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Welcome from the Principal

While it is always a pleasure to share the news and achievements of the College with the wider St Hilda’s community, I must acknowledge the profound changes that we have all experienced since the start of 2020, and these continue as I write to you. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has affected all corners of our interconnected world and altered our lives in new and challenging ways. What remains constant is our commitment to ensuring our students receive a first-class education, and the whole College is united in supporting them to achieve their potential at this difficult time.

Our Senior Tutor provides highlights from the 2018-19 academic year on pages 2-3; the Finals results for 2019 were an all-time record for St Hilda’s, with our highest ever number of firsts last summer. The achievements of our graduate students are similarly impressive, and the Tutor for Graduates gives more detail on page 4. I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to all our students and tutors for their dedication and hard work.

Our Fellows have responded with great commitment to maintaining their world-leading research and sharing it widely within and beyond Oxford. On pages 6-9, as well as the Research pages of our website, we celebrate the advances they made in their fields during the year and the recognition achieved for their work. One new area of interdisciplinary research activity, the Climax Centre for Therapeutic Innovation, launched in June 2019 under the leadership of Professor Duncan Richards, Oxford’s Climax Chair of Clinical Therapeutics. We were honoured to host Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, to deliver our inaugural lecture.

The JCR and MCR Presidents have been very successful in working collaboratively with the College to offer a range of services to their members – including student welfare and peer support, activities for clubs, societies and sports groups, and their own charitable work. They are represented on all of our committees of Governing Body, and consult within the common rooms to help to communicate the day-to-day matters for the smooth running of the College. The reports from the Presidents provide examples of these on pages 3 and 5.

Once again, the cover of our Annual Review will reflect our site as it was, not as it is now – with progress visible each week as the builders work steadily towards the October 2020 ‘soft opening’ of the new rooms. The boundary building, tower and pavilion are starting to emerge from their wraps and scaffolding now, and they are a source of great pride. You can see an overview of our progress on page 17.

We are relieved and grateful that our students will soon return and settle into some of the finest new rooms in Oxford, and that our Fellows will have the benefit of the exceptional academic and public spaces to share their work. While this will mark the completion of one phase of construction, it is not the final destination. Despite all the changes that we know will come as a result of the global pandemic, we remain committed to our ambitions for the future and to completing our building programme.

As ever, my warmest thanks to all who have helped the College to achieve so much during 2019. Along with the wonderful support we have received for our buildings, we have also been deeply grateful for the financial support for our students through the College’s bursaries and scholarship programme. At this time of great change, we look forward to advancing the standing of our College at the highest level of academic excellence.

SIR GORDON DUFF
Principal
Our Undergraduates

In 2018-19 we awarded 36 scholarships and 14 exhibitions to students who achieved excellent grades in their examinations or showed remarkable progress. The University also recognised four of our students by the award of Gibbs Prizes: for best performance in the Preliminary Examinations in Economics and in English Language and Literature; for the excellent performance in practical work for Engineering Science; and for Mathematics Part B examinations. Two students were also awarded the Proxime Accessit Gibbs Prize, one for BMS prelims and one for Medicine's First BM Part II.

Approximately twenty percent of students gained firsts or distinctions in their prelims or mods. For those who took second or third year FHS examinations (Mathematics, Engineering and Physics) an additional nine students gained either firsts or distinctions. The finals results for 2019 were an all-time record for St Hilda’s, with only one third class and no unclassified degrees. Our students also achieved our highest number of firsts, two up from the previous record in 2018. Our congratulations go out to all our highly accomplished students and tutors.

Admissions, Access and Outreach

When comparing St Hilda's admissions statistics on student diversity and educational background the College is either above or very close to the average for the University. St Hilda's has an above average number of students from postcodes with low progression to Higher Education, as well as of female students and Asian students. For all other diversity measures we are within approximately 1% of the average University figures. In the coming year we will support one of the University’s new initiatives, ‘Opportunity Oxford’, which will enhance access to a greater number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds by making additional offers of places to those who would not have otherwise gained a place. These students will be supported by summer bridging courses to facilitate their transition to studying at Oxford.

The University has significantly expanded its flagship UNIQ summer school, increasing the number of places available by 500, in addition to introducing a funding scheme for admissions-related travel expenses. St Hilda’s supported both of these activities last year, hosting 30 UNIQ students interested in studying Mathematics, English or History at Oxford. We will evaluate the impact of the UNIQ course in the coming admissions cycle, and if it looks promising we plan to expand our offering, with the kind financial support of an alumna.

We continue to be the main point of contact in the University for our link region schools in Surrey, offering support to the county’s maintained schools, with a particular focus on students in years 9-13 from disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds. The regional approach to outreach is changing this year with colleges acting in small consortia, enhancing support for a greater area; we plan to work with Somerville, St Hugh’s and St John’s Colleges across the coastal regions of Kent, Sussex and Hampshire which have low progression to University and high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. This outreach support is in addition to the wider recruitment objective of increasing the number and quality of first choice applications. We are investigating strategies to widen our reach, including an expansion of our videos featuring our students and tutors, a new formal Student Ambassador Programme, and the launch of a Senior Member Ambassador Programme to present St Hilda’s to a larger number of schools distributed across the UK.

DR SARAH NORMAN
Senior Tutor
In 2018-19 the College awarded:

- **14** exhibitions
- **36** undergraduate scholarships
- **31** graduate scholarships

In 2018-19 the College awarded **£52,900** in travel and research grants

Travel and research grants were spent on many projects, including:

- An editorial internship in Singapore
- Archival research in Morocco
- Vacation placements in legal aid offices
- Internships in Russia
- Studying Romanian at Bucharest University

In 2018-19 **alumnae and friends donated £99,000** to undergraduate bursary funds

“**I received a travel grant last summer to take part in an internship in Budapest with a company called CEEweb for Biodiversity. I am currently taking modules in ecology and conservation for my final exams, and at CEEweb I was able to gain first-hand experience in assessing approaches to sustainability and conservation from a more policy-based perspective. This allowed me to consider wider problems brought up in lectures and better develop my tutorial essays. This internship has provided me with new skills which will be beneficial for the rest of my degree, and careers in the future.**”

Molly Clark
3rd year Biological Sciences

JCR President’s Report

A central theme of the JCR committee’s activities last year has been promoting inclusivity and engagement within the JCR. Several constitutional changes have ensured that the whole JCR is kept informed about the activities of their committee. Meanwhile, termly feedback surveys now ensure that the committee are held to account by those who voted them in. The JCR accounts are now more transparent, and all members can have their say on termly officers’ budgets.

The JCR committee arranged a number of popular events that encouraged the representation and discussion of issues faced by a variety of groups. The Feminist Festival continues to be a landmark event in our annual calendar, giving a platform to inspirational speakers who spoke on a variety of social, ethical and culture issues faced by women today. Hilary Term also saw the establishment of the annual St Hilda’s Cultural Fair where a team of incredible BAME student volunteers organised a range of stalls displaying cultural traditions from across the world for the whole JCR to see.

Our newly founded JCR Trans Representative collaborated with the LGBTQ+ Representative to ensure that LGBTQ+ students at St Hilda’s feel safe, welcome and celebrated. Notable efforts include the establishment of the Gender Reassignment Fund, which will enable students to explore and reaffirm their gender expression without a financial burden.

Student welfare remained a priority for the JCR committee with a specific focus on raising awareness of and provision for mental health problems. An initiative was launched to achieve a greater understanding of how the pressure of Oxford affects students’ mental health. This led to the promotion and expansion of provision available within the College for those struggling.

Last year also saw an increase in concern for the JCR and College’s environmental impact. Our Environmental & Ethics Officer worked tirelessly in collaboration with the College to ensure that our environmental impact is limited, with changes to reduce waste and emission production put in place. These include the introduction of St Hilda’s metallic water bottles, a new College-wide recycling strategy, and the removal of plastic sauce sachets from the Dining Hall.

The Val McDermid bar continues to be the heart of the JCR community. Last year saw record sales, new cocktails and hundreds of pounds raised for charity. Meanwhile, the JCR Buttery underwent significant health, safety and food hygiene reforms to ensure the brilliant Sunday buttery brunch continues. The JCR space also hosted a range of exciting activities open to and enticing all, including a pool tournament, pottery classes, talks, and new regular visits from the charity Canine Concern.

As ever, one of the most memorable events was the Ball – a spectacular celebration of the College’s past. The Rachel McLean Prize also continues to be an annual highlight. Its celebration of a variety of forms of student contributions to the College and wider community remains central to ethos of the JCR.

EMILY WILKINS
JCR President
Our Graduates

At the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year, 90 new graduates joined our College community and embarked on a wide variety of postgraduate research and taught courses. Some of these students benefitted from College graduate studentships, awarded on academic excellence, in English, Medieval and Modern Languages, Politics, and Zoology.

Throughout the year, our graduates worked hard and achieved high levels of success. 20 students completed their doctoral studies and 41 graduated from postgraduate taught courses in fields spanning almost the entire alphabet, from Civil Law to Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology, with over half attaining Distinctions and Merit degrees.

Many St Hilda’s graduate students participated in a wide range of academic events in 2018-19, both in Oxford and abroad: they attended and presented at national and international conferences, travelled to archives, and undertook fieldwork for their research. In many of these activities, they were supported by awards from the College’s travel and research funds. The MCR also organised its own academic programme, which included an academic ‘speed-dating’ event where graduates presented their work in seven minutes, and, as in previous years, a poster session before the annual supervisors’ dinner.

In short, 2018-19 was a year in which our graduate community demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence and enterprise, seeking to expand both the individual and collective boundaries of knowledge. Thereby they not only upheld the ethos of the College but also made their contribution to addressing the challenges of our world.

DR KERSTIN HOGE
Tutor for Graduates
MCR President’s Report

The last academic year has been a successful one for the St Hilda’s Middle Common Room. The MCR community has been notably vibrant, creating a dynamic and enjoyable atmosphere for all those who have attended the social and welfare events. This vibrancy can be attributed to the diversity we enjoy throughout our community of students, spanning 29 different native tongues – thank you to our Tutor for Graduates, Dr Kerstin Hoge, for uncovering this.

The popular MCR welfare Sunday brunches were a highlight for many, having become something of a tradition within the community. We held many successful formal guest nights, most notably the Thanksgiving Dinner, helping to raise funds for the Kojo Minta Fund. Our committed social team organised a number of inter-college exchange dinners, allowing us to showcase the wonderful food offered at St Hilda’s. Members of the MCR also enjoyed plenty of wine and cheese tasting nights, and a notable port and chocolate tasting night – which I believe went down a treat!

One of the most distinguished social events in the MCR calendar this year was the Christmas Jazz event. The JdP created a wonderful backdrop for an evening of fizz, canapés and Christmas cheer – all to the sound of a delightful live jazz band, which was comprised of members from the Middle and Junior Common Rooms. In fact, creating community between the two St Hilda’s student common rooms has been a key aim for the committee this year. To this end, we hosted an International Women’s Day formal, which created an empowering and collective space for both the MCR and JCR to celebrate increasing gender equality. We are also incredibly proud to now offer a Gender Expression Fund, brought forward by our LGBTQ+ Officer, as well as hosting an inter-college LGBTQ+ wine and cheese event.

Last but by no means least, we had some engaging academic events, such as the ‘Thirsty Thursday’s Elevator Pitches’, giving a platform for the MCR members to pitch research projects or thesis ideas.

This has all been possible due to the dedication of our MCR committee, the enthusiasm of all MCR members, and the great support we experience from the College. Even when confronted with these unprecedented and unforeseeable times towards the end of the academic year, the MCR community remains strong, showcasing the power and importance of the collective spirit forged by the St Hilda’s community – even if it is virtual.

AMANDA LYONS
MCR President

College Sports

The last year of St Hilda’s sport may well be the most successful on record. Where to start?

The men’s hockey team is currently undefeated in the second league, and is looking at certain promotion to the premier league next year. They are currently in the quarter finals, and stand a great chance at winning it all this year.

The women’s hockey team is currently undefeated at the top of their league. Business as usual!

The rugby club is thriving and is currently third in the division (for the first time in living memory, as the captain tells me). They are in the quarter-finals of the cuppers bowl, and are confident that they will progress to the semi-finals.

However, it seems like St Hilda’s has found its true strength in football...

The women’s football team (St Hilda’s and St Peter’s combined) was promoted to the first division for the 2019/20 season, and consequently received the College Sports Team of the Year award.

The men’s football team won the cuppers tournament for the first time in the College’s history, never having even reached the semi-final before. Being placed in the bottom league, SHFC were very much the underdogs, but the loyal supporters who turned up to every game powered the players on to win. Even in adverse weather conditions, at the finals against Pembroke there was a 300-strong St Hilda’s crowd comprising JCR, MCR, tutors, library staff, the Chaplain and the Principal cheering on our team, who stormed to victory with a final score of 3-2, rewriting our College’s sporting history!

HENRY BUSHELL
Geography, 2018
Dr Sebastian Alvarez, Associate Research Fellow in Economic History, published Mexican Banks and Foreign Finance: From Internationalization to Financial Crisis, 1973-1982 (Palgrave Macmillan).

Dr Rebecca Armstrong, Tutorial Fellow in Classics, published Vergil’s Green Thoughts (OUP).

Professor Anita Avramides and Dr Matthew Parrott, Fellows in Philosophy, co-edited Knowing Other Minds (OUP).

Dr Daniel Bulte, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering, has received a five-year grant of £1.3 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Dr Bulte is Principal Investigator on the project Determining cerebrovascular reactivity from the pupil flash response, which seeks to develop novel non-invasive technologies to assess vascular health in the brain.

Dr Rey Conquer, Stipendiary Lecturer in German, published Reading Colour: George, Rilke, Kandinsky, Lasker-Schüler (Peter Lang).

Dr Ann Dowker, Lecturer in Psychology, is participating in a project, Paths to Character: Promoting agency, trust and hope for incarcerated Barbadian adolescents through community engagement, funded by the Templeton Foundation. She has also recently published Individual Differences in Arithmetic: Implications for Psychology, Neuroscience and Education, 2nd edition (Psychology Press) and Mathematics Anxiety: What is Known and What it Still to be Understood (Routledge).

Professor Anne Edwards, Supernumerary Fellow in Education, published Supporting Difficult Transitions – Children, Young People and their Carers (Bloomsbury) and Cultural-Historical Approaches to Studying Learning and Development (Springer).

Dr Velda Elliott, Supernumerary Fellow in Education, co-authored Research Methods for Classroom Discourse (Bloomsbury).

Dr Gareth Evans, Lecturer in English, has published Men and Masculinities in the Saga of Icelanders (OUP).

Professor Dev Gangjee, Tutorial Fellow in Law, co-authored The Confusion Test in European Trade Mark Law (OUP).

Dr Barbara Havelková, Fellow and Tutor in Law, co-authored Anti-Discrimination Law in Civil Law Jurisdictions (OUP).

Dr David Howey, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering, spoke on his research on energy storage at the American Control Conference and at EPFL in Switzerland.

Professor Alison Noble OBE FREng FRS, Fellow in Engineering, was awarded the Royal Society Gabor Medal for developing solutions to a number of key problems in biomedical image analysis and substantially advancing automatic extraction of clinically useful information from medical ultrasound scans.

Dr Jonathan Patterson, Career Development Fellow in French, published Jean Brinon and His Cenacle: An Enduring Sodalitas?, an essay in a collective volume commemorating the life and work of Professor Philip Ford (Librairie Droz).

Dr Georgina Paul, Fellow and Tutor in German, has been awarded €30,000 in the first round of Oxford-Berlin Partnership Funding to co-lead a project on Literature and Material Culture: Archive, Library, Museum.

Professor Catherine Schenk, Fellow and Professor of Economic and Social History, gave the inaugural lecture What have we forgotten about globalization? at the Examination Schools. The Oxford Centre for Economic and Social History research seminar series, led by Professor Schenk, was hosted at St Hilda’s for the first time in Trinity Term 2019.

Recognising the work of Dr Kathy Wilkes

In April 2018 St Hilda’s gathered together to celebrate and remember Dr Kathy Wilkes, Philosophy tutor at the College from 1973 until her untimely death in August 2003. The conference was attended by, among others, the Croatian Ambassador, HE Igor Pokaz, as well as by the Executive Secretary of the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik (the IUC), Nada Bruer Ljubišić. Kathy Wilkes did much of her work in Croatia, before the war, at the IUC. She organised international conferences there on a regular basis, largely devoted to the philosophy of science. There is, as well as a plaque in her honour situated just outside the city walls of Dubrovnik, a seminar room at the IUC named after her.

At the time of the conference Nada Bruer Ljubišić, with the backing of HE Igor Pokaz, spoke to the Principal, Professor Sir Gordon Duff, and the conference organiser, Dr Anita Avramides, about the possibility of reviving Kathy’s work at the IUC, by establishing an international conference in her honour. The possibility was welcomed, but bringing it to fruition took some time.

The time has now arrived, and at its first meeting in Hilary Term 2020 the Governing Body of St Hilda’s agreed to an arrangement whereby an international conference in honour of Dr Kathy Wilkes would be held on a rotating basis between St Hilda’s, the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik, and Milan in Italy.

The Milan partnership came about as the result of the work of Professor Riccardo Viale, Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of Milano-Bicocca and General Secretary of the Herbert Simon Society in Turin. Professor Viale was once an academic collaborator with Dr Wilkes.

This collaboration will involve staging a two-day ‘International Conference to Honour the Legacy of Kathy Wilkes’, and will be devoted to work in the Philosophy of Cognitive and Social Sciences. It will be held first at the IUC in Dubrovnik, and subsequently at St Hilda’s College, then in Milan and Turin. The College has committed to one three-year cycle, in the first instance.

The College sees this as an excellent opportunity to raise its international research profile, and to support academics in Eastern Europe who see the IUC as an important resource in the development of their careers. We very much hope both graduates and undergraduates from the College, and members from our wider community, will be able to attend some of these conferences.

Professor Daniel Wakelin, Fellow and Jeremy Griffiths Professor of Medieval English Palaeography, gave the Annual Riddy Lecture at the University of York, entitled In the next lef: The edge of the material text.

Dr Eve Worth, Junior Research Fellow in History, co-edited a special issue of Cultural and Social History on the theme of ‘Rethinking Social Mobility in Modern Britain’, featuring her article on Women, Education and Social Mobility in Britain During the Long 1970s.

Professor Julia Yeomans FRS, Fellow and Tutor in Physics, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by Northumbria University, Newcastle.

Professor Dan Zahavi, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy, is engaged in a major research project into collective identity, entitled Who are we? Self-identity, Social Cognition, and Collective Intentionality. The project will include collaborations with researchers in developmental and social psychology, sociology, and anthropology to contribute to an understanding of some of the foundational issues within the humanities and social sciences. Professor Zahavi has received a major European Research Council Advanced Grant of €2.4 million and a five-year Semper Ardens Grant of £1.7 million from the Danish Carlsberg Foundation for this research.

Dr Tingting Zhu, Associate Research Fellow in Engineering, received a five-year Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship. Dr Zhu was also awarded the J A Lodge Award 2019 by the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

As ever, St Hilda’s has more research news than space permits, so to read more about our academics please visit www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/research.
The impact of adult education on women's social mobility

Dr Eve Worth

I research women’s experience of social mobility in post-war Britain. This is an important project as historians know so little about women’s mobility: until recently scholars argued that women did not have a class position in their own right so we only needed to research men’s mobility. My focus is on the comparison between two generations of women that are significant counterpoints to each other: those born c.1938-52, and c.1968-82. Whilst the older women were socialised during a period of social democracy and relatively high rates of social mobility, the younger generation grew up during an extensive period of neoliberal government and static or declining rates of mobility. I have had the pleasure of interviewing St Hilda’s alumnae for this project, and I have more interviews with alumnae planned.

I am currently writing a book related to this project for Bloomsbury, and I have recently co-edited a special issue of Cultural and Social History entitled ‘Rags to Riches? New Histories of Social Mobility in Modern Britain’. I also contributed an article to this issue which made the original argument that returning to education later in life is a key mechanism of women’s social mobility because women’s lives tend to be much less linear than men’s. As my research has progressed, adult education has become an increasingly central focus of my project and I have arranged a one-day workshop on the history of adult education in Britain at St Hilda’s with both academic and policy speakers. The workshop intends to mark the centenary of the landmark report on adult education in 1919 and will open up new avenues of research, including the experience of students themselves: their motivations for participating in adult education, their experience of doing so, and the consequences for their participation in economic, political and cultural life. The workshop is a re-launch event for the St Hilda’s Mind the Gap: Equalities Research Network and contributes to the College as a cutting-edge centre of social and economic history.
Where Physics meets Biology

Professor Julia Yeomans

There is enormous interest in a new branch of physics called active matter. Active systems take energy from their surroundings and use it to perform work. One of the most obvious examples of active systems is living creatures – which are continually using energy from food to move and breathe. On a smaller length scale life processes are driven by cells which use chemical energy to crawl or swim, to divide or to create proteins. So why are physicists, traditionally worried by anything more complicated than a hydrogen atom, becoming interested in mechanobiology?

Let’s start on a tiny length scale, inside cells. Cells are crowded, busy places, full of fibres, proteins and chemicals. The way in which a cell moves proteins from the place they are created to where they are needed is ingenious. The cells build microtubules, microscopic tracks, and tiny motor proteins move along them carrying the proteins inside a back-pack-like vacuole. The figure below shows the motor protein kinesin walking along a track as alternate heads grab the microtubule and pull the motor along in a walking-like gait. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJyUtbn0OSY for an impression of the inside of a cell – the motor walks in at 1:14. Once the motors have passed the microtubules dissociate so that their molecules can be used to form new tracks elsewhere.

Motor proteins are tens of nanometres in size; about 10,000 would fit in a mm. How does Nature create such tiny engines, and how does it organise the control system that plans the tracks and the trajectories of each motor? Nanotechnology is nowhere near the stage where it is able to create or control such tiny machines, and unlocking their secrets will lead to disruptive new technologies.

Now let’s consider a larger length scale, cells which are typically 0.01 mm long. Physicists are trying to understand the principles behind how cells move together in a collective way for good outcomes, for example to heal a wound, or for bad ones, like the spread of cancer. A fascinating question is how and why cells divide and move as embryos develop. www.rb.gy/msdsdf shows the development of a Drosophila (fruit fly) embryo. Somehow Nature is positioning cells and creating intricate patterns using a clever combination of chemical signalling, flows and forces. A better understanding of the processes involved will lead to more effective medical treatments.

I am a theoretical physicist and enjoy using equations to look for overarching principles behind the complexity of active, biological systems.

Studying one of the oldest forms of communication in the newest ways

St Hilda’s is the proud home of DANSOX (Dance Scholarship Oxford), a programme of research events that provides a world-leading forum for dance scholarship. DANSOX was founded and is directed by Sue Jones, Professor of English Literature and Barbara Pym Fellow and Tutor in English at St Hilda’s. Formerly a soloist with the Scottish Ballet, Professor Jones brings to DANSOX unrivalled practical and academic experience of two major disciplines, making the College a trailblazing centre where dance practice meets history and theory. Through workshops, lectures and performances, DANSOX forges a vital link between interdisciplinary research fields across the world.

DANSOX events are captivating and wide-ranging: leading choreographers and dancers from the Royal Ballet and Rambert Dance reflect on creativity and practice; archivists and academics explore V&A collections, sources, and dance notation; scholars reveal links to Shakespeare, Homer, Milton, and Arabic story-telling; and the Grace Project examines the meaning of ‘grace’ in dance, literature, theology, philosophy, sociology and the visual arts.

The results of these explorations and many more are presented in the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, where dance professionals, art reviewers, academics and students come together to learn and to appreciate the outstanding work of the dance community.

The patrons of DANSOX are Dame Monica Mason, formerly Principal dancer and Director of the Royal Ballet Company, and Sheila Forbes CBE, former Principal of St Hilda’s. DANSOX was first funded by the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) and is maintained through the generosity of individuals, the College, and small research grants. However, more sustained support is vital to prolong and enhance this important and ground-breaking programme of research events. If you would like to discuss sponsoring a DANSOX lecture or programme please contact Bronwyn Travers, Development Director via bronwyn.travers@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk or on 01865 286624.
Two of the themes and highlights of this year’s programming have been a series of piano concerts profiling the great national piano traditions of the world, and an extraordinary group of performances of new music given by student ensembles.

Six countries – France, Germany, Poland, Spain, America and Russia – were represented by the cycle of concerts spread across the 2018-19 season. Hilary Term 2019 started with a recital of Polish piano music – Chopin and Szymanowski – given by Poland-based English pianist, Jonathan Powell, and ended with a remarkable performance of Schumann’s Symphonic Studies by the Oxford-based Japanese pianist, Maki Sekiya. There were two notable recitals of vocal music, too: Schubert’s Winterreise given by Ben Nelson (baritone) and Edward Rushton (piano), and a programme of 17th century revolutionary English vocal music created during the Interregnum given by St Hilda’s Senior Research Fellow in performance, Elizabeth Kenny.

Hilary Term also saw the premiere of a new opera, The Beginning of an Idea, which was composed for students at the Faculty of Music by the JdP’s manager, Joel Baldwin. This was made even more poignant because Joel left the JdP at the end of this year to take up a new job at a venue in Bristol. Joel’s enthusiastic, calm and understanding presence will be greatly missed.

A number of new initiatives were unfurled across both Trinity and Michaelmas terms: the first concerts of St Hilda’s new resident string quartet, the marvellous Villiers Quartet; the launch of a new series of new music concerts curated by two of our doctoral students, Nicholas Moroz and Jonathan Packham; and four opera productions created at the JdP by the new, student-run Oxford Contemporary Opera Society. OCOS’s summer production, which benefitted hugely from the stage lighting of the JdP, was the UK premiere of the chamber opera Marilyn Forever by one of Britain’s most celebrated composers, Gavin Bryars. Trinity Term concluded with a mini-festival of music by Alexander Goehr and St Hilda’s lecturer in music, Martyn Harry, given by Jonathan Powell and Martyn Harry.

Michaelmas Term featured a number of significant events hosted by DANSOX (Dance Scholarship Oxford) including a beautiful performance by dance repertory touring company, Fertile Ground, as well as 14 performances of the Arts Council England-funded pantomime for young children, Supermarket Scrooge, leading up to Christmas. The year was so varied and full of innovative ideas that it would be difficult to nominate a highlight. Yet two concerts given in March 2019 jointly by the student-run Oxford Sinfonietta and the Oxford Jazz Orchestra were novel in the way that they extended the JdP’s stage to almost double its normal size. These partly-amplified performances of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s Blood on the Floor in the presence of the composer was breathtaking in its daring combination of jazz improvisation and notated music, and the startling virtuosity of the ensemble’s playing. The JdP is now seen in Oxford as a site for the very best of student music-making, and this was confirmed by the success of these concerts to two full houses.
To ensure that the JdP continues to play a vital role at the heart of the music scene in Oxfordshire and remains a fitting memorial to the acclaimed cellist Jacqueline du Pré, we invite support from those who care about access to music and musical education to enable us to develop the programme and facilities at the JdP and benefit future generations of musicians and performers.

Visit https://jdp.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/support for more information and to join the JdP Music Circle today, or contact Ming Alsop-Lim, Campaign Officer, at ming.lim@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk.

National recognition for a St Hilda’s undergraduate

Ewan Millar, who has just finished his first year as a Music undergraduate at St Hilda’s, has reached the final of this year’s BBC Young Musician competition. During the category final in May he impressed the judges with his performance of oboe works by Marcello, Peter Facer, Schumann & Jeffrey Agrell, and he was declared the clear winner of the woodwind category. We look forward to cheering him on in the competition final later this year.

Become a JdP Supporter

£5 per month

- 10% off all JdP Series tickets
- Termly drinks reception
- 50% off Livestream Annual Pass

Become a JdP Friend

£10 per month

- 1 complimentary ticket for any JdP Series concert each season
- 20% off all JdP Series tickets
- Termly drinks reception
- Complimentary Livestream Annual Pass
125th Anniversary Campaign

St Hilda’s 125th Anniversary Campaign was announced in late 2017 with a brochure setting out our initial target to raise £15 million for an ambitious building programme to revitalise the College site and provide the high-quality student accommodation, teaching facilities and exceptional public spaces to support our strategic plans for the College. Thanks to the generous support from alumnae and friends and to the work of our UK and US Campaign Boards, by July 2019 we had achieved £9.3 million in gift income for the buildings, and £6.6 million in pledges to come in by 2024, bringing the total to almost £16 million.

Our donors have not only made all the difference – funding the gap between the College’s own financing (a bond for £20 million) and the anticipated cost of the building programme (originally estimated at £35 million) – but have also given warm encouragement to our pursuit of these ambitious goals. The College took out the bond to ensure the construction project for Phase I could get underway in 2018, our anniversary year, and to allow the College time to gain further support to complete the full transformation of our site. With progress evident for the conclusion of a successful Phase I in Michaelmas Term 2020, we must now look ahead to Phase II, which will provide the balance of student rooms and facilities in an area facing the ancient river meadows, near the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building. Once completed, Phase II will bring us to our goal of 125 new rooms, and will fulfil our commitment to offering all undergraduates a College room for the duration of their course.

Award-winning architectural firm Design Engine has been working with the College since 2019, carrying out a detailed evaluation of the Phase II site. They are preparing design options that will respond sensitively to the river meadow and garden environment, complement nearby Garden Building (Grade II listed) and the JdP, and optimise the use of our remaining buildable land. We will be sharing these plans with our alumnae and friends as they develop, as well as the...
Gift income for the 125 Fund received and pledged

Major pledges received for buildings and key spaces
£8,365,000

Total for gifts (income received) for 125 Fund: ‘College’s area of greatest need’
£9,757,000

Fundraising summary position Phase I: £18,122,000 (April 2020)

new fundraising target and our timeline to achieve the complete transformation of the site.

It is very encouraging, especially at this time, that over £18 million in gift income and pledges has been received as of April 2020. The College is deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed at any level to supporting St Hilda’s at this critical time. Your commitment to the College and our goals means that we can continue to be ambitious for the future, to carry out world-leading, interdisciplinary research while creating state of the art facilities and welcoming and supporting the most academically-deserving students from financially disadvantaged families. Together we can secure the College’s future and make St Hilda’s a destination of choice for undergraduates, graduate students and researchers.

Keeping in touch

For the past decade St Hilda’s has run an annual telethon, allowing us to maintain the relationship between College and alumnae that is so important to us all. Each year our students have been able to update alumnae on the latest St Hilda’s news, hear their own memories of College, and seek vital support through regular gifts that allow us to plan for the future. However, this year it has not been possible to make contact in this way, so – ready as ever for new challenges – we tried something new. In July we held the inaugural St Hilda’s College Community Week: a series of virtual events, family activities, academic content, and opportunities to support our students. We set up two special funds: to assist the Library to improve its facilities and respond to the new demands from students studying remotely; and to help our students adapt to remote learning and prepare for careers beyond Oxford. The alumnae community came together to offer financial assistance, with over 300 gifts, to volunteer their time and expertise for career advice to those about to enter the job market at the most difficult of times, and to enjoy a series of virtual events.

“The Academic and Research Support grants have helped the student body retain its strong sense of equality, by helping students purchase books and vital technology without which they would trail behind their peers.”

Georgina Findlay
JCR President 2019-20

Remainin major naming opportunities

Pavilion: £1,500,000
Tutor’s room: £15,000
Name on the donor colonnade: £5,000 or above
Garden spaces and bird/bat boxes: range of naming opportunities
Seats in the pavilion: £1,000
Ground floor spaces in South Building: to be confirmed

To find out more about naming opportunities or to make a gift, please contact Bronwyn Travers, Development Director & Fellow, on +44 (0) 1865 286624 or bronwyn.travers@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk
Applause!

Samantha Bewick (Chemistry, 1985) has published two books under the pen name SR Garrae: *Death in Focus* and *Death in Camera*. She is currently working on her third.

Susan Birch-Webb (Geography, 2006) won the Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Finance Award at the BPS Birmingham Future’s 19th annual BYPY Awards. These awards celebrate the city's best professional services talent aged 35 and under.

Jenny Bird (English, 1969) co-authored *How to Work with People...and Enjoy it!* (Routledge). This is the second book she has published, the first being *The Art of Coaching*, published in 2015.

Jasmine Cameron-Chileshe (English, 2014) won the GG2 Young Journalist of the Year Award, given annually to those who have done outstanding work in the media.

Ruth Chan (Music, 1997) orchestrated the music for the new *Madam Butterfly*, retold from an East-Asian, female perspective. Ruth was also composer for the Royal Shakespeare Company’s *The Taming of the Shrew*, which toured the UK in 2019.

Jennie Dunmurr (Geography, 1960) authored the biography *Edward Maufe: Architect and Cathedral Builder*, detailing the life and work of one of the UK’s most prominent architects in the last century.

Daisy Dunn (Classics, 2005) published three books in 2019: *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Life of Pliny*, *Of Gods and Men: 100 Stories from Ancient Greece & Rome* and *Homer: A Ladybird Expert*. Daisy also received the 2020 Classical Association Prize for her work to raise the profile of Classics in the public eye.

Miranda Emmerson (English, 1994) published *A Little London Scandal*, a sequel to her sparkling debut novel *Miss Treadway and the Field of Stars*.

Kate Fall (PPE, 1986) published *The Gatekeeper*, detailing her eleven years as one of David Cameron’s closest advisors during some of the most significant political events of recent times, and exploring what it is like to be a woman at the heart of power.

Karina Gould (International Relations, 2011) was re-elected as Member of Parliament for Burlington, Ontario with a landslide victory. In 2017 she became the youngest female cabinet minister in Canadian history.

Ruth Hunt (English, 1998) joined the House of Lords, having been made a crossbench life peer in Theresa May’s parting honours list.

Wasfi Kani OBE (Music, 1975) gave the Women’s History Lecture, *40 Years in Prison and Building a Few Opera Houses* at Trinity College, Oxford.

Katty Kay (Modern Languages, 1984) has co-authored *Living the Confidence Code: Real Girls. Real Stories. Real Confidence*, a follow-up to her highly successful *The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance – What Women Should Know*. 

Carolyn Kirby (History, 1983) published her debut novel The Conviction of Cora Burns, a thriller set in 1880s Birmingham.

Dame Hermione Lee (English, 1965 and Honorary Fellow) co-edited Lives of Houses, with contributions from several notable authors, including Margaret MacMillan (Politics, 1966 and Honorary Fellow). This collection explores the homes of great writers, artists, composers, and politicians of the past.

Frances Leviston (English, 2000) published The Voice in My Ear. Already a renowned poet, Frances now turns to fiction in this original, thought-provoking series of stories about mothers and daughters.

Reverend Margaret Mabbs (History, 1942) was awarded the Bishop of Southwark’s Lancelot Andrewes Medal for Godly Service and Zeal for the Gospel, in recognition of her many decades of dedicated service to the Church and its community.

Professor Margaret MacMillan (Politics, 1966 and Honorary Fellow) was appointed Academic Trustee of the Imperial War Museum by the Prime Minister, and will hold this prestigious post for the next four years.

Mehak Mumtaz (Biochemistry, 2008) co-founder of med-tech start up iLoF, is among three finalists shortlisted by Microsoft in its Female Founders Competition for the best B2B start-ups founded by women. iLoF is pioneering changes in clinical trials for Alzheimer's drug discovery.

Ariana Musliu Shoshi (Diplomatic Studies, 2012) was elected Member of Parliament in Kosovo’s 2019 General Election, running for the Democratic Party of Kosovo. She previously served as National Coordinator of the Kosovo Assembly in organisations including the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

Susan Palmer-Jones (English, 1963) has written a series of books called The Britlings, set in Iron Age Britain on the cusp of the Roman invasion, as well as a children’s book called The Adventures of Seabrave. Susan has also spent the last 20 years publishing a regular green magazine which is distributed throughout her county.

Elinor Shaffer (English, 1955) published The Reception of Isaac Newton in Europe and The Reception of William Blake in Europe. The former was launched in the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge, and the latter at the Senate House at London University and the Tate Britain.

Kathleen Sherit (Mathematics, 1972) has published Women on the Front Line: British Servicewomen’s Path to Combat, exploring how women went from unacknowledged participation in combat in the Second World War to the opening of all combat roles in recent years.

Philippa Sigl-Glöckner (PPE, 2008), the founder of macro-finance think tank Dezernat Zukunft, featured in the recent Forbes 30 under 30, which celebrates ‘young visionary leaders reinventing business and society’.

Kirsteen Stewart (History, 1960) has published her debut novel Break these Chains, ‘a 60s fairy tale with a jagged edge’.

Rupert Stuart-Smith (Geography, 2016) was awarded the Alfred Steers Prize by the Royal Geographical Society for his work on the role of climate change in glacial retreat.

Joan Taylor (Music, 1964) was featured on BBC Radio 3, performing the slow movement of the Piano Sonata in F by Karel Janovicky, in celebration of his 90th birthday.

Kill Chain: The Cyber War on America’s elections, co-directed by Sarah Teale (English, 1980), premiered on HBO. Kill Chain builds on her earlier work, HBO’s 2006 Emmy-nominated Hacking Democracy.

Birgitta Whalley (Chemistry, 1974) now a UC Berkeley Professor of Chemistry and Co-Director of the Berkeley Quantum Information and Computation Centre, was appointed to the US President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).
The year to 31 July 2019 saw a solid performance by the College with total net assets increasing by 2.1 per cent to £115.8 million. This result included a net gain on the value of investments of £2.2 million, and investment income of £2.8 million. It also included additional provisions against future pension liabilities of £1.1 million and a depreciation charge of £1.0 million. Taking account of these items, together with smaller movements in working capital balances, meant that the College reported a modest negative operating cash flow in 2018/19 of £0.3 million.

The College is not unusual perhaps for a charitable body, in that it continues to rely heavily on income from gifts and legacies and on investment income. As such, although the College remains in good financial health, it is exposed to four significant risks over which it has very limited influence: a high dependency on gifts; the impact of economic and market conditions on investment returns; the effects of political control over student-fee income; and the societal, economic, and market factors underlying pensions funding requirements. The College handles these risks by ensuring it is managing its assets closely, is appropriately prudent without being unambitious, and works hard to meet the needs and aspirations of its students and alumnae.

Investments
The College continues to balance risk and return in its investment strategy. Over the year, this approach elicited a total return of 8.2 per cent and led the College’s investment portfolio to grow to £72.8 million. The bulk of these investments (£53.8 million) are held within Sarasin & Partners’ Climate Active Endowment fund, which seeks to provide sustainable long-term returns against the background of increasing climate-related risks. The balance of the College’s investments, which are the remaining funds not already used for the College’s building programme, are invested in a portfolio of short-term investment grade corporate bonds.

Student support
As in previous years, the College has sought to provide undergraduate and postgraduate students with material financial support in the form of scholarships, bursaries, travel grants and prizes. The costs of these important awards amounted to £358k during the year, an increase of 6.5 per cent over 2017/18.

Building Programme
The College’s redevelopment building programme, which started in 2017, comprises two discrete phases, the positive effects of which will be felt over future decades rather than simply years. Phase I of the programme remains on course to be completed by Michaelmas 2020. This will see the realisation of 52 additional student rooms, seminar and social spaces, and a new boundary building which will provide, amongst other facilities, panoramic views of the city. A secondary phase, which will extend student accommodation and College facilities further, is currently envisioned to be completed in 2023. However, the design of the development has not been finalised and planning permission has yet to be sought.

Fundraising
The costs of these building programmes are significant. Consequently, in 2015, the College issued £20 million of loans notes. Since then, a fundraising campaign has attracted over £18 million of gifts and pledges of gifts. This result is a credit to the College’s Development team. However, there remains much work to be done in order to adequately fund Phase II.

Despite these challenges, the development of St Hilda’s College, both physically and academically, continues apace and its future is very bright as a consequence.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Frank Gargent, who acted as Bursar of the College for over seven years. On behalf of the College, I would like to thank Frank for his years of service, which have seen the College embark on a substantial and notable period of change. I am sure you will join me in wishing Frank a most enjoyable retirement.

CHRIS WOOD
Bursar

Financial Overview

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Revitalising the College site

St Hilda’s has changed beyond recognition over the past two years, and in the next Annual Review we will be able to publish pictures of our completed buildings, improved grounds and revitalised entrance. For now, you can see how much progress has been made.

The old entrance to College

The Lodge, MCR and Milham Ford were demolished in autumn 2018

By January 2019 the entire site was ready for construction

By summer 2019 the boundary building was taking shape

The topping out ceremony took place in November 2019

The pavilion’s roof was added in January 2020

The new College skyline is almost completed

We look forward to opening the new buildings later this year

The riverside site will be ready for Michaelmas Term 2020