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After an eventful and rewarding year, I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of the St Hilda’s Annual Review. As you’ll see, we have plenty to celebrate.

Reflecting the College’s academic prowess, our new Senior Tutor comments on our continued success in Final Honour Schools, and on the encouraging level of engagement within our new access strategy. As well as the internationally renowned research specialisms of our Fellows, St Hilda’s intellectual community has been enriched by the appointment of five Junior Research Fellows. You can find out more about their promising investigations on pages 8-10.

At the heart of our 125th Anniversary Campaign is our mission to make the most of our riverside site, transforming our College to create the best possible environment in which research brilliance can be shared and great thinking and teaching can thrive. Following an international design competition, we have selected an award-winning team of architects who have been working on exciting plans for three new buildings that will shape the future of St Hilda’s. Still at concept stage, their progress is charted on pages 12-13.

St Hilda’s prides itself on fostering vibrant and supportive undergraduate and graduate communities. The JCR and MCR programmes of talks, seminars and social events and practical initiatives reflect the global questions of the day, cross-pollinating academic interests, our commitment to an egalitarian society unencumbered by racist and sexist attitudes, and, of course, to having fun. You’ll find out more on pages 4-7, where you can also read more about our exceptional sporting achievements on the river and field.

As before, our Applause pages bring you highlights from the lives of our alumnae, from new book publications to recognition for exemplary entrepreneurship. It is always inspiring to see how much St Hilda’s graduates are achieving in the wider world. Your continued involvement and support for St Hilda’s is fundamental to shaping the College’s future, and the future of our students and Fellows.

“Creating the best environment in which research brilliance can be shared and great thinking and teaching can thrive.”
Highlights through the year

Recognition of Distinction Awards

Our academics did particularly well at this year’s Recognition of Distinction Awards, run by the University. Dmitry Filatov (Tutorial Fellow) has been awarded the title of Professor of Evolutionary Genetics. In addition, two of our College Lecturers have been recognised: Martyn Harry (Music) is now the Professor of Composition and Petros Ligoxygakis (Biology & Biomedicine) is the Professor of Innate Immunology.

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians

Jane Mellanby (Emeritus Fellow) has been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, one of the highest accolades a member of the medical profession can receive. Professor Mellanby has been recognised for her 40 years of teaching, as well as for her research, initially in Neurochemistry and later in education.

Drama Society First

The Drama Society performed The Picture of Dorian Gray, and became the first student production in Oxford to be livestreamed to an audience via the internet.

Oxford Literary Festival

Seven years on, St Hilda’s continues to be the only college with a dedicated day of alumnae speakers at the FT Weekend Oxford Literary Festival. This year’s exciting and varied programme included speakers on Roman poetry, short stories, foot binding, and fictional Watteau paintings.

St Hilda’s Mystery and Crime Conference

Examining “The Question of Genre: What is Crime Fiction?”, speakers at this year’s crime conference examined the many arenas that crime fiction covers: the police detective, historical, ‘hard-boiled’, clerical, classical fairy tales, domestic, the golden age gems, the light-hearted, and the crossover – romance & crime. Acclaimed author, Lee Child, was Guest of Honour and gave the Conference Lecture.

Come and Sing

Last February, alumnae, students, staff and Fellows came together to perform Mozart’s wonderful ‘Coronation’ Mass, K317 at the University Church, before returning to St Hilda’s for a banquet in the dining hall.
Emotions and the Brain
An interdisciplinary workshop in the JdP Music Building looked at emotions from the point of view of Philosophy, Psychology, Medicine and Neuroscience. Four speakers provided insight into how their disciplines study emotions.

P D James English Event
Renowned poet Wendy Cope OBE (History, 1963) read and spoke about her poetry to English students and alumnae, before joining them for drinks and dinner.

Hell and Crumpets
Alumnae and friends got together in March for afternoon tea at the historic Lansdowne Club, where Dr Margaret Kean, Helen Gardner Fellow in English, continued her discussion on Hell and introduced her book *Inferno: A Cultural History of Hell*.

Research events
As ever, St Hilda’s is a bustling hive of research activity, with exploration of the usual wide variety of topics including dance, bilingualism, criminology, gender equality, social mobility and many, many more. Read more and meet our new Junior Research Fellows on pages 8-10.

Sporting successes
Our sportswomen and men had a highly successful Hilary Term, with a highlight being the College’s first ever double blades in Torpids. Meanwhile, off the river, Quilda’s (joint St Hilda’s and Queen’s women’s hockey team) won Cuppers again, thanks to a sterling performance in the final against several Blues players on the St Catz team. Our rugby, football and netball teams have been working hard too, and all feel that they have made great improvements over the last year.

2015 Gaudy
In September more than 200 alumnae and friends gathered for a programme of reunions, talks, performances and fine dining. The Principal opened the day with a presentation on the College, highlights of the past academic year and some exciting and ambitious plans for the future, including the major building programme. The afternoon celebrated the past, first through a screening of the latest Living History film, documenting the experiences of St Hilda’s students during World War Two, then by means of a dramatic reading of the correspondence between Barbara Pym and Philip Larkin by Triona Adams (English, 1993) and Tony Guilfoyle. The evening closed with a Gala Dinner, featuring Val McDermid’s (English, 1972) moving tribute to P D James.

Frederick Ashton: Steps, Stories, Style.
In a special DANSOX guest lecture given in March, distinguished guest lecturer, Alastair Macaulay (Chief Dance Critic, New York Times) discussed the life and work of Britain’s great twentieth-century choreographer in a sparkling illustrated talk, with particular emphasis on Ashton's contemporary exploitation of classical traditions, as well as the narrative, comedic and modernist abstraction of his diverse styles.
Our Undergraduates

It is with great pleasure that I joined St Hilda’s College in January 2016 as the new Senior Tutor. Having worked within the Collegiate University for the last 16 years, my overriding impression of St Hilda’s has always been one of a friendly and enlightened College. After my arrival, what I encountered in addition to this was an incredible commitment from the students, and the staff, to our motto of excellence and equality.

Academic Achievements

The continued high level of achievement over the last academic year at St Hilda’s is testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, and of all the academic and non-academic staff that tutor and assist them. At the start of the academic year many students received recognition from the College for their hard work last year; 25 students were awarded Scholarships, and 15 Exhibitions, all of which were celebrated at a Scholars’ and Exhibitioners’ Dinner in Hilary Term.

More recently this year the University has recognised St Hilda’s students’ accomplishments with University Prizes for Prelim and and Final Honour School performance. We are also very pleased that the FHS results for 2015/16 are in keeping with last year’s outstanding performance, with 26% of finalists achieving 1st class degrees, 66% 2.1s and only 8% 2.2s. Our two year average rate of a 1st or 2:i degree is now 95%. This is an impressive outcome within a large college which has a diverse student background.

Enhanced Access Initiatives

Our new access strategy has been running for a year and is showing a remarkable level of engagement with state schools within our allocated outreach region. We have taken a very targeted approach to supporting students through developing new in-school programmes and educational ‘hubs’ supported by the College in key schools, to give these students the skills as well as the aspiration to apply to Oxford and other Russell Group universities.

To date, our Recruitment & Schools Programmes Officer, Hannah Rolley, has visited more than 4,000 students in our target region, and hosted more than 400 student visits to the college. This is all in addition to attending UCAS & Oxbridge Higher Education conferences, hosting teacher events in schools as well as subject open days and UNIQ events in College.

In summary, this year has seen excellent academic achievement and a significant increase in our “equality of access” activity. We want the very best for our students, regardless of their background, and we will go to great lengths to support them. We are committed to providing a strongly academic, highly enjoyable, and supportive foundation for success by all our students; we want to see our students accomplish their academic goals when they are with us and flourish in their future careers once they leave us.

“...we will go to great lengths to support them”

The number of enrolled students during 2015/16

- 610 students following 3-year or 4-year undergraduate degree courses
- 401 students carrying out research for doctorates
- 109 students studying Clinical Medicine
- 83 students following 1-year or 2-year graduate courses

26% 1st class degrees
66% 2.1 degrees
8% 2.2 degrees

Undergraduates in secondary schools when applying to the College

- UK maintained schools: 40
- UK independent schools: 32
- Non-UK schools: 28
JCR President’s report

2015-2016 has been an active and exciting year for the JCR with a number of projects in the works. The first St Hilda’s alternative prospectus written by students was published, we had a record year of sporting achievement, and the JCR community remains one of the friendliest and most engaged student communities in Oxford.

I am sure those who attended events as part of St Hilda’s Gender Equality Festival will agree that a great array of engaging and informative events were enjoyed by many. A number of new themed weeks have been introduced throughout the terms including Disability Awareness Week, Green Week and Feel-Good Fortnight.

This year was the first year of the offices of Disabled Students Officer and Officer for People of Colour and Racial Equality. These posts were filled by very enthusiastic members of the JCR who worked very hard to shape the roles.

The St Hilda’s Divestment Campaign submitted a paper to College and were pleased with the receptive response. We are looking forward to more action in the year ahead towards making the College funds fossil fuel free.

A big worry for students now and going forward is the provision of accommodation throughout the upcoming redevelopment and building projects. We are grateful to all who worked hard to come up with a solution to accommodation issues this year and hope that St Hilda’s continues to ensure the experience of current students is a priority.

From the report by MOLLIE MacGINTY
JCR President 2015-16

“The Rachel McLean award ceremony was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of students who show off the College and raise its profile within the University.”
David Parton, third year Law

“From canapés to a Taylor Swift tribute act, everything at the College Ball was on point. Congratulations to Emma Whyte and team!”
Shasta Kaul, second year PPE

“Having only been in existence since 2009, Hilda’s rugby team reached its first ever 15s final in Trinity 2016, an achievement that was greatly celebrated as such a young club.”
Blake Lewis, rugby Captain and second year Law

“Congratulations to Hannah Judge for creating a wonderful, colourful, welcoming alternative prospectus which really captures the spirit of Hilda’s.”
Hatty Jenner, second year French

Congratulations

Joshua Chan  
FHS Economics and Management  
Proxime Accessit Gibbs Prize

Peter Evans  
FHS Modern Languages  
David McLintock Prize in Germanic Philology

Carolina Faggion  
PPE Prelims  
Proxime Accessit Gibbs First Public Exam Prize in Politics

Isobel Galwey  
Oriental Studies Prelims  
Junior Dudbridge Prize for Classical Chinese Paper

Brett Larder  
FHS Physics  
Scott Prize for best performance in the MPhys examination

David Meijers  
FHS PPL  
Gibbs Prize for best Psychological Studies Practical Portfolio

Ela Portnoy  
PPL Prelims  
Proxime Accessit for the Stephen Parkinson prize for best performance in Linguistics Prelims

Philip Warren  
FHS Physics  
Gibbs Prize for BA Group Project Presentation
Our Graduates

St Hilda’s graduates have achieved much this year, including graduate led and organised public research events in Law and Linguistics and winning international conference prizes in Chemistry.

In 2016 we appointed the first St Hilda’s graduate scholarships created jointly with the University’s Clarendon scheme.

Current awards are:
- St Hilda’s Social Sciences Clarendon Award 1yr, **Miriam Walker**. Course: Master of Public Policy.
- Mary Francis Wagley Clarendon Award 4yr, **Mpho Makola**. Course: Systems Approaches to Biomedical Science CDT.
- Griffiths Memorial Scholarship 1yr, **Rebecca Menmuir**. Course: MSt in English.

We also celebrated the graduation of our first cohort of medical students to complete all 6 years at St Hilda’s since opening the College to the clinical years in 2012, and have set up the Jenny Tyrrell Bursary Fund (www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jenny-tyrrell-bursary-fund) to help support their medical elective travel.

The MCR Committee provided a program ranging from movie evenings to welfare brunches, as well as putting together three lively internal MCR research events, details of which can be found archived e.g. (www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/content/middle-common-room-poster-event).

Prizes were awarded to top speakers from the Principal’s Fund. Senior Members are welcome to attend these events; please contact the Development Office for details and to register.

“MCR members presented their research to their peers. The multidisciplinary nature of the audience ensured that the discussion opened up for the speakers striking new perspectives on their own research.”

“Exchange dinners are a great way to meet students from other colleges and to experience different college atmospheres.”

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PHILIPPA HULLEY**
Fellow in Biomedical Sciences and Tutor for Graduates
MCR Overview:

2015-2016 has been a year in which great change has seemed to be on the horizon for St Hilda’s.

The most obvious sign of this change-to-come has, of course, been the proposed redesign of key College buildings. The chosen architect’s designs promise not only to modernise St Hilda’s, introducing crucial features such as disability access to the MCR and Vernon Harcourt Room, but also to make the College into a striking landmark from multiple vantage points around Oxford. All of this will ensure that the College offers the most stimulating and comfortable environment possible for students and staff.

Change was also in the air for the MCR. Committee members have not only been in discussion with College officials and architects about the kind of physical space the MCR would like to have after the redevelopment: under the leadership of President Kameron St Clare, they also redrafted the conceptual core of the MCR: its constitution. The new constitution updated the remits of current committee members, created new posts representing specific minority groups, and updated the election process. It is hoped that these changes will lead to an even more efficient and inclusive common room.

In terms of both academic and social events, the MCR has been very busy. Our Academic Officer, Dan Kohn, organised two research symposiums and a poster display, in which MCR members presented their research to their peers. The multidisciplinary nature of the audience ensured that the discussion opened up for the speakers striking new perspectives on their own research.

The Principal also addressed a talk on academic and non-academic careers to the MCR, which was both illuminating and entertaining. Indeed, there have been plenty of opportunities for fun and entertainment this year: Vice President James Smythies and Social Secretaries Hannah Dury and Chris Sharwood organised three exchange dinners per term, two MCR guest nights, various sports outings, movie nights, wine and cheese evenings and – in conjunction with the Development Office and the Kojo Minta Fund – a very well-attended Thanksgiving Dinner which raised £510 for this important charity. They also organised a wonderful ‘Cocktail and Ceilidh Evening’, the proceeds of which were all donated to the Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. Finally, in case this whirlwind of social events proved too much, our Welfare Officers Julie Dequaire and Nasir Ahmad organised relaxing fortnightly Sunday welfare brunches which are now a well-loved MCR tradition at St Hilda’s.

All these events were made enjoyable by the enthusiasm and friendliness of MCR members. Last Saturday we hosted the first MCR bop of this new academic year; the theme ‘H for Hilda’s’ invited attendees to dress up as something beginning with that letter. As Hubble telescopes, Hawaiian shirts and mobile hedges bopped around the JCR bar, it was clear that this year is going to be as enjoyable as the last for Hilda’s MCR.

From the report by
HANNAH BOWER
MCR Secretary 2015-17
St Hilda’s remains a leading centre of research, exploring a large and diverse range of subjects. We have been delighted this year to welcome our first Associate Research Fellows, who will greatly enhance the College’s research profile through their work in Chemistry, Criminology and Medicine. Alongside these appointments and those of new Junior Research Fellows, St Hilda’s continues to offer an exciting programme of research events, including a seminar on the legal history of French wine, a workshop on ‘Emotions and the Brain’, and several dance talks and performances featuring internationally renowned experts.

Dr Julie Farguson, Lecturer in Early Modern History, has been awarded a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship for 2016/7 by the Humanities Division.

Dr Laura Paterson (a member of the St Hilda’s SCR) working as a TORCH research associate with Professor Todd and the Mind the Gap Equalities Research Network, has been awarded a British Academy postdoctoral fellowship, for outstanding Early Career Scholars.

Tyler Shendruk, former Junior Research Fellow in Physics, leaves St Hilda’s to take up his new post as Fellow in the Center for Studies in Physics and Biology at Rockefeller University.

Professor Julia Yeomans FRS, Fellow in Physics, is part of a team carrying out groundbreaking research on harnessing bacteria’s natural movement to power microscopic engines.

Read more about our research at www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/research.

Developing new tools for early assessment of brain maturation during pregnancy

Dr Ana Namburete

Ultrasound imaging is amongst the first steps in a continuum of pregnancy care. Although ultrasound machines are increasingly available in low-income settings, the lack of suitably trained sonographers presents a significant roadblock for delivery of safe and reliable prenatal care. As a Junior Research Fellow at St Hilda’s College, Dr Namburete’s research focuses on creating computational algorithms to enhance the diagnostic value of sonographic images. Through her work, she aims to establish ultrasound as a cost-effective tool for early assessment of brain maturation during pregnancy. To this end, she is creating a digital map (atlas) of the fetal brain at different stages in pregnancy for the purpose of pre-birth diagnosis of conditions such as malnutrition and fetal alcohol syndrome. The algorithms provide a fully-automated solution, requiring minimal reliance on trained specialists.

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this work aims to provide appropriate engineering solutions to clinical needs of the developing world. This year, Dr Namburete was awarded one of seven prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) Research Fellowships in the UK. These Fellowships provide support to outstanding early career researchers for five years to establish independent research groups. With her RAEng Fellowship, Dr Namburete has secured additional funding through the UK government’s Global Research Challenges scheme to form links and knowledge exchange between Africa- and UK-based scientists.
On the track of ancient viruses

Dr Amr Aswad

The genetic information of all living things – known as ‘the genome’ – encodes the blueprints for that organism, as well as the means by which it will operate throughout its life. A complete copy of this genome is found in each cell, including in the sperm and egg cells that go on to create the next generation. When an organism is infected by a virus (e.g. the common cold, ebola, or HIV), this parasitic creature hijacks some cells to merge their genetic information with the genome of its host. In doing so, it reprograms the cell to stop doing its normal job and start making viruses instead. In some rare cases, these infections can happen in sperm or egg cells, meaning that they become accidentally inherited along with the rest of an animal’s genes, being maintained for millions of years.

Retrospectively, we can examine the genomes of living things (including our own) to identify these tiny footprints of ancient infections. In a sense, these bits of ancient viral genome act as a window into the past, helping us reconstruct what viruses once looked like. This is very useful indeed because, unlike other organisms, viruses do not leave behind any fossils for us to draw conclusions from. Up to 8% of the human genome is composed of these ancient viruses, which act as a historical archive of viruses that have long since gone extinct!

Part of my research involves finding ways to identify them, because like dinosaur bones, many of these viral traces are degraded and barely recognisable. As well as this, I am particularly excited about researching what possible influences these ancient relics might have on our biology (whether good or bad!). For example, we know that in some cases, these ancient viruses perform very important functions to do with pregnancy – but conversely, some people believe that they could contribute to diseases such as cancer. My most recent publication was an investigation into the history of monkey viruses, where I discovered an ancient family of unique viruses that may have crossed over from rodents.

Extracellular Vesicles and Stroke: the Hunt for Tiny Messengers

Dr Yvonne Couch

When you have a stroke, your whole body knows about it, not just your brain. But the thing is, we don’t really know how this happens. If you decide to wave at a person you know across the street, your brain sends signals via your nerves to your hand and arm muscles to tell them to wave; similarly if you step on a pin, your foot sends signals via nerves to your brain to tell it that pain is happening. But if your brain is injured, the signals that escape don’t go via the nerves, they use other routes. One of these routes might be using things called extracellular vesicles as tiny messengers.

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are little fragments of cell membrane that look like tiny bubbles. These are between one tenth and one one-hundredth the size of a single cell. They can come from the surface of the cell, or they can come from within the cell. Until around 10 years ago, these vesicles were thought of as debris – junk that cells made but that didn’t do anything. Now we know that these act as messengers between cells, conveying key information.

My work aims to find out whether these vesicles are involved in what happens to your body after you have a stroke. One of the major events post-stroke is activation of the immune system, both in the brain, and in the rest of the body, and this can have serious consequences, even make the outcome of the stroke worse. My theory is that extracellular vesicles are released from the brain and contain information which causes the immune system to become activated. How they do this and whether they can be stopped, or even if we need to stop them, remain to be discovered. The hunt for tiny messengers continues; watch this space.
The sources and value of self-knowledge

Dr Casey Doyle

Dr Casey Doyle works at the intersections of philosophy of mind and epistemology, the study of knowledge. Most of his research to date has focused on the sources and value of self-knowledge. At St Hilda’s he has been working on papers on testimony, on the role of consciousness in providing us knowledge of our beliefs, and self-deception. A central concern of his has been the question of why we find it intuitively objectionable or odd to gain self-knowledge and moral knowledge by testimony. He has recently presented on this topic for both the College philosophy symposium and the Principal’s Research Seminar. He is also in the process of editing an anthology on the epistemology of perception and organising a conference on self-knowledge.

Investigating responsibility and social injustice

Dr Maeve McKeown

Many people think about what responsibilities they have in relation to global injustices, like poverty or sweatshop labour. This is an urgent question, but it is extremely difficult to answer. The political theorist Iris Marion Young offered a solution in her final works before her untimely death in 2006. She argued that ordinary individuals bear political responsibility for global injustices, rather than being guilty. Guilt implies that an individual directly caused harm, intended to cause harm and knew the consequences of their actions. However, this does not apply when ordinary individuals participate in everyday practices that cumulatively lead to unjust outcomes. Instead, she argues that they share a forward-looking responsibility to engage in collective action to overcome unjust socio-economic, political and cultural structures to which they are connected. She calls this the “social connection model” of responsibility. Young did not finish her work on this theory, and so in my work I try to address some of the gaps in the project and address objections to it. I also apply the theory to historical injustices, including reparations for slavery.

Investigating Social Mobility

Professor Selina Todd
Vice Principal 2013-16 and Fellow in Modern History

Politicians often assume that social mobility is a Good Thing. But we know very little about what makes social mobility happen — or whether it is in fact beneficial, either for individuals or for society as a whole. And, although we have excellent statistics on men’s social mobility over the past century, we know far less about how far women experienced mobility, or what it meant to them.

This research project aims to change that. My grant from the John Fell Research Fund has enabled me to uncover and examine the unknown history of social mobility in Britain since 1900. The grant has enabled me to work with Mass Observation — a major social research organisation based in Brighton — to issue a detailed questionnaire about the experience of social mobility to hundreds of people.

We already have some fascinating preliminary findings. Very few working-class people, or lower-middle-class women, achieved upward social mobility during the past century. This was not due to a lack of aspiration or family support – most parents were keen to give their children a better education or the chance of more interesting work than they had had – but to a lack of opportunity. When educational or professional opportunities are limited to only a few “bright” individuals, or to those who can pay, most people cannot benefit from them, however much they might want to. Those who did experience those opportunities often felt ambivalent about the losses that moving ‘up’ the social ladder entailed.

It is clear that upward social mobility was largely due to the expansion of welfare-related occupations, thanks to the growth of the welfare state in 20th century Britain, and this helps explain why rates of upward social mobility increased after the Second World War. Downward social mobility occurred most frequently as a result of unemployment, though in the case of women, the death of their husband could also precipitate them from middle-class life into poverty until surprisingly late in the last century.

Women emerge as determined pioneers. They often had to show great imagination and resilience to create opportunities for themselves and their daughters. Those who wanted professional careers tended to consider working there. This was the case where employers might be open-minded about recruitment – or might be forced to rely on women because their male counterparts were not prepared to consider working there. This was the case at the early BBC, for example, and in many parts of the welfare state.

This research project is ongoing (it will eventually be published as a book entitled Snakes and Ladders by Chatto and Windus). I’m currently researching the most surprising element of the study — the importance of the labour movement. It provided education and professional employment for generations of trade unionists and aspiring politicians, but also questioned whether social mobility for the few might occur at the expense of equality for the many. It is a debate that still resonates today.
During the past year, through legacy gifts, regular giving and support for special appeals and bursaries, our alumnae and friends once again made an outstanding contribution to the College. St Hilda’s is deeply grateful for the £1.8 million in philanthropic support received during 2015 – 2016. Donations included several legacy gifts that will assist with the early stages of the 125th Anniversary Campaign and our ambitious plans for new buildings.

As we work with volunteers on the 125th Anniversary Campaign Boards in the UK and the US on the quiet phase of a major fundraising initiative for our anniversary year (and beyond), we must focus on the most urgent priorities for the College – buildings and facilities. St Hilda’s currently offers less than 60% of undergraduates a College room; in this respect we lag well behind the other former women’s colleges in Oxford. Accommodation issues affect access; current and prospective students are acutely aware of the difference that a College room makes to their finances and to their overall experience of Oxford. In financial terms a College room is like a bursary, it saves each student at least £1,000 per year compared with the private rental market. There are other important benefits too from being close to the excellent pastoral care and the study facilities that are available on site. St Hilda’s has worked steadily to develop access pathways through its highly-regarded Schools Recruitment and Liaison programme. This support must continue once students arrive in College, and throughout their time at Oxford, if they are to achieve their potential.

**Making a difference**

Over the next year, we invite all our alumnae to contribute to the College to build the momentum for our 125th Anniversary Campaign. For those who have not given recently, we ask that you consider expressing your support for all the College has accomplished and seeks to accomplish.

Please be assured that your gift, no matter what the amount, is greatly appreciated! Gifts can be made online at www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/donate.

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Please be assured that your gift, no matter what the amount, is greatly appreciated! Gifts can be made online at www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/donate.

**Supporting St Hilda’s**

During the past year, through legacy gifts, regular giving and support for special appeals and bursaries, our alumnae and friends once again made an outstanding contribution to the College. St Hilda’s is deeply grateful for the £1.8 million in philanthropic support received during 2015 – 2016. Donations included several legacy gifts that will assist with the early stages of the 125th Anniversary Campaign and our ambitious plans for new buildings.

As we work with volunteers on the 125th Anniversary Campaign Boards in the UK and the US on the quiet phase of a major fundraising initiative for our anniversary year (and beyond), we must focus on the most urgent priorities for the College – buildings and facilities. St Hilda’s currently offers less than 60% of undergraduates a College room; in this respect we lag well behind the other former women’s colleges in Oxford. Accommodation issues affect access; current and prospective students are acutely aware of the difference that a College room makes to their finances and to their overall experience of Oxford. In financial terms a College room is like a bursary, it saves each student at least £1,000 per year compared with the private rental market. There are other important benefits too from being close to the excellent pastoral care and the study facilities that are available on site. St Hilda’s has worked steadily to develop access pathways through its highly-regarded Schools Recruitment and Liaison programme. This support must continue once students arrive in College, and throughout their time at Oxford, if they are to achieve their potential.

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The total financial commitment required to develop the two sites that make up our 125th Anniversary’s capital development plan is £35 million. To allow building to get underway without delay, we must raise an initial £15 million.
Across two sites, three distinctive new buildings will transform our College environment.

Central to our plans is the creation of 125 new rooms for student accommodation. The building programme will also create new seminar and lecture rooms as well as a new Middle Common Room and College chapel.

These will have a far reaching impact upon our academic community, contributing to the profile of St Hilda’s as a world-class centre of teaching and research and providing an excellent environment for our students to flourish.

Please note this is not a building design. It is an architectural mapping exercise to show how many rooms could be here.
Applause!

Revd Canon Brian Mountford has been appointed MBE for services to ecclesiastical heritage, following his tireless work to restore the University Church. Canon Mountford has served as St Hilda’s College Chaplain for many years, in addition to his duties as Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin.

Jayne Almond (PPE, 1975 and Honorary Fellow) has been appointed to the board of FTSE 250 group International Personal Finance, as an independent non-executive director.


Both Kate Barker (PPE, 1976) and Deirdre Trapp (PPE, 1980) feature in City AM’s ‘Power 100 Women’, celebrating the most influential women in the City.


Family Values by Wendy Cope (History, 1963) features in The Telegraph’s 15 Best Poetry Books of All Time, which describes the book as ‘perhaps her best collection to date’.

Denise Cush (Theology, 1972) has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Theology at Uppsala.

Laura Cumming (English, 1979): The Vanishing Man: In Pursuit of Velázquez, a riveting detective story and tribute to the painter.

Kate Dempsey (Physics, 1980): The Space Between. Kate’s debut collection of poetry has been 15 years in the making, with many of the individual poems having been published internationally.


Susan Greenfield (PPP, 1970 and Honorary Fellow) featured in British documentary photographer Alison Baskerville’s latest work Women Create Change. Baroness Greenfield was selected for her work in neuroscience and as the first female director of the Royal Institution.

Anna Hall (English, 1987) has been shortlisted for this year’s Grierson Award for ‘Best Documentary on a Contemporary Theme – Domestic’, for her work on Behind Closed Doors. She also won a Royal Television Society Award for her excellent documentary Forced Marriage Cops.

Ruth Hunt (English, 1998) appears on the BNP Paribas Pride Power List 2016, for her hard work in campaigning to further the rights of the transgender community.

Rosalind Jana (English, 2013): Notes on Being Teenage. Rosalind’s debut book covers all aspects of teenhood, from the serious (mental health issues, bullying, staying safe online) to the slightly less so (dating, style, fashion, starting a blog) and everything in between.

P D James (Honorary Fellow) has had a collection of her short stories published posthumously. The Mistletoe Murder is now available for purchase, and features a foreword by alumna Val McDermid (English, 1972).
Emily Kerr (Classics, 2004) joins the illustrious ranks of St Hilda’s authors with her debut novel Who Does He Think He Is?, a romantic comedy set in a tumbledown stately home in Yorkshire.

Frances Leviston (English, 2000) has been shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award for her story Broderie Anglaise.

Val McDermid (English, 1972 and Honorary Fellow) has been honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Crime Fiction Award at Harrogate’s Crime Writing Festival, joining the ranks of past recipients including Ruth Rendell, Colin Dexter and our own Honorary Fellow, the late P D James.

Katherine Parkinson (Classics, 2000) starred in new BBC comedy The Kennedys.

Madeleine Perham (English, 2012) directed a new production of Philip Pullman’s The Ruby in the Smoke, debuting in Oxford before a month’s run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Celine Rattray (Mathematics, 1993) and business partner Trudie Styler celebrated five years of their company Maven Pictures in style, with guests including Sting, Meg Ryan and Donna Karan. Maven Pictures has won numerous awards, most recently the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for its latest production American Honey.

Sue Lloyd-Roberts (History & Modern Languages, 1970): The War on Women: And the Brave Ones Who Fight Back. Published posthumously, this collection of accounts of women battling inequality serves as a fitting final work from a greatly admired and missed alumna. St Hilda’s will be hosting a Sue Lloyd-Roberts Memorial Lecture on 26 April 2017; do save the date.

Hannah Rothschild (History, 1981) has won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction for her debut book The Improbability of Love, about a lost masterpiece by Antoine Watteau.

Jo Shapcott (English, 1976) was the star of Radio 3’s The Verb Poetry Book Club, discussing her collection Of Mutability.

Congratulations to the College staff for raising over £500 (and counting!) for the local Maggie’s Cancer Centre, through raffles, cake sales, a family day and a Christmas jumper competition.
The unaudited Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet at 31 July 2016 showed a surplus for the year of £2.7 million, compared with £6.0 million (as restated) in the previous year. The reduction was due principally to the lower level of donations and bequests received, which were unusually large in the previous year, and the lower level of net gains on investments. Consequently net assets grew from £104 million at the beginning of the year (as restated) to £107.0 million at 31 July 2016.

It is almost churlish to suggest that the level of donations and bequests received in the year was in any sense low. It remains an historically high figure and one for which the College is immensely grateful.

Investments
The year was a relatively disappointing one for the performance of our main invested portfolio, which returned around 4% for the full year. At the beginning of 2016 investment markets ceded a lot of the ground that they had gained in 2015, and it is only really since the end of the College’s financial year that they have begun to recover. Markets remain very volatile however, and it is precisely in these circumstances that the geographical and asset class diversification of our investments helps to moderate the swings in value.

The proceeds from the placement of long term notes have been invested in a portfolio of investment grade short term corporate bonds, managed on our behalf by JP Morgan. The portfolio matures over the next 3-4 years and is designed to meet the cashflow needs of the 125th Anniversary building programme. The hold-to-maturity strategy of this portfolio reduces the risk of changes in value in the bond markets.

Funding of Future Developments
The College has ambitious plans for its future development, not least in terms of its building plans. Generous donations and bequests from alumnae and others will go a long way to meeting the cost of these, but they will need to be supplemented by borrowing.

For this reason, during the year the College took advantage of prevailing low interest rates to borrow £20 million. In December 2015 we made a private placement of long term notes, £10 million due in December 2045 at a fixed rate of interest of 3.24% pa and £10 million repayable in 2055 at 3.37% pa. These borrowings will allow us to commit to our building plans with confidence while we fundraise for the balance of our needs.

Building Improvements
I’m pleased to be able to report that we have finished a 3-year, logistically tricky programme of refurbishment of student rooms in Hall, South, and CBB. The rooms in these buildings have all been freshened up and refitted in many cases, and are now very attractive options for undergraduates. We now turn our attention to the first phase of the building programme, which will provide additional new accommodation for undergraduates on the College site as well as much needed additional academic facilities.

Principal’s Discretionary Funds
During the year, £3,236 has been paid out of the Mary and Tony Moore Fund by way of four grants to meet cases of financial hardship amongst both postgraduate and undergraduate students. The American Friends Hardship Fund and Rosina Harris Fund also gave grants of £1,828.

FRANK GARGENT
Bursar

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**Sources of Income for College**

- Tuition fees and grants: 28%
- Residential: 26%
- Legacies & donations: 24%
- Investment income: 19%
- Trading other: 3%

**Invested funds & other net assets**

- Total assets
- Invested funds
Forthcoming 2017 events

- **6 JAN**
  - Media Network Twelfth Night Drinks Party
    - London Review Bookshop, Bloomsbury, featuring a talk by Mary-Kay Wilmers, Editor of the London Review of Books, on her extraordinary life in publishing

- **11 FEB**
  - Law Network Reunion
    - Afternoon conference and dinner at St Hilda’s

- **26 FEB**
  - ‘Come and Sing’
    - Haydn’s Nelson Mass at the University Church

- **11 MARCH**
  - London Tea
    - Lansdowne Club, with Dr Dev Gangjee speaking on ‘Terroir’s Travails: A Legal History of French Wine’

- **22-23 MARCH**
  - Hong Kong Reunion

- **24-25 MARCH**
  - Singapore Reunion

- **1 APRIL**
  - St Hilda’s Writers’ Day
    - At the Oxford Literary Festival

- **4-5 APRIL**
  - USA West Coast Reunions

- **26 APRIL**
  - Sue Lloyd-Roberts Memorial Lecture
    - “Human rights – does anyone out there care?” by Lord Hall of Birkenhead, Director General of the BBC

- **13 JUNE**
  - London Summer Drinks
    - Reception at Charles Russell Speechlys

- **23 JUNE**
  - St Hilda’s Society Feast

- **24 JUNE**
  - Garden Party and Family Day

- **18-20 AUG**
  - Mystery and Crime Conference

- **15-16 SEP**
  - Gaudy Weekend

- **21 OCT**
  - MA Reunion
    - Lunch for those who matriculated in 2010

Save the date: 2018 events

- **17-18 FEB**
  - Launch of the 125th Anniversary programme and JdP Celebrations

- **21 FEB**
  - Sue Lloyd-Roberts Memorial Lecture

- **3 MARCH**
  - Medical Society Conference

- **10 MARCH**
  - London Tea

- **6-7 APRIL**
  - San Francisco Reunion

- **13 APRIL**
  - St Hilda's Society Feast

- **16-17 APRIL**
  - Kathy Wilkes Memorial Conference

- **23 JUNE**
  - Victorian Garden Party

- **17-19 AUG**
  - Mystery and Crime Conference

- **14-16 SEP**
  - Gaudy Celebrations, Dinner and Ball

- **20 OCT**
  - MA Reunion

For updates to the programme of key events to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 2018, please check the website below.

For further details and booking information please visit www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/events