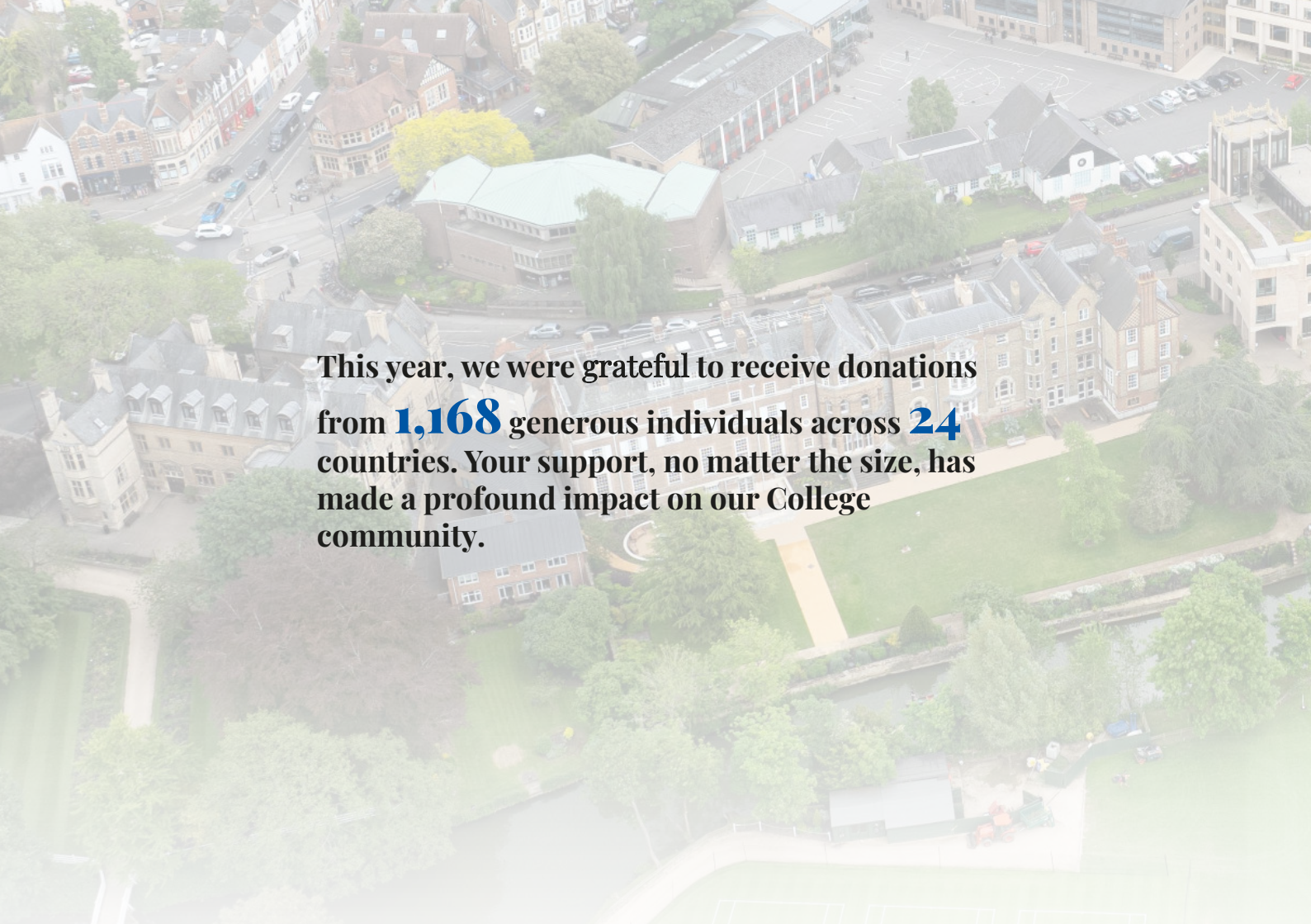


# Impact Report 2023/2024




St Hilda's College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

An aerial photograph of a college campus. The image shows a mix of historic stone buildings with gabled roofs and modern structures. There are large green lawns, trees, and a river or canal running through the lower right portion of the frame. A parking lot with several cars is visible in the upper right. The overall scene is a well-maintained educational environment.

**This year, we were grateful to receive donations from **1,168** generous individuals across **24** countries. Your support, no matter the size, has made a profound impact on our College community.**



An aerial photograph of the St Hilda's campus, showing various buildings, a large green lawn, and a river. A large, stylized blue letter 'W' is overlaid on the left side of the image, serving as a graphic element for the first paragraph.

Welcome to our Impact Report. This document is a testament to the incredible work being done by our students, staff, and alumnae at St Hilda's. It showcases the transformative power of education and the positive impact that your generosity has on our community.

At St Hilda's, we believe that education is more than just academic achievement. It's about nurturing curious minds, fostering a sense of belonging, and equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to make a difference in the world. Your support enables us to provide exceptional educational opportunities, from world-class teaching to innovative research projects.

Thank you for your continued generosity, especially during a period when costs have spiralled and undergraduate tuition fees have been frozen for much of the last decade. Your investment in St Hilda's helps us to create a brighter future for generations to come.

A small graphic illustration of an open book with red covers and a building with a brown roof, positioned above the signature.

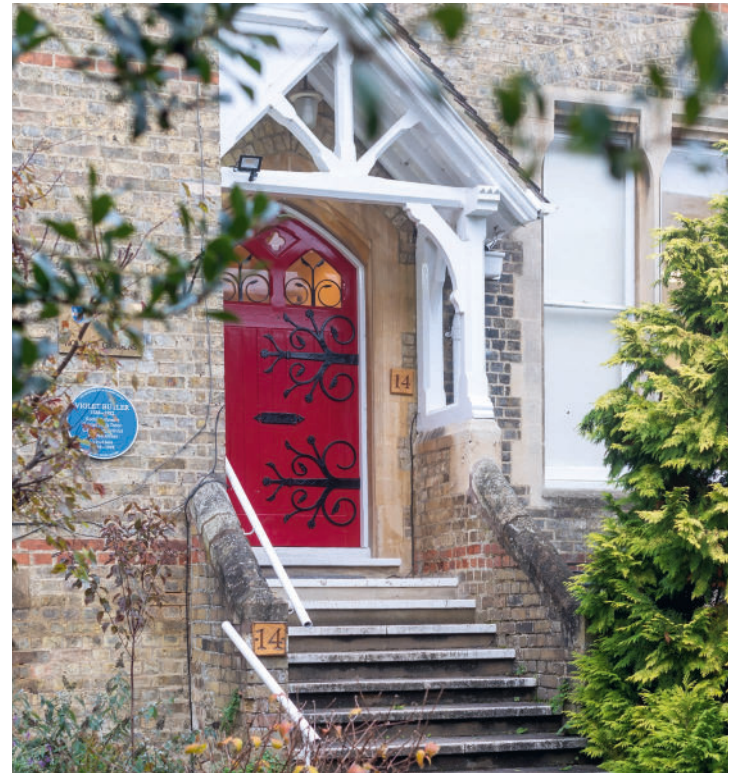
*Andrew Thomas*  
*Development Director and Fellow*

# Accommodation for All

During the last two years, the College has grown its stock of accommodation across the city by 25%, through the purchase of numbers 11 and 14-16 Norham Gardens, 38 St Giles', and, in September 2024, 39 St Margaret's Road. Combined with the Anniversary Building, this range of building acquisitions creates a total of 502 bedrooms and has enabled St Hilda's to reach its crucial goal of being able to house all undergraduate students for the duration of their degree, and supporting more of our graduate students.

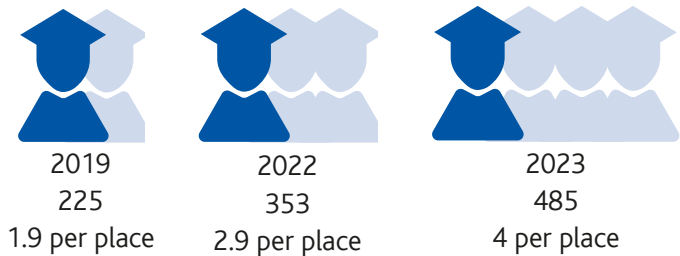
This has been achieved largely through the deployment of approximately half of the College's endowment towards property, diversifying the portfolio that had previously been based exclusively on financial investments. As a result, we are now able to provide accommodation to students at lower rents than are available within the private market. In addition, the College benefits from the rental income and from the rise in property values.

The ability to offer accommodation to all undergraduates has quickly impacted the appeal of the College, with applications per place doubling since 2019.



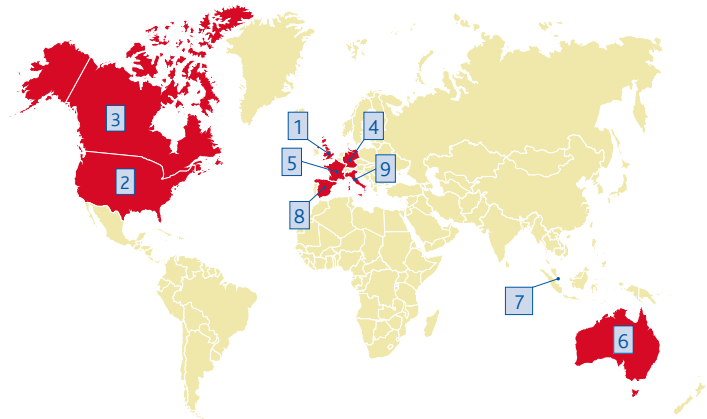
*14-16 Norham Gardens features a blue plaque to Violet Butler*

# Applicants to St Hilda's

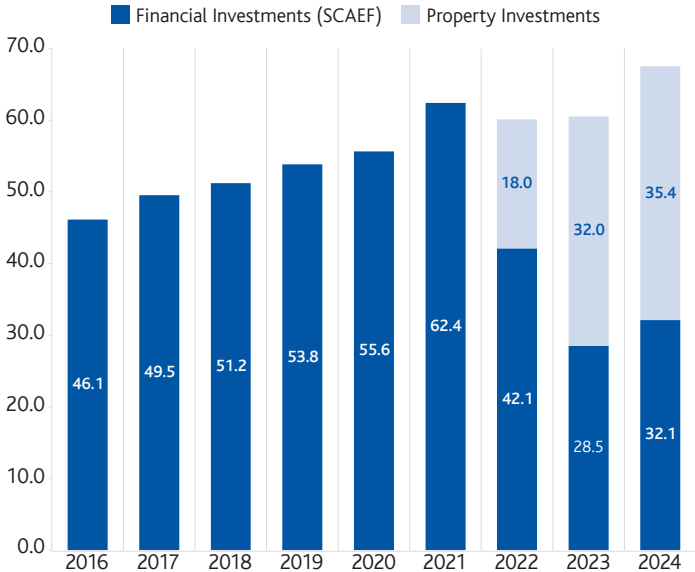


# Countries with the Most Donors

- |   |        |   |           |   |           |
|---|--------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | UK     | 4 | Germany   | 7 | Singapore |
| 2 | USA    | 5 | France    | 8 | Spain     |
| 3 | Canada | 6 | Australia | 9 | Italy     |



# Invested Endowment (£millions)



# Legacies

Every bequest to St Hilda's, no matter the size, provides vital funds to maintain and improve our student offering and experience, delivering a lasting impact for our College community and generations to come. Indeed, over the last ten years, bequests have accounted for more than half of the College's philanthropic income and placed St Hilda's amongst the top six Oxford Colleges over the period for this type of donation. Although significantly lower during the 2023/24 financial year, legacy income over the last four years has averaged £1,222,713 per annum.

The construction this year of a fully accessible entrance to the Kathleen Major Library, and wider much-needed renovation works to the Library, were made possible only through the generous legacy of the late Reverend Margaret Mabbs (History, 1942). A passionate, lifelong advocate for St Hilda's, Margaret made many generous gifts to support College appeals. Her final and largest gift to St Hilda's enabled us to take this significant step in sweeping away barriers to studying and access, so that for the first time in its history, the doors of the Kathleen Major Library stand open to all students, staff and visitors.

Alumnae and friends who have indicated that they have made a legacy gift to the College are invited to join the

St Hilda's Society. The Society currently has 360 members, representing a wide range of careers, backgrounds, ages and countries. As a member of the Society, you will be invited to our annual Society Feast. This year, St Hilda's Society members also enjoyed a visit to Radley Large Wood, where they planted our first tree since we took ownership of the woodland.

As a registered charity, St Hilda's pays no tax on gifts bequeathed in a legacy. This method of giving also has Inheritance Tax benefits for the legator.

If you are interested in remembering St Hilda's in your Will and becoming a member of the St Hilda's Society, please get in touch with Emma Campbell on 01865 610 330 or email [emma.campbell@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.campbell@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk).



## Legacies

360

current members of the St  
Hilda's Society

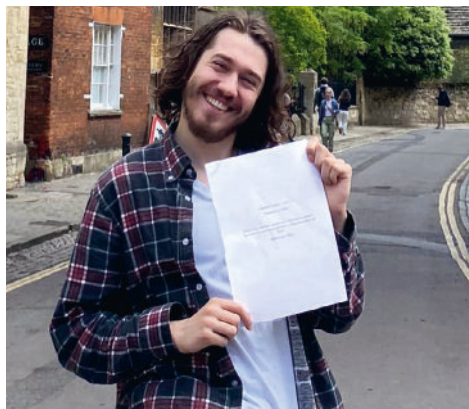
↑26%

in 2023/24 financial year



# Bursary Donations

Philanthropic support for bursaries at St Hilda's has increased this year by about 20%. Bursaries play a vital role in supporting our commitment to excellence and equality and are truly transformative for many of our students. These grants open doors to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, ensuring that talent and potential are nurtured, regardless of economic background. Here are some testimonials from the past year:



*Benjamin Wallis,  
recipient of the Rosalind Jane Bairstow Bursary*

Fieldwork is a main part of my doctoral project. St Hilda's Research & Travel Grant has helped me travel to the other side of the globe to observe, investigate, gather first-hand information, and engage with local governments and organisations for real-world impacts.

Shuo Gao

DPhil, Ecological Economics, 2020-2024

As an international student from a deeply working-class upbringing, the fees alone for a DPhil can be extremely daunting, with extra costs associated with conferences and archive visits being an immense burden on my already precarious finances. The generous funding of both the Travel Grant for Research and the K.O. Morgan Fund for Historians have allowed me to conduct the research essential to my DPhil and eased my financial concerns.

Anonymous

I didn't expect to be able to afford equipment needed to play sports while at St Hilda's, but the Extracurricular Grant made that possible. I am so grateful to the College for its generosity and attentiveness to students!

Alejandro Mantilla

MS, Nature, Society and Environmental Governance, 2023- 2024

# High Notes

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, the impact of this unique facility and all those generous donors in the 1990s who made it possible has been profound. During two of the last three years, St Hilda's has had the highest number of undergraduate applicants to study Music across the Oxford Colleges. Having a dedicated space to rehearse, experiment and perform has been a huge factor in this emergence.

The JdP is home to a broad spectrum of artistic genres, including dance and cinema. A love of music and creative expression has become a key feature of College life, whether it be Thursday lunchtime concerts performed by our own students or rehearsals and performances by the College's 46-strong Choir. This has included the annual Founder's Day Service, College Carol Concert, Carols on the Stairs, Come and Sing in the University Church (this year featuring Mozart's Requiem as part of our ninth such event) and a vibrant programme of dance co-ordinated by DANSOX.

Generous donors have helped to make much of this possible, including the Louisa Hemming Fund, which has supported eight Choral Scholarships this year. The St Hilda's Music Scholarship received a record 13 applicants and the largest audience in recent memory to witness the selection of



*Betty Zhaoyi Yan (soprano) and Jennifer (piano), lunchtime recital in the JdP*

its recipient, Oliver Simpson (Music, 2023) who is an outstanding young cellist.

The JdP is also treasured by the wider Oxford community, not only for its fantastic programme of concerts and dance events, but also for the monthly cushion concerts for younger audiences and the 'Turtle Song' series for people living with dementia.



# Building for the Future

With the acquisition of several new buildings, the College has needed to manage a range of structural or decorative refurbishments and upgrades. It has been an exciting if challenging process to integrate these new facilities as quickly as possible for student occupation and for our burgeoning conference trade, which has now grown to a turnover of £2.3m per annum, from a figure half this prior to the pandemic. The combination of modern riverside facilities, more traditional city-centre venues and fantastic gardens at all of our properties means that greater capacity and flexibility is available for many types of client.



*Alumnae, Zoe Johnson KC and James Lingfield at the opening of the Kathleen Major Library Extension*

The College is especially proud of its commitment to equality through the provision of fully accessible spaces. The construction and opening of a new accessible entrance to the Kathleen Major Library is a vital project within this journey and has helped to transform the user experience for all students. The scheme, formally opened in May 2024, has provided for a sloped access path, new reception area, office space, dedicated Law Library and study booths, as well as the relocation of the Anne Elliott Memorial Garden. We have also taken the opportunity to upgrade many of the paths across the main College site with a resin-bound accessible surface.



*The Anne Elliott Memorial Garden*

# Perfect Chemistry



The endowment of a joint Associate Professor Tutorial Fellowship in Chemistry by one generous donor has enabled us to enhance our teaching provision to St Hilda's students and, at the same time, create a new opportunity within the University for a theoretical chemist. The post is currently held by Dr David Tew, who teaches Physical Chemistry to

St Hilda's undergraduates, lectures within the Department on quantum chemistry, and leads a research group developing theoretical methods for understanding chemistry through computer simulation.

With thanks to Dr Tew and our Peacock Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry, Professor Lorna Smith, St Hilda's Chemistry students are thriving. This year, four St Hilda's undergraduate students won prizes at the Department of Chemistry Michaelmas term prize-giving:

- Lizzy Hardy: prize for one of the best performances in the Practical Chemistry course

- Ruiying Jane Jiang: runner-up prize for the best Inorganic Chemistry Part II Thesis
- Edward Johnston: prize for the best Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Part II Thesis
- Mrinal Sharan: prize for the top performance in the Chemistry Prelim Examinations

We are immensely grateful to our donor for their continued and generous support of St Hilda's and the University.



## Regular Giving

**861**

donors gave a recurring gift

**£29.17**

average monthly gift

# Tutor Spotlight

We are grateful to past and present benefactors who have helped to underpin the costs associated with our world-class community of academics. 43% of those core costs are covered by philanthropy. Although the inflationary pressures of recent times, and the addition of several new posts, means that we must seek to raise this target to at least 50%.

A key appointment that the College has made during this year has been Dr Matty Hoban, the first Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science at St Hilda's College and an Associate Professor of Quantum Computing in the Department of Computer Science.

Before joining the university, Dr Hoban worked at the quantum computing company, Quantinuum. Quantinuum is a 'full-stack' organisation, combining software with high-fidelity hardware to advance quantum computing while also developing solutions for rapidly scaling quantum computing.

Dr Hoban worked in the Quantum Cryptography team, which helped develop the product called Quantum Origin: a platform for creating quantum-computing-hardened keys for encryption.

"There is a growing need to verify quantum-ness, especially when we utilise remote computers via the cloud. How can

one ascertain if a cloud system being used is genuinely quantum? As classical computers continue to enhance their capabilities, they can, to some extent, simulate quantum phenomena. Efficient verification becomes imperative. Verifying a quantum computer is a formidable task, given the challenge of measuring the state of a quantum device without disrupting it."

Dr Hoban is equally enthusiastic about equipping individuals with the skills needed for the quantum computing industry.

"Recruitment within the quantum computing industry is a formidable challenge. Meaningful contributions to the field necessitate a robust mathematical aptitude, a comprehension of theoretical physics, problem-solving skills, and proficiency in systems design. I am delighted to be at the University and involved in teaching at St Hilda's College, fostering the next generation of professionals in this field."

If you would like to support the Tutorial Fellowship in Computer Science at St Hilda's, or posts in any other subject, please contact the Development Office ([development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk)).





# Events

We have been thrilled to welcome so many alumnae and friends to events at the College and locations around the world during the last year. The programme has been re-shaped following the hiatus of the pandemic, although plans are in place to restore the online events that emerged during that time so that all alumnae can better connect with the College from afar.



## 2025 Events Calendar

**25 January 2025** – Sue Lloyd-Roberts Lecture

**26 February 2025** – Helen Grindrod Lecture

**1 May 2025** – May Morning

**16 May 2025** – 60th, 65th, 70th Anniversary Reunions

**28 June 2025** – 10th, 20th, 25th Anniversary Reunions

**29 June 2025** – St Hilda's Garden Party

**20-21 September 2025** – 30th, 40th, 50th, 55th Anniversary Reunions and Gaudy



**Events**

**15**

Alumnae events in  
2023/24

**1,155**  
attendees



Scan me for more events



# Giving Circles

The College has established a family of recognition circles through which we work to acknowledge the contributions that our alumnae and friends have made during their lifetimes. It is remarkable how modest but regular gifts can quickly accumulate over several years, especially with the added impact of Gift Aid (in the UK). Whatever your pattern and scale of giving, the College is deeply grateful, and qualifying donors will be advised directly of the benefits and opportunities that each circle/society presents.

Thank you again for your generous support.

1893 Society



£1,000+

Ammonite Circle

£10,000+



Estoile Circle

£100,000+



Unicorn Circle

£250,000+



Foundation Fellowship

£1,000,000+









Make a gift



# St Hilda's College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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