## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Undergraduates</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Graduates</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows’ and Research News</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline du Pré Music Building</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125th Anniversary Campaign</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applause</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Overview</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iffley Road Project</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome from the Principal

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 edition of the Annual Review. It has been another busy and successful year at St Hilda’s, with a number of exciting projects in progress and achievements to celebrate across the board.

Our Senior Tutor reflects on this year’s examination results, which have been strong at all levels, with some remarkable individual achievements that have once again reinforced the College’s deserved reputation for academic excellence. We recognise that the success of our students is underpinned by the support and encouragement afforded them from the earliest stages; with that in mind, this year has seen the implementation of a number of pioneering new access initiatives designed to attract the brightest individuals to the College, regardless of background. This can be read about in more detail on page 2.

We remain committed to supporting members of the College community throughout their academic careers, and take pride in their successes and top level contributions to international fields of research and scholarship. You can read more about just some of the superb work of our Fellows on pages 6-9.

St Hilda’s has always held a commitment to strengthening ties and fostering communication at all levels, and this year has been no exception. The JCR and MCR have worked together on a variety of initiatives, combining work, play and fresh ideas to achieve great things, from the academic sphere through to sporting success and charitable endeavours. We are rightly proud of our students’ achievements, and remain relentless in our drive to provide them with everything they need to embark on fulfilling and successful futures.

You will have seen from our recent Campaign Brochure that plans to develop the College site are well underway, and are making strong progress. Whilst the project is an ambitious one, we are greatly excited about the opportunities this enterprise will make possible for all members of the St Hilda’s community. A commitment to providing a first-class academic experience has always been at the heart of the College’s ethos, and we are dedicated to providing a springboard from which students can go on to excel across all fields. During our 125th Anniversary year, we aim to celebrate with a host of events reflective of our successes and remarkable history; we hope our alumnae will come together and join us in celebrating not only all that we have already achieved, but also a bold, exciting and pioneering future for the College that we can shape together as a community.

SIR GORDON DUFF
Principal

“A commitment to providing a first-class academic experience has always been at the core of the College’s ethos.”
The 2016-17 academic year has come to an end, and it has been an eventful and successful year for our undergraduate students.

Back in October the incoming Freshers arrived and settled in nicely, continuing the annual cycle of renewal that brings so much vitality to Oxford. Term got off to a good start and in November Baroness Hale of Richmond, the Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, came to give the annual Lady English Lecture on "The Conflict of Equalities: Religion, Gender, and Sexual Orientation". This event was well attended by students, Fellows and their guests, and was of particular interest for our Law students who had recently studied Baroness Hale’s work. Later in Michaelmas Term we celebrated Founder’s Day with a service and a wonderful concert. Our guest speaker was Bertie Thomson, who gave an inspiring after dinner speech about her time at St Hilda’s where she studied Classics; she explained how that time equipped her with many of the skills she has since employed in her career, currently as Corporate Communications Director at Facebook.

Undergraduate Academic Achievements

In February, many of our students received recognition from the College at the Scholars’ and Exhibitioners’ Dinner for their hard work last year: 26 students were awarded Scholarships and 15 Exhibitions. Later in Hilary Term we started the exam season with Classics, Psychology and Law Mods, and Trinity Term continued with Prelims and Finals. It was a particularly good year for our students sitting their Mods and Prelims, gaining an astonishing number of Firsts and Distinctions between them.

The high level of achievement continued into Finals, which is testament to the students’ hard work, and to the dedication of the St Hilda’s academic and non-academic staff that tutor and assist them. This year the University recognised 11 St Hilda’s students’ accomplishments with University Prizes for Prelim and Finals performance. We are also very pleased that the Finals results for 2016/17 are in keeping with last year’s outstanding performance, with 22% of finalists achieving 1st class degrees, 70% 2.i.s and only 8% 2.ii.s. Our three year average rate of a 1st or 2:i degree is 94%. This is an impressive outcome for a large college with a diverse student background.

Academic Programme for Schools

During 2016-17, the Schools’ Outreach Programme has continued to offer a main point of contact for schools in the College’s link region of Surrey. The core aims remain the same; the Recruitment and Schools Programme Officer offers direct support to state schools, with a particular focus on students in years 9-13 from disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds, in addition to the wider objective of increasing the number and quality of first choice applications directly to St Hilda’s College. This year we have offered a more academically-focused programme to our schools. As such, we now work more collaboratively with schools to identify their needs and preferences. In response to this, we have delivered College taster days in specific subjects for years 10-12. One of our biggest achievements this year has been the successful development and delivery of our Surrey-St Hilda’s in-schools programme of twilight academic taster sessions.

The first in this series, in February 2017, consisted of two twilight academic taster sessions in Physics and Chemistry. In July we ran our second in the series of twilight academic sessions in Modern Languages, English and Classics. Evaluation of the previous year’s St Hilda’s College Schools Programme has shown a 72% increase in applications to Oxford from the directly supported schools, and a 33% increase from Surrey state schools. Critically, we have found over 60% of teachers reported a vastly improved perception of the College and University, with more than 30% reporting they were now “much more likely to encourage their students to make an application to the University or College”.

In summary, this year has seen excellent academic achievement and a significant increase in our in-schools programme activity. We encourage applications from all backgrounds, select the best candidates and then support our students across all subjects during their undergraduate careers with us. We want the very best for our undergraduates, and endeavour to provide a strongly academic, highly enjoyable and supportive foundation for their future success.

DR SARAH NORMAN
Senior Tutor

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Geographic origin Undergraduates

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585 enrolled students
393 undergraduates
192 graduates
JCR President’s report

2016-2017 has been a busy and productive year for the JCR, with a number of exciting projects in the works. A successful redesign of the JCR has been undertaken, numerous sports titles won and retained, and a whole range of fun and fruitful charity events have taken place – including a St Hilda’s Charity Bake Off, and an inaugural birthday party for the two College cats!

JCR Officers across the board have excelled in their fields. St Hilda’s Gender Equality Week was once again a roaring success, with a range of expert speakers attending; Arts Week provided an opportunity for many of our talented students to showcase their work through a variety of media; and our annual Sports Dinner once again took the time to recognise the many sporting triumphs of our JCR.

The undergraduate body continues to make efforts to liaise effectively with the College in ensuring St Hilda’s maintains as environmentally conscious a profile as possible. A landmark motion proposing the introduction of ‘Meat-Free Mondays’ to the College was passed by the JCR in an effort to minimise our carbon footprint. The St Hilda’s Divestment Campaign has continued the hard work of the previous year, and progress has been made in attempts to make College funds as fossil fuel free as possible.

Looking forward, a key aim of the JCR is to ensure that its bar remains predominantly student-led, and our bar managers have been working hard to keep this as a viable option. As we enter the College’s 125th Anniversary year and the commencement of the long anticipated building developments, we look forward to celebrating the history and successes of the College whilst also ensuring that St Hilda’s provides as rich, fulfilling and enjoyable an undergraduate experience as ever.

ANYA LYON-FRASER
JCR President 2016-17

Travel grants

The College holds a number of funds available to support students travelling overseas for research or study purposes, whether that be for fieldwork, to visit libraries and museums, or to attend conferences or work placements. Many of these funds exist purely as a result of the generosity of our alumnae, and contribute towards providing extremely valuable opportunities for our students. This year, 60 students were able to benefit from a travel bursary. Charlie Hailes, a 2nd year undergraduate reading Classics, received a grant toward funding a summer research trip to Pompeii. He recounts his experience below.

“I really enjoyed my trip to the Campanian region, which was my first trip abroad! I feel that I have benefited greatly from my experience, and am very grateful to have had the opportunity to apply for a travel grant; it is far better to learn about things by seeing and visiting them, rather than just reading about them in a book.

If it had not been for this grant, I do not think that I would have had the opportunity to visit Pompeii and the other sites which I managed to visit. I was so mesmerised by Pompeii that I just had to spend two whole days there walking through the streets of the ancient ruins. I tried to imagine the everyday life of the people that would have lived there, and the events that would have taken place in the forum, amphitheatre and theatre, which are so well preserved. I also visited a number of other sites which feature in my course, including the town of Herculaneum, the villas at Stabiae and Oplontis, Tiberius’ villa at Capri and the Naples Archaeological Museum, which houses a great deal of material from Roman Italy. I saw things during this week which I had only ever seen in a book, and I still cannot believe that I have now actually visited these sites!

I am really looking forward to my next trip abroad, to discover yet more ancient ruins. Although, for now, it’s back to discovering things from books!”

Over the last academic year...

- 31 travel grants were awarded to undergraduates
- 29 grants were awarded to graduate students
- A total of £36,117 was awarded
- Average travel grant was just over £600
Our Graduates

St Hilda’s graduate students have had an excellent year of achievement and academic enterprise.

In 2017, we awarded graduate studentships across a range of disciplines, including scholarships in social sciences and natural sciences jointly funded with the University’s Clarendon scheme, and five doctoral training centre awards in the biological and medical sciences. We are also contributing to an AHRC collaborative doctoral award with the Tate on ‘Art Patronage and Court Influence 1660–1714’. Information regarding the College’s graduate scholarships can be found at www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/scholarships-and-grants.

University prizes were won in clinical medicine, which was particularly gratifying given this was only our second cohort of medical students to be completing all six years at St Hilda’s.

Highlights from the MCR’s regular programme of academic events included three internal research symposia, including an event in Hilary Term topicality themed around ‘post-truth’, with contributions from philosophy, experimental psychology, international relations, and law, and a poster session before the annual graduate supervisors’ dinner in Trinity Term. Benefiting from the keen involvement of our Junior Research Fellows in College life, the MCR also organised a valuable round-table discussion on ‘preparing for post-DPhil life’.

Several graduates obtained funding from the Tutor for Graduates’ fund for collaborative college research activity, including two interdisciplinary conferences that were also awarded grants by the College Research Committee: ‘The Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in the Reception of the Ancient World’ in December 2016 and ‘Translation into Theatre and the Social Sciences’ in June 2017. To support the costs of individual projects, whether that be travel to archives, fieldwork or to present results at conferences, many MCR members were successful in their application for the College’s termly disbursement of funds for travel and research.

DR HELEN SWIFT
Tutor for Graduates

“The graduate students’ poster session was a very valuable opportunity for me to present my ongoing research as well as receive various suggestions from College members in other fields.”

Sungwon Han, Psychiatry

“Freshers’ Week gave me a great opportunity to get involved in St Hilda’s and to find my way into Oxford life. Now welfare brunch in the MCR is always a highlight of the week for me, seeing my friends and enjoying a good start to Sunday.”

Daniel Quetschlich,
Physical and Theoretical Chemistry
MCR Overview:

The 2016-2017 year has been one filled with positive development and future potential for St Hilda’s College. Most poignantly, St Hilda’s is moving forward with its ambitious building plans as we approach the 125th Anniversary of the College’s founding. This project will dramatically improve the amenities and quality of life at College, particularly for the St Hilda’s MCR with the construction of a new common room for the graduate student community.

The MCR has had an incredible year since Michaelmas 2016. After a very successful Freshers’ Week, the MCR maintained a strong engagement with its new members. Through events such as our termly guest nights and unique socials including our Murder Mystery Dinner, St Hilda’s is proud to boast one of the most engaged graduate communities at the University of Oxford.

The MCR also strengthened its engagement with other members of College. The MCR and JCR Committees worked together to put on welfare events and liaise with the Dining Hall in ensuring students’ dietary needs are met. The MCR Committee moved to get more involved with the sporting life of College, supporting our Rowing and Football clubs in their needs for new equipment. Academically, the MCR continued its tradition of hosting termly research symposiums, and increased our engagement with the Fellowship through a new drinks reception with the SCR at the end of the year.

This year we continued to hold our wildly popular fortnightly Sunday Brunches. We also persisted with past charitable efforts, holding our Thanksgiving Dinner to help raise funds for the Kojo Minta Fund, and the Cocktail and Ceilidh Evening to support the Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre.

We also instituted a new termly fund that members of the MCR may apply for, with support going toward their preferred charitable cause.

The past year has been a tremendous success thanks to the warmth and enthusiasm of MCR members, as well as the hard work and dedication of the MCR Committee. The future is bright for St Hilda’s College, and the MCR is certain to have better and better years to come.

STEPHEN ZHAO
MCR President 2016-17

“Organising a Murder Mystery Dinner for 30 guests was my personal highlight of Hilary Term. Selecting a character for everyone, staging the murder, hiding clues, and then slowly watching the plot unfold was great. As it happens, we have some amazing actors in the MCR!”

Julia Heitmann,
Global and Imperial History

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Julia Heitmann,
Global and Imperial History
The Fellowship

As ever, it has been a busy year for our Fellowship, with characteristic dedication to the education and welfare of our students, alongside a great deal of world-leading research, and the accompanying well deserved honours. Here is just a sample of some of the fantastic achievements this year:

Professor Susan Jones, Tutorial Fellow in English Literature, has been awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to fund a project on Samuel Beckett and choreography.

Dr Daniel Bulte, Fellow and Tutor of Engineering Science, launched Professor Bulte's Incredible Medical Machines: a series of bite-sized factual films focusing on the science and history behind medical technology.


Principal Sir Gordon Duff has been awarded the Sir James Black Award for Contributions to Drug Discovery for his work on therapeutic targets in the treatment of human arthritis. He was also awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Sheffield.

Dr Dev Gangjee, Fellow and Tutor in Law, won an Outstanding Pastoral Support Award at the annual Oxford University Student Union Teaching Awards. This award recognises his dedication to student welfare and commitment to considering student needs while aiding progress.

Professor Selina Todd, Tutorial Fellow in History, has accepted nomination as the new President of the Socialist Education Association.

Dr Ana Namburete, Associate Research Fellow, has been awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering Fellowship. Her research focuses on enhancing the diagnostic value of sonographic images, with an aim to establish ultrasound as a cost-effective tool for early assessment of brain maturation during pregnancy.

Royal Literary Fund Fellowship

Professor Claire Harman

For almost twenty years now, the Royal Literary Fund has been financing fellowships that place established writers in universities and colleges to provide writing support to students. This can be anything from essay writing to tweaking a c.v., drafting an application, or working on a thesis. It can also cover general tips about writing, and what might be termed ‘composition morale’; whatever the student is concerned about, or simply wants to improve, can be discussed free, in confidence, and as frequently as office hours allow.

I’m delighted to be the new RLF Fellow at St Hilda’s, ready in my room at the top of South Building to tackle whatever writing tasks arise. Who’s going to come through the door; a mathematician, a philosopher, a history student, a criminologist? I’m a literary biographer, so the distance between our areas of expertise may be quite marked, but the Fund’s benign scheme allows both fellow and student to learn, and share. Answering ‘the local and regional needs of both writers and institutions’ is very much a two-way street.

Did you know?

St Hilda’s was the first Oxford college to offer formal writing support to our students through a Royal Literary Fund Fellowship.
How to catch a virus

Dr Amr Aswad and Dr Aris Katzourakis

The process of hunting down and ‘catching’ a virus is key to understanding how diseases work and how best to treat them – but traditionally this has been a difficult game to play. Many viruses are not discovered at all until they have already attacked an organism and caused symptoms of disease, which has caused major setbacks to global health and the agricultural industry.

The solution to this dilemma may lie in DNA sequencing. Nowadays, we are able to sequence an organism’s genome from just a small blood or tissue sample and store the genetic information in vast online databases. Dr Amr Aswad and Dr Aris Katzourakis have developed a technique for using these data banks to detect and gather viral data that would normally be discarded. When using the database to search for a herpes virus in primates, they came across two new undocumented viruses purely by chance; spurred on by this, they went on to build an algorithm that, when searching through masses of genetic information, indicates the presence of unusual viral fragments. They used this technique to great effect in more than 50 breeds of fish; alongside the expected lineages, they discovered several unfamiliar fragments which may represent viruses which integrated themselves into the genome millions of years ago, and have since lain undiscovered.

Although we don’t yet know whether these particular samples have any links to disease, the potential for such findings are far-reaching and exciting. If we can detect and analyse viruses before they have the chance to cause harm, we can better understand the triggers of disease and how best to prevent them occurring. Building up a ‘bank’ of known viruses means that, if a new disease does crop up, we can more quickly and efficiently identify and go about treating it. This is particularly relevant now given the transmission of disease to humans via hosts, such as the spread of the Zika virus by the mosquito; with new technology such as this, we now stand a much stronger chance of keeping ahead of the game and, ultimately, keeping the catastrophic effects of disease to a minimum.

Prisons and parricide

Dr Rachel Condry

Rachel Condry has been on sabbatical leave for some of this year, which has included a period of time as a visiting fellow at Monash University in Melbourne, and Griffith University in Brisbane. She has also visited Northern Arizona University where she gave a paper on parricide in the UK. She has been working on three new research projects this year. The first, ‘Addressing the Impact of Maternal Imprisonment: Developing Collaborative Training’, is funded by an ESRC IAA Knowledge Exchange grant, working with the Prison Reform Trust to co-design resources to train legal and criminal justice professionals on the effects of maternal imprisonment and the sentencing of mothers. The second, ‘Investigating Parricide in the UK’, is funded by a John Fell Fund award and uses Homicide Index data, interviews with those who work with domestic homicide cases, and police data, to explore how parricide (child to parent homicide) is understood in the UK. The third project (with Harry Annison, University of Southampton) explores the experiences of the families of indeterminately-sentenced imprisonment for public protection (IPP) prisoners, through interviews with family members, reform groups, parliamentarians and journalists who have supported the IPP prisoner family campaign, and a survey of IPP family members. Rachel has also been finishing a book on adolescent to parent violence (with Caroline Miles, University of Manchester), and an edited volume (with Peter Scharff Smith, University of Oslo) on Prisons, Punishment and the Family, for Oxford University Press.
Developing treatments for osteoarthritis

Dr Linda Troeberg and Dr Stephen Wren

Drs Linda Troeberg and Stephen Wren, both St Hilda’s Associate Research Fellows, are developing a cross-disciplinary collaboration to develop new treatments for osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is a common disease, affecting around 15% of people over the age of 60; it develops as joints degenerate, causing pain and difficulty in movement for sufferers. Current treatments are limited to helping patients manage their pain, or surgically replacing the damaged joint. Consequently, there is a considerable unmet medical and social need to develop effective therapies.

Dr Wren has expertise in medicinal chemistry, and has previously developed potential drugs in many therapeutic areas. Dr Troeberg’s research has identified a pathway in joints that can be targeted for development of new drugs to treat osteoarthritis, and also identified a family of chemicals that can target this pathway. This collaboration aims to further develop this biological observation into an effective drug before testing candidate molecules in a mouse model of osteoarthritis.

St Hilda’s awarded the team a short-term, jointly supervised studentship, to generate pilot data to help underpin a substantive grant application. The successful student, Lucy Britton, is busy screening commercially available tool chemicals for their ability to inhibit cartilage. These studies should help to pinpoint which chemical families are more important to take forward as leads as well as providing valuable training for one of our undergraduate students.

Who am I when I am dead?

Dr Helen Swift

Oxford’s ‘Curiosity Carnival’, contributing to this year’s European Researchers’ Night, sets academic research in the context of people’s daily life. My colleague Jess Goodman and I are asking people to think about the relationship between identity and legacy through our stall in the Pitt Rivers Museum: ‘You Are What You Leave’. How do the objects that we leave behind, intentionally or otherwise, become the material markers of who we are and the stories that are told about us? Whether it’s simply the state in which we leave a room, a time capsule that we have buried, or the digital imprint that we have left through social media, our heirs will sift through the evidence of our lives. How does this reading process work? Who decides what materials matter? How much can we control our posthumous record?

These questions arise out of my research into death and identity in late-medieval French literature: Representing the Dead: Epitaph Fictions in Late-Medieval France (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2016). My book, kindly launched at St Hilda’s in November 2016, explores how fifteenth- and early sixteenth-century writers used the act of memorialising someone to interrogate the very processes of posthumous commemoration and expose their precarities. In March 2017, Jess and I first brought together our shared interests across medieval and early modern France in a workshop with colleagues spanning all periods in the French Sub-Faculty, to ask ‘Whither Death?’ In what new directions might we take our research on posterity? Our discussions led us, in part, to the Curiosity Carnival.

You can listen to Helen Swift at podcasts.ox.ac.uk/people/helen-swift.
Professor Alison Noble OBE is world-renowned within the field of biomedical engineering. Her work on optimisation of medical imaging systems, such as ultrasound and X-ray, is at the cutting edge of diagnostic science. Developing the most sensitive technologies possible maximises detection and diagnosis of diseases ranging from cardiovascular disease to breast cancer, ultimately working to provide patients with the best possible outcomes. Her recent prestigious election to Fellowship of the Royal Society is a just tribute to the reach and significance of Professor Noble’s work, but is only the latest accolade in a career influential for a number of reasons.

An undergraduate career at St Hugh’s College, Oxford, preceded a move to New York to work on the development of inspection systems for aircraft. Having filed several patents and won awards for technical achievement, Professor Noble moved back to the UK, re-joining Oxford in a professorial role – the first female Statutory Professor of Engineering appointed by the University, and the youngest elected Professor of Engineering within the department at the time. An OBE in 2013 recognised her services to Science and Engineering, followed by receipt of the inaugural Laura Bassi Award for Outstanding Female Researcher in Medical and Biological Engineering in 2015 – both remarkable achievements. Alongside her teaching and research work, today Professor Noble also remains heavily involved in a number of high-profile advisory capacities, including several committees for the Research Council UK and Royal Academy of Engineering (of which she is also an elected Fellow).

Professor Noble is rare in that her commitment to excellence extends well beyond the academic sphere to encompass both student support and public engagement in science. Her accomplishments and activities reflect this: over 50 DPhil students have been supervised to completion; she is a trustee of the Oxford Trust, which strives to foster communication and application of the sciences to wider society; and she has been a key driving force behind the development of biomedical engineering teaching within the wider University. Her election to the Royal Society is an outstanding achievement and richly deserved, not only as just recognition for the scale of her academic prowess, but also as a nod to the lasting contribution she has made to the wider field of engineering and scientific discovery – one which can only continue to inspire and benefit others as a result of her input.

**Election to Fellowship of the Royal Society**

The Royal Society, established in 1660, is the oldest independent academy of science in the world. It aims to recognise and support excellence in scientific practice and discovery whilst promoting public engagement and fostering global scientific cooperation. Membership of the Royal Society is highly prestigious, and follows a rigorous selection process. Women have only been eligible for election to the Fellowship since 1945, and still remain at a significant minority, comprising just 26% of Royal Society Fellows elected in 2017, and approximately 5% of all living Fellows elected in 2017 – making Professor Noble’s achievement all the more significant.

“I have always sought to effectively combine advanced research with training the next generation of researchers in my field. I am proud of every one of my students and what they themselves have achieved.”
The JdP Concert Series

Over the course of the JdP’s 2016/17 Concert Season, we welcomed a host of world-class artists, from the exceptional jazz pianist Gwilym Simcock to the trailblazing lutenist Elizabeth Kenny, who presented a ‘Shakespeare Miscellany’ alongside countertenor Robin Blaze and the actor Dickon Tyrrell. Players of the London Sinfonietta were joined by French composer Tristan Murail for an exploration of ‘spectral’ (or ‘liminal’) music; the Heath Quartet returned to the JdP for a spellbinding performance of quartets by Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven; and remarkable singer and cellist Simon Wallfisch performed the Debussy sonata for cello and piano and a collection of French songs with pianist Edward Rushton. Our wonderful Steinway D was front and centre for two Piano Weekends, with Ian Pace’s Homage to David Tudor and Nicolas Hodges’ Scarlatti/Sciarrino recital, followed by Maki Sekiya’s performance of contemporary Russian piano music and Jonathan Powell’s 4 1/2 hour epic, Sorabji’s Opus Clavicembalisticum.

Thanks to our state-of-the-art recording facilities and newly-installed PTZ cameras in the hall, many of these concerts and their pre-concert talks were streamed live to audiences across the world in high resolution and can be watched again by signing up at jdp.sthildas.ox.ac.uk.

DANSOX

2016-17 saw the successful return of the DANSOX programme to the College, with many interesting workshops, performances and lectures drawing together ideas from choreography, performance, and academia. Concepts explored were varied: Jeremy Millar and Siobhan Davies discussed representations of bodily movement across artistic disciplines, whilst lectures from Professor Lynn Garafola and Professor Mark Franco opened up dialogue on subjects as far ranging as French dance, neo-classicism, and the professional career of the great twentieth-century choreographer, Nijinska. Many seminars ran alongside live performances of music and dance, some featuring pieces rarely seen performed in the UK. DANSOX is a unique forum for both uniting art forms and encouraging academic and practical discussion of dance and choreography, and remains a wonderful asset for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue within both the College and the wider artistic community.
Family & Community Projects

The JdP has continued with its many education and community projects, which run throughout the academic year and out of term time. Our monthly Cushion Concerts, as well as the annual Robert Mayer concert and the Patsy Wood Family Prom, saw record numbers of children and families through the doors, many for the first time. At the end of 2016, the classic tale *The Elves and the Shoemaker* was brought to life in a magical pantomime, which was created by Wild Boor Ideas and supported by the Robert Mayer Trust and Arts Council England. It was a hugely successful production with nearly all available tickets sold. Emma Boor and her team return this coming Christmas for a brand new production. These pantomimes are full of theatrical twists, ingenious puppetry and original live music; this is not your typical panto! Special interactive performances are also devised for those with Special Educational Needs. The quarterly Moving Music concerts, aimed primarily at people living with dementia, also continued throughout 2016/17. Funded by the Patsy Wood Trust and the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, these concerts featured experienced performers such as Derek Paravicini and Christine Cairns as well as Radley College and Magdalen College School musicians. The JdP also continued to host three Schools Concerts each term, including a preliminary workshop at each of the schools in preparation for the performance.

Looking Ahead

2018 looks to be a very exciting year for the JdP, with a packed programme of events in store to mark the College’s 125th Anniversary. We will be kick-starting the celebrations in February with four days’ worth of superb events and performances, including a solo piano concert from jazz composer Zoe Rahman and renditions of Shostakovich and Rachmaninov by the world-class cellist Steven Isserlis. Many of our finest student musicians will also be giving featured performances, and we are eagerly anticipating the world premiere of the specially commissioned *St Hilda of Whitby: A Cantata*; written and produced by our own alumnae, poet Wendy Cope and composer Nicola LeFanu, it will most fittingly commemorate what promises to be an exciting and remarkable anniversary year for the College and the JdP.

Visit jdp.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/support to find out how you can join the JdP Music Circle and support Music at St Hilda’s.
Thank you to alumnae and friends of the College for your sustained support for St Hilda’s during the 2016-17 financial year. These generous legacies, special gifts and reunion and event donations, along with the contributions from our regular giving programme, provide the momentum that is so important in the early stages of the most ambitious fundraising campaign in St Hilda’s history.

All gifts make a difference at St Hilda’s, and the College is enormously grateful to have a participation rate of just over 20% this year (the percentage of contactable alumnae and friends on our database who made a donation during the financial year). While this is above average for Oxford colleges, we hope that as we engage and involve our donors throughout our 125th Anniversary Campaign we can match the top participation rates in Oxford of 30% and above. The St Hilda’s Centenary Campaign achieved a participation rate of more than 45% – setting a standard that we will strive to match during the 125th Campaign.

It is very heartening to see that our current students are contributing to support the College. In particular, our MCR participation rate is close to 90% (current MCR students and recent MCR graduates) giving to the Kojo Minta Memorial Fund – an initiative that they started and have maintained for seven years, raising over £42,000 towards their £100,000 target to endow a scholarship in memory of a talented and greatly-missed MCR graduate who died in 2011. The students also provide two generous Kojo Minta Research and Travel Awards each year for their members.

Gifts from the US also made a significant impact on our development programme this year, contributing the major share of the total gift income received from outside the UK.

Our progress to date

£7 million raised
£15m

Key Dates

COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED
March 2016

PRE-APPLICATION PLANNING ADVICE
November 2016

OXFORD DESIGN REVIEW PANEL
December 2016

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT
May 2017

CONSULTATION PERIOD

125th Anniversary Campaign
Building the future

The 125th Anniversary Campaign and Celebrations brochures were mailed out in December 2017 to set the stage for 2018. The Campaign Brochure, with the latest design images for a significant capital works programme, signals new levels of ambition for St Hilda’s. When achieved, the new buildings will underpin equality of access, provide excellent academic facilities, and create an environment where leading research collaboration and learning can flourish.

With two campaign boards set up already (in the UK and US, with further representation to be sought internationally) we are working with our alumnae and friends of the College at this early stage to achieve the £15 million target for the building programme.

With close to £7 million received to date, we must now close the gap within the coming three years to ensure we can meet our most important goal – to create 125 student rooms, allowing all undergraduates to have a College room throughout their time at Oxford.

We hope you will respond with generosity – there are many ways of getting involved with the campaign and making your contribution, whether individually or as a group. Gifts may be set up for a five year period, at whatever level is appropriate.

All contributions count and bring the College closer to its goals – to support its students and Fellows to flourish in the highly competitive, changing world of higher education.

In the words of our US Campaign Board Chair, Regina Pisa, Chairman Emeritus, Goodwin Procter LLP:

“This is St Hilda’s moment. There will not be another time like this for St Hilda’s in our lifetime. Nor will there be another opportunity for us to have such a transformational impact on St Hilda’s future. I urge you to be generous and to consider reaching for what may be a once in a lifetime capital gift.”
Applause!

Laura Cumming (English, 1979) won the 2017 James Tait Black Prize for Biography. Her book, *The Vanishing Man*, explores the story of Victorian art seller John Snare, who believed he had found a lost painting by Velázquez.

Anna Hall (English, 1987) was nominated for a BAFTA and shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for ‘Exposing Britain’s Social Evils’ for her work on the documentary *Behind Closed Doors*.

Val McDermid (English, 1972 and Honorary Fellow) was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Members of the FRSE bring together their expertise from a range of sectors to inform the advancement of knowledge and learning in Scottish public life.

Karina Gould (International Relations, 2011) was appointed Minister of Democratic Institutions for Canada – at just 29, she is the youngest female Cabinet minister in Canadian history.

Professor Judith Weir, Honorary Fellow, was appointed Master of the Queen’s Music – the first woman to hold the position.

Dame Hilary Boulding (Music, 1975) was appointed President of Trinity College, Oxford. By leaving her former position as Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to take up the role, she became the first female President in Trinity College’s history.

Anneliese Dodds (PPE, 1996) and Meg Hillier (PPE, 1987) respectively won the Oxford East seat and retained the Hackney South and Shoreditch seat, both for Labour, in this year’s General Election.

St Hilda’s ski team won this winter’s Oxbridge Cuppers, beating Corpus Christi, Oxford and then Homerton, Cambridge in the final. This slalom relay is a highlight of the Varsity Trip each year.

Anneliese Dodds (PPE, 1996) and Meg Hillier (PPE, 1987) respectively won the Oxford East seat and retained the Hackney South and Shoreditch seat, both for Labour, in this year’s General Election.

Anna Tierney (Modern Languages, 2004) produced *Skate Hard, Turn Left* – shown at the Battersea Arts Centre, the production was a unique one performed via the medium of the all-female contact sport of roller derby!

Nicola Dandridge (Classics, 1978) was appointed first CEO of England’s Office for Students. Moving on from her role as Chief Executive of Universities UK, this newly created position will promote choice and competition and act as a market-style regulator in the interests of students.

Philippa Lowthorpe (Classics, 1980) and Nicole Taylor (Law, 1997) acted as director and screenwriter respectively for the critically acclaimed series *Three Girls*, a drama based on the experiences of three teenage girls who were victims of the 2012 grooming and sex trafficking scandal in Rochdale.

Zeinab Badawi (PPE, 1978) received an award at the prestigious MVISA (Movie Video and Screen Awards) ceremony on 28 October 2017 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to media.

Olly Jackson (Classics, 2013) and Madeleine Perham (English, 2012) both featured shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. Olly and Madeleine wrote, directed and acted in *The Red Emerald: A Farce for the Colourblind* and the first theatrical adaptation of *Ruby Redfort*, respectively.

Dame Fiona Caldicott (Physiology, 1960) received the First Women Lifetime Achievement Award for her work on data protection within the NHS.

Vivienne Durham (English, 1979) was appointed the new Chief Executive of the Girls’ School Association. The GSA represents the heads of many of the day and boarding schools in the country’s independent schools sector.
Alice Curry (English, 2002) won the 2017 Kim Scott Walwyn prize. The founder of Lantana Publishing, a company aimed at promoting works which increase equality of representation in children’s literature, Alice was awarded this prestigious prize in recognition of her achievements and potential as a woman in publishing.

Emily Blewitt (English, 2004) published her debut poetry collection *This Is Not A Rescue* with Seren, Wales’ leading independent literary publisher.

Nadifa Mohamed (History and Politics, 2000) won the Prix de l’Academie des Sciences d’Outre-mer for her novel, *The Orchard of Lost Souls*. Published in 2013 by Macmillan, Nadifa’s novel tells the story of the Somali rebellion through the eyes of three women, and has attracted high critical acclaim.

Narmeen Rehman (Engineering, 2007), currently a Fuel Route Engineer for EDF Energy, was appointed to the WISE Young Women’s Board for the period 2016-17. The Board aims to promote, support and encourage young women entering into STEM careers, and appoints 11 exceptional young women exemplifying these values to its board each year.

The *St Hilda’s M1 crew* won blades in both Torpids and Summer VIIIIs this year, despite conflicting exam schedules, a change of boat, and injured rowers.

Regina Pisa (PPE, 1977) was selected by *The American Lawyer* for its top honour, the Law Firm Distinguished Leader of 2017. As part of its Lifetime Achievement Awards, this accolade is awarded annually to a law firm leader who has demonstrated exemplary stewardship of their firm.

Nicola Strickland (Physiological Sciences, 1977) began her term as President of the Royal College of Radiologists.

Diana Oxlade (Zoology, 1965) has published *50 Weeds*, a collection of water colour illustrations which allow the reader to appreciate the beauty of the weeds that are typically discarded without a second thought.

Val McDermid (English, 1972), Dame Fiona Caldicott (Physiology, 1960), Adèle Geras (Modern Languages, 1963) and Dr Daisy Dunn (Classics, 2005) claimed the title in the University Challenge Christmas Special 2016, defeating rival teams from Magdalen College, Cambridge, St Anne’s College, Oxford, and the University of Leeds.

The *Progress 1000: London’s Top Influencers 2017* included four St Hilda’s alumnae among its ranks. Bettany Hughes (Ancient and Modern History, 1985), Zanny Minton-Beddoes (PPE, 1986), Meg Hillier (PPE, 1987) and Hannah Rothschild (History, 1981) were recognised for their contributions to historical broadcasting and academia, financial journalism, politics, and art and film-making, respectively.

Ruth Chan (Music, 1997) was nominated for a Best Composer award in The Stage Debut Awards, for her work on the RSC’s *Snow in Midsummer*. 
I am pleased to be able to report that the financial position of the College remains sound, and indeed it continued to strengthen during the year.

The unaudited Financial Statements for the year end 31 July 2017 showed a surplus of £4.5 million compared with £2.7 million in the previous year. The increase was wholly due to improved investment returns, which more than offset increased costs and reduced donations and legacies. As a result, net assets increased from £106.8 million in 2016 to £111.3 million at 31 July 2017. Of this, £75.5 million was invested and a further £4.4 million was held by the College in the form of bank and deposit balances.

Sale of 32 Jack Straw’s Lane

The sale to the University of 32 Jack Straw’s Lane for £3.1 million provided a useful contribution to College funds. This property, located some distance from the College, in Headington close to the John Radcliffe Hospital, was purchased fifteen years ago, in 2002. It was initially redeveloped as a nursery, which was leased to the University, and as accommodation for our students. In recent years, however, the accommodation has not proved particularly popular with students and it was felt that recycling the value of the property in the redevelopment of student accommodation elsewhere would be a better use of resources.

Building Programme

The real story of the year for the Bursary is the progress made in our £40+ million Anniversary Building Programme, which has really accelerated in the last 12 months. The programme comprises three building projects, at differing stages of maturity:

• The Iffley Road Centre commenced construction in July 2017 and is expected to complete in time for the 2018-19 academic year, when it will be renamed the Jocelyn Morris Quad in recognition of Ms Morris’ generous bequest and keen interest in postgraduate accommodation. The College’s recently appointed Head of Buildings and Projects, Mr Neil Hyatt, provides more detail of this project on the following page.

• The redevelopment of the front of College project is in its pre-construction phase and the project has been intensively active during the year in a programme of design development and wide consultation in preparation for submission for planning approval. If all goes to plan, construction will coincide with the high point of the College’s 125th Anniversary celebrations in summer next year, and the buildings will be ready for occupation by autumn 2020.

• Phase 2 of the redevelopment of the College site is not yet underway, but will increasingly require our attention in the coming months when it moves into the early pre-construction phase.

The importance of philanthropy

As a charity without any shareholders, the College has very limited access to capital for development such as new buildings, or the endowment of scholarships/bursaries or additional teaching posts. Accumulation of operating surpluses is not really an option - the Oxford model of education is expensive and it is all that we can do to keep pace with rising costs. For buildings that generate an income, we can of course borrow, modestly, and we have done so, most recently in December 2015 when we made a private placement of long term notes raising £20 million repayable in equal measure in 30 and 40 years’ time. However, given the cost of building in Oxford and opportunity cost of providing accommodation to students for only half a year, the economic returns from building will not support 100% borrowing and so an element of own funds is essential. In practice, these can only come from philanthropy. It is for this reason that the College’s 125th Anniversary fundraising campaign is so critical for our development.

We have enough in our coffers to fund the first two of the projects described above, but completion of the third will depend upon a successful campaign. To date, we have received donations (including pledges) and bequests amounting to almost £7 million towards our target and I would like to add my sincere thanks to all our donors for their generosity. You really will transform the College.

FRANK GARGENT
Bursar

Sources of Income for College

- Residential 27.5%
- Tuition fees and grants 26.6%
- Investment income 27.4%
- Legacies & donations 15.6%
- Trading other 2.9%

Invested funds & other net assets

We have enough in our coffers to fund the first two of the projects described above, but completion of the third will depend upon a successful campaign. To date, we have received donations (including pledges) and bequests amounting to almost £7 million towards our target and I would like to add my sincere thanks to all our donors for their generosity. You really will transform the College.

FRANK GARGENT
Bursar
Iffley Road

The Iffley Road project started on site at the beginning of July 2017 and is well on track to deliver a fully refurbished, extended and high quality cluster of student accommodation on the corner of Iffley Road and Stockmore Street.

The rear outshot extensions to Fulford House have been demolished and the building will be extended full height with a new access staircase. A new staircase will also be added to the rear of 85/87 Iffley Road as the internal stairs have now been removed, and Stockmore House will find a new building attached to its northern side (occupying the old car park.)

The original 54 student rooms (a mixture of undergraduate and graduate) will be supplemented by 13 new student rooms. The whole development will also retain a Fellow’s ‘set’ on the corner of Stockmore Street.

These buildings (Stockmore House, Fulford House and 85/87 Iffley Road) will combine to form the new Jocelyn Morris Quad with single access off Stockmore Street into an enclosed and secure garden area, with individual buildings accessed from here. The new landscaped garden, including new trees, will be at the heart of the development.

The project is due for completion in July 2018.

NEIL HYATT
Head of Buildings and Projects