

# Making a gift

I WOULD LIKE TO SET UP A RECURRING GIFT

of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (monthly/quarterly/yearly) to St Hilda's College, starting on 1<sup>st</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (month)

**ACCOUNT DETAILS:**

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bank/Building Society \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SET UP A SINGLE GIFT

of £ \_\_\_\_\_ paid by UK cheque

To give by credit/debit card, please call +44 (0)1865 276 828 or go online at [www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/giving](http://www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/giving)

To give from overseas, please visit [www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/giving](http://www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/giving) for further information about how to donate.

**YOUR DETAILS:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer, and wish all donations to be treated as Gift Aid. The amount I pay in UK income tax or Capital Gains is not less than the amount all charities to which I donate will claim in the tax year. (College claims back £2.50 for every £10 you give, at no extra cost to you.) *giftaid it*

St Hilda's is a registered charity. Registration Number 1137537



**The Barbara Pym Room will be in one of the College's new buildings, currently under construction.** These buildings will fit perfectly in our riverside setting, with the sensitively designed gardens linking the old and the new. Those living in the new building will enjoy rather more up to date facilities than the gas rings and cold water of Pym's time, but they will have the same view she gazed upon nearly 90 years ago, across Christ Church Meadow and the dreaming spires.

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## Naming a room in memory of Barbara Pym





## Barbara Pym's continuing legacy at St Hilda's

When Barbara Pym came to St Hilda's in 1931 it was to read English, but her true subject was to be her lifelong study of human nature, her unique writer's voice and her gift for enduring friendship.

“A new term in a new year – a golden opportunity to get a peer's heir – a worthy theological student – or to change entirely! But Oxford really is intoxicating.”

How gorgeously typical of Barbara's Oxford diaries, bursting with the almost breathless enthusiasm of her extrovert undergraduate self, an enthusiasm not only for learning but for men! In the early '30s, when male undergrads far outnumbered female, Barbara was far from the model student. Though personally revelling in literature, and in poetry in

particular, her days in the Bodleian Library revolved more around the intense study of her crushes than of 'our greater English poets'. No wonder that, after a day spent dawdling by a dictionary in order to gaze upon Lorenzo, she sighs:

“Miss Rooke's class at 5.30. I showed neither intelligence nor knowledge.”

Pym fell with gusto upon all that St Hilda's life had to offer, mingling with the University's great and good ('An amusing lecture in the morning – Professor Tolkien') in a social whirl of sherry parties, tea at Stewarts, dining at Elliston's, cocktails at the Bijou and films at the Queener. However, she also often wrote of the simpler pleasures of a night in her College room:

“I had to choose between giving my face a steam beauty bath and *Beowulf*. I chose the former, and I think that the result justified my choice.”

To this day many of our undergraduates describe St Hilda's as 'home': a place to return to at the end of the day, whether in triumph or licking one's wounds; a place of comfort, of camaraderie but also of personal space. Certainly having a room of one's own remains as important a feature of every new undergraduate's experience today as it did when Pym wrote, with immense satisfaction:

“I'm terribly enamoured of my new room and have it most artistic and aesthetic. Chaste green cover for my bed – check cushions – beautiful pictures – books and bookends – bronze golden chrysanthemums on the table in the window alcove. I hear Magdalen and Merton clocks all the time.”

Forgotten and revived in her own lifetime, Pym is a writer constantly being 'discovered'. Successive generations jealously claim her for their own, delighting in her wise humour and her skewering of all that is quintessentially English. By naming a College room in her honour we shall ensure that Barbara Pym will always have place at St Hilda's.



IF JUST 28 PEOPLE DONATED £10 PER MONTH FOR 3 YEARS, THE TARGET WOULD BE REACHED.

St Hilda's College is proud to have been home to the Barbara Pym Society ever since the first meeting in 1994, and we now invite all Society members around the world to contribute to this exclusive opportunity to honour Barbara Pym in this place that was so dear to her.

To name the Barbara Pym Room, the Society will need to raise a total of £10,000; members may donate however much they choose, to the best of their ability, and gifts may be spread out in monthly or annual instalments. All donors will be listed in the room. Should the target not be reached, your collaborative gift will be directed to a naming opportunity within the St Hilda's gardens, and so Barbara Pym's name will still be given to a worthy addition to the College site.

If you have any queries about making your gift, please contact Bronwyn Travers at St Hilda's College, Oxford, OX4 1DY

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