlan-Michell Fund* was established in 2022 in the joint names of Joanna Scanlan and the late director **Roger Michell (1974)** to support the Bats' theatrical activities.



Dr Jane Osbourn OBE FMedSci
(1984) – scientist & businesswoman

Dr Jane Osbourn is a biopharmaceutical scientist who read Natural Sciences at Queens'. An advocate for building skills through STEM and education outreach, particularly for women in science, her work focuses on antibodies and drug discovery, contributing to the discovery and development of eight approved drugs with benefits to human health. She was formerly Chair of the Bioindustry Association and was Vice President of MedImmune, the 'biologics' arm of AstraZeneca. She is currently a co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Alchemab and a co-founder of RQ Biotechnology.



Honorary Fellows are elected by the Governing Body, having achieved excellence in their profession or chosen field, given distinguished service to the College or University, an institution, movement, region or nation, or are nationally or internationally recognised for any of the above. They join the College's 28 current Honorary Fellows and reflect a diverse range of disciplines from vital scientific research to elite sport.



Tom Holland
(1986) – historian & author

Tom Holland has written numerous best-selling books on Classical and medieval history. He graduated from Queens' with a Double First in English, beginning his career writing fiction novels before turning to write history, including an authoritative translation of Herodotus' *Histories* having taught himself Greek. His latest book, *PAX: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age*, narrates the history of the Roman Empire at the pinnacle of its greatness. Tom is also co-presenter of the top UK history podcast, *The Rest Is History*, and is an Honorary Life Patron of the College Cricket Club.



Baroness Moyo
Economist & businesswoman

Baroness Dambisa Moyo is an economist who sits on the board of global corporations as well as Oxford University Endowment Investment Committee. She has published five bestselling books including *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth and How to Fix It* (2018) and *How Boards Work: And How They Can Work Better in a Chaotic World* (2021). She has been named by TIME as one of the '100 Most Influential People in the World' in 2009. She was the inaugural speaker for the MCR's Angevin Talks and visited the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book in conversation with Dr Mohamed El-Erian.



Khalid Abdalla
(2000) – actor & political activist

Khalid Abdalla is best known for his roles in *The Kite Runner*, *The Crown*, *Green Zone* and *United 93*, the latter two directed by current Honorary Fellow **Paul Greengrass CBE (1974)**. He starred in the Emmy award-winning documentary about the 2011 Egyptian revolution, *The Square*, as well as being a founding member of the Mosireen Collective, a volunteer media activist organisation dedicated to documenting and transmitting video and images of the Revolution, fully under Creative Comms.



Professor James Maynard FRS
(2005) – Fields Medal winner

In 2022, Professor James Maynard won one of the most prestigious awards in Mathematics, the Fields Medal. His work on prime number theory has contributed to major advancements in our understanding of how prime numbers are structured and the distribution between them, particularly relating to the twin prime conjecture. He is currently a Professor of Number Theory at the Mathematical Institute in Oxford, a Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, and was elected a Member of the Royal Society in 2023, as well as winning the New Horizons Prize.



Grace Prendergast MNZM
(2021) – Olympic & World Champion rower

Grace Prendergast is an Olympic Gold and Silver medal-winning rower for New Zealand in Coxless Pairs rowing, as well as five-time World Champion. She is also a Boat Race winner, having competed for Cambridge in the Women's VIII in 2022. She is the College's first ever Olympic champion and won a world title while studying for an MPhil at Queens'. An endowed sports bursary has been named after her by a donor. The current recipient is **Jessica Spain (2020)** for rowing.





L-R: Colin Godbold, Ed Cook, Berwick Mitchell and Nick Prentice

If you would like to submit a future *My room (mate)* article, please get in touch at thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk

My room (mate)

By Berwick Mitchell for Ed Cook (both 1975)

I came up to Queens’ from my home in Plymouth in 1975, to read maths. My future room-mate Eddie (Ed) Cook had arrived from Warwick to read Geography.

Our first encounter came at a social gathering for new arrivals, hosted by the affable senior tutor, Ken Machin. It was not long before Ed made an impact. Fortified, no doubt, by a glass or two of sherry, Ed chose to liven up the polite introductory chatter by commenting on the design of my shirt and enquiring, with an innocent smile, whether I was perhaps wearing it “for a bet”. Bystanders were most amused. I was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte.

Despite this unpromising genesis, friendship evolved. Ed became a popular figure across the college community through his open and cheerful persona. He relished any opportunity to exchange banter and enjoyed a joke against himself.

We shared a common interest in sport. Ed was a naturally talented sportsman, at various times representing the College at rugby, football, rowing, and squash. In contrast, I was a reserve for the college chess VI. Eager to play some

football, I deployed enthusiasm to compensate for significant skill deficiencies. In brief, I always turned up and I ran around a lot. As captain of the College 2nd XI, I recall selecting a certain Mohamed El-Erian at left back, thereby setting our current President on his path to sporting fulfilment.

One of Ed’s 1st XI team-mates was Roy Cross, in his third year studying English Literature. Roy was an assistant in the college library, managed by Liz Machin (wife of senior tutor, Ken). The role involved a few hours’ work each week filing cards, returning books to shelves, and chatting to Liz. Crucially it paid the princely sum of £25 per term. Liz asked Roy to recommend possible new recruits. I cannot imagine what selection criteria were specified, but the outcome was that Ed & I were appointed as perhaps the most unlikely library assistants in living memory.

Drawn by the prospect of living in one of the older, more prestigious sets, we opted to share a room in our third year. We were pleased to be allocated G1, on the ground floor with an enviable view onto Walnut Tree Court (and very convenient for the college library). The living room boasted an imposing fireplace and mantelpiece, and offered space sufficient to

house an elegant, polished dining table and chairs, a sofa, and two armchairs. The adjoining twin bedroom and washroom were starkly functional but perfectly adequate.

Before taking residence, however, there remained the small matter of passing the second-year exams. I had scraped through part 1A Maths and, for me, success in the notoriously challenging part 1B was by no means a formality. Ultimately, I managed to clear the hurdles, due in no small part to some exceptional teaching from John Green [Dr John Green, Life Fellow].

So, what are my recollections of our shared room experience?

Over three preceding centuries G1 will have been a stage for innumerable well informed, rational discussions spanning philosophy, politics, and world affairs. Sadly, I can recall no such debates during our tenancy. Several events of a more mundane nature are, however, burned into my memory. The tone was set early in the year when Ed chose to prepare himself a sophisticated lunch. He heated some baked beans in a pan and toasted a couple of slices of “Mothers Pride”. The unwashed pan was left in the hearth.

And there it remained. The gauntlet had been thrown down. Whose minimum hygiene standards were the higher? Who would eventually deal with the offending pan?

Days passed, then weeks. Visitors began to comment on the spectacular array of green, furry, bacterial growths.

And yes, I cracked first.

This was just one example of a pervasive theme of competition between us, from which I emerged poorly. On every one of our early morning runs to Grantchester, Ed would pull away over the final half mile. Every time we played squash, I came second. I can still feel the pain.

Marathon backgammon sessions brought me some solace. Ed’s use of the doubling die owed more to emotion than logic. Exploiting this, I was around £30 up by June. I’m sure Ed always intended to honour his debt, eventually.

Ed brought similar creativity to his studies. His final dissertation examined how climate change in the Middle Ages caused the desertion of low-lying villages in the Midlands. Ed’s inspiration for the topic came from “an amazing seventeenth century text” which he stumbled across in the Old Library, having veered slightly off-piste in his librarian duties.

I was co-opted to help with the write-up. My role was to crawl around the floor on my hands and knees, sticking red dots onto a large-scale map of the Midlands indicating the villages’ locations. Ed then considered how well the facts fitted his theories, leading to the occasional plaintive query:



College 2nd XI 1977-78: current President & Berwick (Captain) in front row

“Are you sure that one’s right? Shouldn’t it be slightly further west?”

Readers may rest assured that academic integrity was maintained.

Unsurprisingly, alcohol featured significantly in our lives: sometimes, regrettably, to excess. G1 became a natural gathering point for the football team after the college bar closed. The team captain, Mike Anson, had a room directly above ours. On one “morning after” Mike wandered into G1 and began a search operation, peering behind chairs and under tables. Anticipating the obvious question, he muttered:

“I’m looking for my mind. I think I left it here last night.”

I assume he found it. Mike is now a District Judge.

Inevitably there were tensions, particularly as finals approached. One evening I returned to G1 having spent several frustrating hours at a computer console, wrestling with a “simulation model”. The deadline for writing up the results was the following morning. I was greeted by roomful of well lubricated souls enjoying Ed’s vinyl recording of “Derek & Clive Live” (Peter Cook and Dudley Moore at a nadir of good taste).

I honestly can’t remember who said what to whom, but I know it was not pleasant.

Somehow, we dealt with the conflicts and have remained friends. Ed was best man at my wedding. His speech, largely based on subtly embroidered anecdotes, rendered guests of all ages helpless with laughter.

One flight of fancy suggested that I had been sponsored through university by Gordon’s Gin. Bizarrely, my Aunt Mabel became obsessed with this myth and took it with her to the grave.

Following graduation, Ed took his passion for geography into the classroom, enjoying a successful and richly rewarding career. He was an immensely effective Deputy Head at Caistor Grammar School (Lincolnshire) for 20 years, well-liked by colleagues and students. He retired in 2016 having attained legend status.

My initial employment was in Operational Research with the National Coal Board. Somehow this evolved into a varied career with Exxon, Diageo and the BBC. Then, at age 45, a “road to Damascus” moment inspired me to pursue a teaching career. Ed offered enthusiastic support, arranging for me to spend a few days with the maths department at his school to gain hands-on classroom experience. He observed one of my lessons and managed to highlight enough positive points to balance the long list of areas for improvement.

Ed has insisted that I end by recording that I too enjoyed a rewarding career in teaching, ultimately as Deputy Head at Langley Grammar School (Slough), before retiring in 2017.

I hereby declare the backgammon debt paid in full.



Berwick’s wedding with Ed as Best Man, August 1980

College News

QES Awards and The Melete Scholarships

Queens' Entrepreneurship Society (QES) held their inaugural awards ceremony in June, along with the Melete Scholarships. The former are generously supported by **Qun Yang (2019)** and **Dr Richard Hargreaves (1964)**, and the latter are the brainchild of **Sir John Chisholm (Honorary Fellow, 1965)** and Lady Kitty Chisholm. QES aims to nurture budding entrepreneurial talent within the College, with the competition rewarding novel business propositions from teams of one to five students. Teams *Hear No Evil* and *Lykos Robotics* won with their pitches on specialist earplugs for musicians and for humanoid robotic technology respectively. The Melete Scholarships for social innovation were awarded to five students due to the exceptional quality of pitches: **Joshua Bird, Jun Jiang, Terrence Ng, Thomas Yam** and **Tomi Akingbade**.



W1 following their triumphant performance

May Bumps

Queens' W1 won blades in this year's May Bumps for the first time since 1992, while W3 won blades for the third consecutive year. M1 bladed at the last Mays and in Lent Bumps this year, adding to QCBC's accolades. 150 people attended the Mays Garden Party, including a group of alumni from the men's side who returned to celebrate Rob Jeffrey, men's coach for over 30 years, being elected a Fellow Commoner.

Alumni Garden Party

The popular annual Alumni Garden Party and Family Day in June was attended by over 300 alumni. The Development Director, Rowan Kitt, gave a speech updating alumni on the latest news from Queens', including May Bumps success and ongoing efforts to degasify the College's buildings to meet our Net Zero carbon target. The outgoing MCR President, **Marina Lirintzi (2019)**, spoke about the recent successes of the MCR to widen inclusivity, while the Senior Tutor, Dr Andrew Thompson, offered an insight into his role and some of the student activities at Queens' coming out of the Covid era. The most senior alum in attendance was **Michael Selby (1951)**, who matriculated 72 years ago. Michael hosted the signing of *The Arthur Armitage Society Book*.



Michael Selby (1951) supervising the signing of the Arthur Armitage Society book

L: Alumni during one of Dr Robin Walker's tours of Old Hall throughout the day



Blues Dinner

Our Blue and Half Blue athletes were invited to the seventh Annual Blues Dinner in June to celebrate their sporting achievements. Our alumni guest was **Dr Jonathan Darby (2003)**, who won a Blue in Football. A range of sports were represented at the dinner in the OSCR, including Dancesport, Rowing, Handball and Ice Hockey.

The Benefactors' Ceremony and Feast

In April we welcomed Queens' benefactors and their guests to the Chapel for our annual celebration of philanthropy. The traditional Commemoration of Benefactors dates back to the fifteenth century, allowing the President and Fellows to thank supporters of the College for their generosity. There was a reading from **Grace Burton (2021)**, beneficiary of *The Nourhan Nassar Fund in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies*, and **Georgia Box (2022)** gave an inspiring speech at the evening's Feast about her experience as one of the College's *Alexander Crummell Scholars*.



Director of Music Nick Morris conducting the Chapel Choir for the assembled Benefactors



Dr Tim Eggington at the exhibition in Old Library

Old Library Exhibition

In April, the Old Library curated an exhibition titled *500 years of Maths at Queens' College*, which showcased the history of Queens' as a place of mathematical learning. The exhibition included books that document the development and transmission of seminal theories, ideas and discoveries from sixteenth-century humanist translations of ancient Greek texts to Charles Babbage's proposition of an 'Analytical Engine'. Texts by Napier, Laplace, Descartes, Bernoulli, Neumann, Morgenstern, and many others were displayed.



New cope for the Chapel

The Chapel received a new cope in August thanks to a generous donation from **Richard Bland (1983)**. The previous cope was made for **Revd Brian Hebblethwaite** almost forty years ago – and he is over six feet tall! Pictured is the Revd Anna Jones (less than six feet tall) with the new garment. The new cope was inaugurated at the Matriculation Service for undergraduates in October.

15 years of MCR tours

For 15 years, **Doug Dennis (1965)** has been leading popular historical tours of Queens' and the city of Cambridge for members of the MCR. Doug is a qualified tour guide and a retired History and English teacher. The free tours are designed to help postgraduates to find out more about Cambridge's rich past and the background to the centuries-old relationship between town and gown. Doug captained the Rugby XV to Cuppers victory in 1968.



Intellectual Society

One of the College’s five strategic pillars is to broaden and deepen our intellectual society.

Queens’ welcomes the following new Fellows:

- Dr Rajesh Bhagat**
(Official Fellow, Mathematics)
- Dr Mairi Kilkenny**
(Official Fellow, Biological Natural Sciences)
- Dr Jennifer Cobbe**
(Official Fellow, Law)
- Dr Michael Loy (2012)**
(Bye-Fellow, Classics)
- Dr Krisztina Ilko**
(Junior Research Fellow, History of Art)
- Dr Jonathan Tsay**
(Junior Research Fellow, Neuroscience)



Dr Tyler Denmead (2007)

Dr Tyler Denmead was named by FindAPhD.com as National PhD Supervisor of the Year for 2023. This award recognises a PhD supervisor who goes out of their way to give their students an outstanding experience. The judges were particularly impressed with Tyler’s dedication to students, mentoring and support for historically underrepresented doctoral students. Tyler is Director of Studies in Education at Queens’ and Associate Professor of Arts and Creativity in Education.



(Clockwise from top left): **Professor Richard Fentiman KC, Professor David Menon and Professor Richard Weber**

Retiring Fellows

Distinguished academics Professor Richard Fentiman KC, Professor David Menon and Professor Richard Weber are all retiring in 2023, becoming Life Fellows of Queens’. Professor Richard Fentiman is one of the world’s foremost experts in Private International Law, formerly the *Arthur Armitage Fellow* and Director of Studies in Law. Professor David Menon is a pioneer in the field of traumatic brain injury and was the first Director of the Neurosciences Critical Care Unit (NCCU) at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. Professor Richard Weber was Churchill Professor of Mathematics for Operation Research in the Department of Pure Mathematics, and held the *Anthony L. Lyster Fellowship* at College, where he was formerly Director of Studies in Mathematics. In part recognition of their distinction, the College has established (to date) *The Richard Fentiman Fellowship in Law* and *The Rokos-Menon Senior Research Fellowship*. More information on the new *Fentiman Fellowship* can be found in *Floreat Domus*.



Professor Clare Bryant

Professor Clare Bryant has been elected a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. All Fellows have made an outstanding contribution to the world of learning and have a demonstrable connection to Wales.



Professor Julia Gog OBE

Professor Julia Gog has been awarded the Hedy Lamarr Prize by the Institute of Mathematics and its Application. This prize is awarded to the mathematician demonstrating “meritorious knowledge exchange in mathematics and its applications.” Julia is the College’s new Vice President for 2023-24.

Adam Barton (2020)

Adam, a Stamps Scholar, has won a Cambridge Society for the Application of Research Award. He is one of the very few social scientists, not to mention educationalists, to ever win this award. He said, “Real-world impact – improving education for students and families across the globe – motivates all of my research endeavours. I’m honoured to join a community of scholars who share this passion for transformative inquiry!”



Dr Eamonn O’Keeffe (Junior Research Fellow)



Dr Eamonn O’Keeffe has been awarded the André Corvisier Prize by the International Commission of Military History. The Corvisier Prize is awarded for the best PhD thesis in military history completed at any university in the past calendar year. Eamonn was presented with the award by the ICMH during the XLVII ICMH Congress in Istanbul. Eamonn has also recently won the Pollard Prize, awarded by the Institute for Historical Research for the best postgraduate paper presented at an IHR seminar.

New Gates Scholars

We are delighted to welcome the latest cohort of Gates Scholars to Queens’.

Sabrina Hu – PhD Chemistry
“During my PhD in Chemistry, I will focus on synthesizing and applying a particular class of supramolecular cages. These complex architectures can utilize host-guest chemistry in a variety of applications related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, from providing a greener way to perform industrial chemical separations to solar-driven desalination.”



Olabimpe Olayinka – PhD Pharmacology
“At Cambridge, my doctoral research will deploy computer-aided-drug-design tools to discover novel plant-derived anticancer molecules. My goal is to develop affordable and effective targeted therapies for treating BRCA-mutant cancers, which would improve the survival and quality of life of patients.”

Rachel Sim – PhD Architecture
“My proposed PhD study aims to explore the urban spatialities of diasporic communities in the UK, examining the social spaces required for political expression and relevant other issues such as social integration. I hope for my research to be a platform documenting the complexity of their stories, in so broadening traditional conceptions of migratory urbanisms.”



In conversation with: Dr John Andrews

Dr John Andrews (1995) is the Principal Guest Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra and Artist-in-Association with the English Symphony Orchestra. Researching the social and political context of Handel’s secular oratorios for his PhD, he developed an interest in forgotten repertoire. He recently won BBC Music Magazine’s Best Opera Recording Award for the second time for his recording of John Frederick Lampe’s *The Dragon of Wantley*.

Rediscovering ‘lost’ music

Researching my Doctorate, I looked at the influences on Handel in the 1740s: the rivalries in London, the people he competed against and the people criticising him. In the process at, I discovered this huge, bubbling, febrile cultural life that we’ve largely forgotten. Looking closely, I was fascinated to discover just how good these pieces of music are. Sometimes they’ve fallen out of the repertoire because the satire was too locked into contemporary events, but a lot of the time it’s just the natural attrition of music that was never really designed to have a life beyond that of the performers. Technological revolutions first in printing and then recording meant that we can now keep music in the public consciousness in a way that was entirely foreign to the 18th century.

BBC Music Magazine Award

Both times that we’ve won this award, it’s been wonderful to discover that pieces I’d got to know – and found fabulously entertaining – were enjoyed by such a wide range of people. These operas were, in their own time, often far more popular than the famous works we now remember. It was a hugely satisfying feeling to know that just because pieces have been forgotten, that they can’t have a great impact and be widely enjoyed and loved by modern audiences.

The Dragon of Wantley

The Dragon of Wantley originated with the librettist Henry Carey and composer John Frederick Lampe. Carey was one of the most vicious, passionate critics of Italian, finding it foreign, effete and most importantly, popish. In 1737, he teamed up with Lampe (the bassoonist in Handel’s orchestra), to write a piece satirising all of the pretensions of *opera seria*, but with music pastiching Handel at his best. Adapted from a 17th century ballad, it features all the apparatus of heroic opera: A dragon is

terrorising a Yorkshire village, and the knight who’s been sent to defeat it has to be pulled out of the pub and is betrothed to both of the women in the story. Recording a piece where broad comedy has to sit with hugely sophisticated music was a real challenge, especially coming out of the lockdowns when if anyone had to withdraw, they couldn’t be replaced.

Knowing your audience

In Handel’s London, Mozart’s Vienna, or Donizetti’s Naples, if you went to the opera, you were going to see this season’s novelty. It wouldn’t cross your mind to go and see something you already knew. There’s a paradox that the composers we love the most were able to perfect their craft because their audiences were thirsty for them to keep producing novelties. My ambition is to try to rekindle in modern audiences just a little bit of that thirst for novelty that was taken for granted before the twentieth century. I am in the process of setting up a charity to raise funds for future recordings – particularly of music by British women composers. If you can present these works to a high quality, then you can say to orchestras and theatres: “Look, here it is.” The mark of success with these pieces is to convince theatres and orchestras to take a punt on them, as we were able to do with the Buxton Festival after winning the Award in 2021 for Malcolm Arnold’s *The Dancing Master*.

Memories of Queens’

I came to an Open Day and spoke to Tim Brown (then Director of Music at Clare) about what I was looking to get out of the course, and he very charmingly advised, “Everything you say suggests that what you’d like to do is create your own projects. At the bigger colleges, there’s more infrastructure, but less room for inventiveness. With such a vibrant music society in MagSoc, Queens’ will offer much more opportunity for you to develop.” Following his advice, I had the most wonderful time. I conducted incessantly, both in college and across the University, producing Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* for the newly-renovated Arts Theatre, and then during my postgraduate studies discovering this lost repertoire that has become the core my professional life.



Peter Mould

Queens’ Connects

As part of the Queens’ Global initiative, our Development Director travelled in Europe and the USA to speak to alumni and update them on the latest news from college. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for Queens’ in your area, please contact global@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Join our global network
and see our
latest events
in your area
by scanning
the QR code:

Switzerland



The alumni Geneva was held at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, overlooking the mountains.

L-R: Rowan Kitt, Mark Cooper (2004), Jillyanne Redpath (2000), Thierry Augsburg (2012), Robin Tickle (1982), Pete Cope (1989), Hilda Garcia Robles, Sean-Mun Liang (1980), Michael Kershaw (1975), guest, Elspeth Aghanya (1996), Thomas Dillon (1977), guest, Caroline Howard (1995), guest, Alice Calleja-de Lapeyriere (1987), Hadriene Lavaux (2012) and guest.



The second European event was hosted by Tom Pitts (1991) at his home in Zürich.

L-R: Rowan Kitt, Tom Pitts (1991), Dr Jonathan Silberstein-Loeb (2004), guest, Eleanna Tsertou (2005), Joachim Schirmer (1990), Annalisa Gigante (1984) and Sean-Mun Liang (1980)

USA



The Development Director and the President visited alumni in Los Angeles, kindly hosted by Emily Cloke (1998), the Consul General, at her residence.

Dr Mohamed El-Erian with Emily Cloke (1998)



Alumni enjoyed a drinks reception at the University Club of San Francisco on the 19th September, also attended by the President and the Development Director. The most senior alum in attendance matriculated in 1964, while the most recent alum matriculated in 2009.



Remembering Dr Emily Webster



Dr Emily Webster, Director of Studies in Land Economy and one of the College's Teaching Fellows in Law, passed away suddenly at home in October. The Senior Tutor, Dr Andrew Thompson, said: "Emily was a very active, highly engaged, and much liked and respected member of our community. She will be sorely missed and we wish to extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends. We know that this is an incredibly difficult time for everyone who knew Emily well, and even for those who did not know her well, it is still a huge shock to lose someone in our community suddenly."

Emily was a highly respected member of the Law Faculty, in which she held an Assistant Professorship

in Environmental Law. Following her degree, she chose not to go into practice, but to continue on the path of environmental and climate change law, attaining her Master's and PhD from King's College London. Among her many distinguished academic positions, she was a member of the Hughes Hall Centre for Climate Engagement, a Research Fellow for the Earth System Governance research project and a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law. Emily was dedicated to the College community and held various roles in committees, including as an SCR Steward. In light of these sad circumstances, the eighth Queens' Distinguished Lecture in Law was postponed until early 2024.

The power of the Alexander Crummell Scholarships



Last year, I was awarded an Alexander Crummell Scholarship to study for an MPhil in Public Policy at Queens' College. Having recently graduated, I would like to reflect on the transformational impact of this opportunity, and the ways in which I will carry this experience with me throughout my life.

I'm from a town in the West Midlands called Halesowen. My father is a dustbin man, and I am the first in my family to have graduated from university. I was the top performing student in my undergraduate cohort at UCL, and one of the youngest people to have been admitted to the MPP programme. But despite all these firsts, for a long time I felt unsure of where I belonged. Even though I was excelling across my chosen pathways, I lacked confidence in my abilities, and felt disillusioned by the barriers to social mobility that I noticed all around.

In the past nine months, everything seems to have changed. Since beginning my graduate studies, my confidence has grown enormously. I have met some of the greatest thinkers and changemakers in our world, I have been challenged, and I have become acutely aware of the potential that I have to make a difference. Being a student at Queens' College has been central to this development. Through the support of the President, the Fellows, and the students here at Queens', I have truly flourished, and I have gained a new family in the process.

And just as Queens' has offered me the chance to grow, it has also given me the opportunity to pass that chance onto others in turn. As the Lent Term Class Officer of the Cambridge Union, I hosted a debating workshop for a Queens' partner school to encourage those from similar backgrounds to consider applying to study here. In addition, I co-founded a social enterprise with a small group of Queens' students to help boost financial literacy across the country.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support that the benefactors of the Alexander Crummell Scholarships continue to give. It is without exaggeration that I say, this experience has truly changed my life. The contributions of the donors help to make Queens' an exceptional place.

By Georgia Box (2022, MPhil)

There are so many others out there who have the fire within them to share their talent with the world but lack the financial resources. I will continue to work hard so that one day I can give back to Queens' College, and personally contribute to creating educational equality for all.

Having graduated in summer, Georgia has begun her career at Deutsche Bank.



Georgia graduating last summer and with her father at Queens'

Visitors to Queens'

The Rt Hon. Beverley McLachlin

The Rt Hon. Beverley McLachlin, the **College Visitor**, returned to Queens' in July for the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies' Cambridge Lectures. The Visitor is a historic role to which external figures were appointed to mediate disputes between the President and Fellows in bygone years. While she was in the UK, Beverley also sat for her portrait as part of the Women's Portrait Project at Queens', which celebrates the contribution of women to the College since female students were first admitted in 1980.



The MacDonald Family

Dr Alan MacDonald (1968) and Christina MacDonald visited Queens' with their family in June. They are the eponymous donors of *The Alan & Christina MacDonald Awards*, which provide funding for non-UK/EU postgraduate students, including research grants and bursaries, fee support and research related travel grants. They also visited Queens' College Boat Club, where they toured the boathouse and met the Henley Royal Regatta qualifiers crew on the men's side.



Professor Mim Öke

Professor Mim Öke (1978) visited College in April for the first time in thirty years. Mim studied Economics and History, and is currently Professor of Political Science at Istanbul Commerce University. During his visit, which included a tour, he recreated a photograph of himself on the Mathematical Bridge from 1975.



L-R: Anna Forbes, Qun Yang, Marina Lirintzi (former MCR President) and Sasha Nikolaeva (all 2019) at the 2023 Alumni Garden Party.

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Find out more about the latest alumni events at Queens' being held throughout the year:



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