Our new Honorary Fellows

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 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 will 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 Harris, 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 deconstruction, expansion, and renewal.

In just a few weeks, we will have the privilege of welcoming 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 AIK (Akademisk 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 David Shotton (1999) and his twin, Dr Jamie Shotton (1999).

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 Harris, 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.

A new King’s Counsel
Blinne Ni Ghralaigh (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 Mari Hurrell (Honorary Fellow), the former College Nurse. 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 Airbnb 30 Under 30 list for impact investment.

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.

FROM THE LODGE

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 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 will 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 Harris, 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 deconstruction, expansion, and renewal.

In just a few weeks, we will have the privilege of welcoming 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 AIK (Akademisk 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 David Shotton (1999) and his twin, Dr Jamie Shotton (1999).

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 Harris, 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.

A new King’s Counsel
Blinne Ni Ghralaigh (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 Mari Hurrell (Honorary Fellow), the former College Nurse. 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 Airbnb 30 Under 30 list for impact investment.

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.

FROM OUR ALUMNI

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

From our Alumni

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 AIK (Akademisk 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 David Shotton (1999) and his twin, Dr Jamie Shotton (1999).

A new King’s Counsel
Blinne Ni Ghralaigh (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 Mari Hurrell (Honorary Fellow), the former College Nurse. 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 Airbnb 30 Under 30 list for impact investment.

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? (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 scholarships, 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 experience. Here, leading the process that encourages and supports all applicants is an extremely fulfilling experience.)

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, Haverin, 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 for undergraduate applicants who have experienced significant educational disadvantage and/or disruption. The eligibility 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.

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 PhD and MPhil students from access backgrounds
- The Queens’ Gaimainuddin 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
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 Plank 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.

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 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 to a talk about Catalan and only Fran responded. It turns out that my very wise friend was 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 it was great to be back in college.”
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:

1. To reduce the College’s net overall carbon footprint from its 2020 level by 2030 and to net zero by 2045
2. To manage all activities, buildings and estates to promote environmental sustainability, to conserve and enhance natural resources and to reduce environmental pollution
3. To balance the needs of current members and staff against those of the future
4. To collect, audit and publish data regarding the College’s environmental impact

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.

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.

The future of Queens’ buildings

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.

Erasmus Building

Erasmus Building was constructed from 1959-60, the first Modernist building along the Backs. It was the first student accommodation at Queen’s to have central heating, fed from boilers in the basement of Dickett 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.

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 College to meet the increased need for accommodation, in particular 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 Queen’s, allowing the safe storage of documents and objects from the College’s history.
The Richard Hickox Memorial Prize

Richard Hickox CBE (1947) – 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)

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

“My highlight of music making in my time at Queens’ was my work with the MagSoc Chorus in Michaelmas 2022, where I worked alongside Katie 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.”

Ben Markovic, Aliki Valtikioti Senior Organ Scholar and member of the Royal College of Organists

“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!”

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.”

Linda & Henry Lesser (1965)

The Graduate Students Travel Award

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 Houstondriver from the crowd lining the beach competing to be heard over the visceral, low rumbling of the engines. I conducted my trip with a visit to SpaceX 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 Labnah 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.

“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 Labnah 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.”

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 Houston driver from the crowd lining the beach competing to be heard over the visceral, low rumbling of the engines. I conducted my trip with a visit to SpaceX 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 Labnah 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 also a committed supporter of the Parole Board. He was appointed by the Government as Chairman of the Parole Board and on retirement he was appointed by the Government as Chairman of the Parole Board.

Sir John Chisholm CBE (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 Menter 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 Menter 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 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 World Aids Day, for example. He has also been involved in several WHO campaigns. Sir Robin has written numerous bestselling 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 non-fiction including an authoritative translation of Herodotus’ Histories having taught himself Greek. His latest book, Pax: War and Peace in Rome’s Golden Age, examines the history of the Roman Empire at the pinnacle of its greatness. Tom is also currently Professor of Primatology at the University of Cambridge and 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 Angelina Talbot Community and Talks and the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book at the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book in conversation with Dr Mohamed El-Erian.

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 Paddy 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 Hustain 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 arts and humanities in the UK.


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 Biotechnology Industry 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.

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 They Can Work Better: And How to Fix It (2018). She has recently been named by TIME as one of the ‘100 Most Influential People in the World’ in 2020. She was the inaugural speaker for the MCR’s Angelina Talbot Community and Talks and the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book in conversation with Dr Mohamed El-Erian.

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 They Can Work Better: And How to Fix It (2018). She has recently been named by TIME as one of the ‘100 Most Influential People in the World’ in 2020. She was the inaugural speaker for the MCR’s Angelina Talbot Community and Talks and the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book in conversation with Dr Mohamed El-Erian.

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.

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 (1974). He started 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 videos of the revolution, fully under Creative Commons.

暾然

Sir John Chisholm CBE (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 Menter 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 Menter 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.

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 Paddy 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 Hustain 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 arts and humanities in the UK.

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 They Can Work Better: And How to Fix It (2018). She has recently been named by TIME as one of the ‘100 Most Influential People in the World’ in 2020. She was the inaugural speaker for the MCR’s Angelina Talbot Community and Talks and the Cambridge Union this year to discuss her latest book in conversation with Dr Mohamed El-Erian.

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.
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 room by suggesting it “for a bet”. Bystanders were most amused. I was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte.

Despite this unpromising genesis, friendship was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte. It “for a bet”. Bystanders were most amused. I was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte. It was set early in the year when Ed chose to prepare himself a sophisticated lunch. He peeled a large slice of ham, applied a bit of mustard, and placed the whole on the crust of a perfectly browned baguette. Curious, I watched as he offered the sandwich to me. I accepted it with a nod of my head, but was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte.

For the college chess VI. Eager to play some chess, I taught myself to play. Ed was a naturally talented sportsman, at various times 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 room by suggesting it “for a bet”. Bystanders were most amused. I was stunned into silence, unable to muster a suitable riposte.

I emerged poorly. On every one of our early morning runs to Gonchester, Ed would pull away over the final half mile. Every time we played squash, I came out second. I can still feel the pain.

But it was Ed’s love of backgammon that we remember most fondly. Ed was an expert player, and he often challenged us to games for fun. I remember one occasion when Ed challenged me to a game for a bet. The stakes were high, and I was determined not to lose. We played for hours, with Ed barely breaking a sweat. In the end, I emerged victorious, and Ed was left to wonder if his reputation was built on paper.

One of Ed’s 1st XI team-mates was Roy Cross, who has gone on to become our current President on his path to sporting prominence. Against himself.

I had not yet learned that Ed was a prolific writer, with an eye for detail. He would often write poems and short stories, which he would share with us. I was always impressed by his ability to capture the essence of a moment in just a few words.

One evening, Ed and I were sitting in the living room, watching a football match on television. The game was intense, with both teams vying for possession. Ed turned to me and said, “Watch that midfield battle... it’s like chess!”

Perhaps that was why Ed was so good at backgammon - he had a natural aptitude for understanding patterns and predicting outcomes.

Over three preceding centuries G1 will have seen many changes and developments. The library has evolved from a simple collection of books to a bustling hub of activity. As we walked through the doors of G1, we were greeted by a roomful of well lubricated souls enjoying Ed’s hearty banter and jokes.

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. Vistors 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 Gonchester, Ed would pull away over the final half mile. Every time we played squash, I came out 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 seventeen 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:

“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 hearty banter and jokes.

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

Somehow this evolved into a varied career ultimately as Deputy Head at Langley Grammar School (Slough) before retiring in 2017. I hereby declare the backgammon debt paid in full.

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 legendary status.

My initial employment was in Operational Research with the National Coal Board. Somehow this evolved into a varied career ultimately as Deputy Head at Langley Grammar School (Slough), before retiring in 2017.

I hereby declare the backgammon debt paid in full.
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, under No Bull 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.

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 decarbonize the College’s buildings to meet our Net Zero carbon target. The outgoing MCR President, Marina Liintzi (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.

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.

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 Neumman Wissar 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.

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 founded the Rugby XV to Cuppers victory in 1968.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.”

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 honored to join a community of scholars who share this passion for transformative inquiry.”

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.”

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 ICMM during the XLVII ICMM 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.

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 ICMM during the XLVII ICMM 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.

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.

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.”

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 honored to join a community of scholars who share this passion for transformative inquiry.”

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.”

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 ICMM during the XLVII ICMM 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.

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 ICMM during the XLVII ICMM 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.
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 realities in London, the people he competed against and the people criticising him. In the process, 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, populist. In 1737 he teamed up with Lampe (the bassoonist in Handel’s orchestra), to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria. In 1737, he teamed up with Lampe (the bassoonist in Handel’s orchestra), to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria.

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 of my professional life.

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.

Switzerland

Geneva

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

USA

Los Angeles

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

San Francisco

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 1946, while the most recent alum matriculated in 2009.

Dr John Andrews (1995)

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 realities in London, the people he competed against and the people criticising him. In the process, 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, populist. In 1737 he teamed up with Lampe (the bassoonist in Handel’s orchestra), to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria. In 1737, he teamed up with Lampe (the bassoonist in Handel’s orchestra), to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria, to write a piece satirising all of the pretentions of opera seria.

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 of my professional life.

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.

Switzerland

Geneva

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

USA

Los Angeles

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

San Francisco

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 1946, while the most recent alum matriculated in 2009.

Dr John Andrews (1995)
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-loved 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

By Georgia Box (2022, MPhil)

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 Queen’s 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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