THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Left to Right: Dr Jonathan Snicker (Fellow for Development), Kiri-Ann Olney (Development Officer), Caitlin Tebbit (Development Assistant)

THE BENEFACTORS’ NETWORK

All donors to St John’s become members of our Benefactors’ Network. Benefactors receive invitations to networking receptions and email updates reporting the ways in which their gifts have been used.

Benefactors’ Receptions are sponsored by donors and are a wonderful opportunity for members to meet each other, current Fellows and students.

CONTACTS

Development Office
01865 610885
For more information on supporting St John’s please email:
development@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Alumni Relations Office
01865 610873
Please visit the Alumni Common Room (ACR) at 21 St Giles.
To update your details, share your news, book Alumni Guest Rooms and events please email:
alumni.office@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Find us on:

LinkedIn: St John’s College, University of Oxford
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjc.oxford.alumni
Twitter: @StJohnsOx

www.sjc.ox.ac.uk
As the new President of St John’s, I write with thanks for your continuing support. Some of my first duties have involved meeting alumni and I have greatly enjoyed learning more about this loyal community. Your continued engagement is very important; collectively, our alumni and friends are the College’s most important external resource. I would like to strengthen this bond still further, especially as I am taking up this role during an exceptionally difficult time for Higher Education. For the first time in our history our undergraduate students will face tuition fees of £9k p.a. – around three times the amount paid by those who came up last year. I am very concerned about the impact this will have on our students and their families. As the costs of living continue to rise without necessarily a commensurate rise in incomes, we want to ensure that high fees do not deter able applicants from less advantaged backgrounds. Our tutors should always be able to select the very best students regardless of means and needs. Once admitted, students should have access to resources that will enable them to thrive and flourish at St John’s: the books they need; and access to field trips and, most of all, to have the freedom to learn.

We are extremely lucky that the Alumni Fund provides resources to support key initiatives like the Schools Liaison Programme, the Student Ambassador Scheme, Hardship Grants, Book Grants, Academic Grants and Vacation Residence Study Grants; through these schemes we will be able to ensure that students are encouraged to apply regardless of their circumstances. I hope that students who benefit today will be disposed to support us in future; in our case, charity truly begins at home.

Inevitably, given these changes, a particular focus of fundraising in the coming years will be fee waivers and bursaries. We remain heavily dependent too on income from our endowment. However, I believe we would be making an error if we increased the drawdown on our endowment assets still further. Your philanthropy today is helping us achieve the targets needed to safeguard the future of our College and its students. With your help, the College is now spending around £1 million every year on various forms of student support. We cannot be complacent; we have other pressing issues, not least the ongoing need to fund graduate scholarships; of which there are few available nationally, particularly in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

As incoming President I have been extremely impressed to hear of the take up of the Alumni Fund, and the endowment gifts you have given since Sir Michael Scholar first established the 450 Fund in 2005. All this has been put to good use: we offer excellent provision for our undergraduates; we are working on a scheme to provide bursaries that will match those provided by the Moritz-Heyman scheme to all students with a family income below £16,000 p.a.; we provide more fully-funded Graduate Scholarships and Junior Research Fellowships than any other college, as well as many sport, cultural and extra-curricular activities. St John’s College is a remarkable place and I feel very privileged to have been elected its President. I am very much looking forward to working with you and to forming new friendships. I would like to thank Sir Michael for his foresight and commitment to these causes, without which the College would be a lesser place.

So the fanfare is for you!
### Summary Financial Report

The College relies heavily on income generated from endowment funds.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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<tr>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Resources from charitable activities¹</td>
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<td>Resources from generated funds</td>
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<td>Other incoming resources</td>
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<td>Profits on sale of charitable fixed assets</td>
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<td>Total Incoming Resources</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Trading expenditure</td>
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<td>620</td>
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<td>Investment Management costs²</td>
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<td>Public worship</td>
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<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Resources Expended</td>
<td>23,552</td>
<td>23,122</td>
<td>20,773</td>
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<td>Surplus/deficit for the year before transfer from investment gains</td>
<td>(3,639)</td>
<td>(4,870)</td>
<td>(4,474)</td>
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</table>

### NOTES

The full Annual Report and Financial Statements will be available in January 2013 at: www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/facts_and_figures/college_finances13.html

¹Charitable income includes research income and income from educational conferences, as well as student related income.

²Investment management figure includes building repairs and maintenance, Bagley Wood costs and rent, rates and insurances.

---

### Income 2011-12

- **Charitable Income** (23%)
- **Donation and Legacy Income** (8%)
- **Trading Income** (3%)

### Charitable Income & Expenditure

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<td>2011/12</td>
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### Legacies and Donation Income

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<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>£937,000</td>
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The ‘Fowndres’

Dr Jonathan Snicker (1986, PPE) points out that St John’s owes its survival to the Lady Joan White and to some very creative thinking.

The Governing Body has elected St John’s first female President, a significant change and one which the entire community — students, staff, Fellows and alumni — has greeted with pride and acclaim. Professor Maggie Snowling’s achievements have been documented elsewhere; I feel sure St John’s will benefit from her insight and leadership in the years ahead.

Professor Snowling is not the first woman to have exerted a considerable influence upon St John’s; however. The Lady Joan White was a potent force during the College’s early years — in fact she is acknowledged as a ‘fowndres’ in Sir Thomas White’s will. Now is the time I think to make more of this fact. Under London custom, ‘dame Joane’, White’s second wife, was entitled upon his death to claim half of her late husband’s personal property, as well as the remainder of the jointure that had been established for her. Had this been taken up, St John’s financial position would have been rendered, at best, precarious, no financial crisis at the outset and thus people put their minds and creative energies to meeting the challenge and resolving the issues. It would be foolish to suggest that the generalised concept of equal rights across the sexes would have had much traction in the sixteenth century, or be enshrined in legislation; nevertheless women’s rights are perhaps implied by the decision-making as is a degree of power and influence. No polity can be judged solely by its laws, after all the Soviet constitution was reputed to depict a model of good governance and propriety, but also by its norms and values. In this case, a modicum of civility and respect seems to have resulted in a positive outcome; one that we benefit from today.

St John’s was faced with a financial crisis at the outset and thus people put their minds and creative energies to meeting the challenge and resolving the issues. It would be foolish to suggest that the generalised concept of equal rights across the sexes would have had much traction in the sixteenth century, or be enshrined in legislation; nevertheless women’s rights are perhaps implied by the decision-making as is a degree of power and influence. No polity can be judged solely by its laws, after all the Soviet constitution was reputed to depict a model of good governance and propriety, but also by its norms and values. In this case, a modicum of civility and respect seems to have resulted in a positive outcome; one that we benefit from today.

St John’s was established by its founder and foundress as a centre for ‘the learning of the sciences of holy divinity, philosophy, and good arts’. Today, centres of learning are subject to new, external, pressures. Recent debate has focussed on the challenges of the ‘multiversity’ — courses offered over the internet at little or no cost. So worried are some of our counterparts in the USA by this, that drastic measures have resulted — the President of the University of Virginia was dismissed (then reinstated after a Faculty revolt) by the Board of Trustees for not doing enough to meet these challenges. Away from teaching, outstanding universities can point out that the internet is a good delivery mechanism, yet it does not lend itself to the conduct of cutting-edge research. St John’s and Oxford are well-placed for additional reasons it can be argued. Although many Oxford lectures are now available on iTunesU, the internet cannot easily provide direct and personal teaching and supervision by renowned scholars and scientists; nor can it provide references that stem from direct interaction and personal contact.

‘What if’ approaches to history have become a popular way of using the past to assess our present, and future: it may be instructive to speculate about our Founders’ responses to these challenges, had they been alive today. In his letter, given to Scholars and Fellows in our time, written during his mortal illness of February 1566, ‘To Mr. President, the Fellowes and Schollers of St. John’s Colledge, in Oxon.’, Sir Thomas White expresses himself in a way not heard in the public discourse of our day, ‘desyringe Almightie God that euerye one of you maye love one another as brethren; and I shall desire you all to apply your learninge and soe doinge God shall give you his blessinge both in this worlde and in the worlde to come. And further more, if any uariance or strife doe arise amounge you, I shall desire you for God’s loue to pacifiye it as much as you maye; and that doinge I put noe doubt but God shall blesse euerye one of you’.

Nonetheless, the core ideas of seeking to resolve disputes to the best of one’s ability and applying one’s learning resonate through the centuries. I am sure Sir Thomas would say the survival and success of St John’s is due in part to Providence, and for saying this he would encounter ‘uariance or strife’ in our, more secular, time. He was also a practical man and thus I am sure he would have welcomed the challenge that new educational technologies present — perhaps even becoming an internet education entrepreneur himself.

After Sir Thomas’ demise, Joan White was left with more immediate concerns. She was not the only foundress of a college to face challenges: Dervoguilla at Balliol, Lady Frances Sidney at Sidney Sussex and the extraordinary Dorothy Wadham, who, in her seventies and largely housebound, having been given a contradictory mandate by her dying husband Nicholas, managed, in four years, to found and build Wadham College. C.S.I. Davies (EHR, 2003) tells us that her ‘skilful networking was essential to the project’; that she had to act forcefully, particularly against individuals who were trying to rip her off, somehow getting her own way within a culture that expected modesty, deference and obedience. She managed to fight this sexism, in part, by appealing to the judgement of the Almighty over, for example, the ‘simony’ of her opponents.

Less is known about Lady Joan and perhaps my speculative narrative ought to end here; although her negotiations with Sir William Cordell and the Merchant Taylors must have required considerable acumen on the part of our foundress.

*See Benefactors: Making St John’s, a 450th Anniversary publication

Join the debate on LinkedIn: St John’s College Group

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Major Benefactors

SIR THOMAS AND LADY WHITE BENEFACTORS (£1,000,000 +)
Professor Dorothy Bishop Fellow
Mr Roy Cupus 1977
Mr David Fischel * 1976
Dr Eugene Lambert * 1984
Mr Peter Thompson * 1976
The Wolfson Foundation Foundation

The Hon Mr Andrew Fraser * 1965
Mr Graham Sharp * 1979
Mr Bernard Taylor * 1975 & Hon Fellow

LAUD BENEFICTOR (£500,000+)
Anonymous 1994

RAWLINSON BENEFICTOR (£300,000+)
Mr Daniel Slifkin * 1984

HOLMES BENEFICTORS (£250,000+)
Mr Edward Hocknell * 1980
Mr Matthew Lindsey-Clark * 1981
& Mrs Frances Lindsey-Clark * 1981
The late Mr Alan Root 1942

FEREDAY BENEFICTORS (£100,000+)
Anonymous Fellow
The late Dr Gordon Baker Fellow
Mr Nicholas Bratt * 1967
The late Professor Elizabeth Fallaize Fellows
& Professor Alan Grafen
Dr Peter Fan * 1954
Mr Yungtai Hsu * 1971
Mr Roger Short * 1938
& Mrs Susan Short *

JUXON BENEFICTORS (£100,000+)
Anonymous 1951, 1953
Anonymous in memory of 1930
Dr DL Davies
Mr John Adams 1936
Mr Bill Carson * 1952
The late Prof. Fritz Caspari 1933 & Hon Fellow
Mr Michael Collett * 1959
Mr Rupert Cox * 1983
Mr Michael Day * 1955
Mr Robert Garvin * 1972
Mr John Graham * 1970
Mr Joe Hassett Friend
Mr John Heath Friend
Mr Robert Kipling 1974

CASBERD BENEFICTORS (£50,000+)
Anonymous Hon Fellow
Anonymous Fellow

Gift or additional gift made in the past year (all gifts are cumulative) | Member of the 450 Generation
Member of the Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors | Member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Circle

Mrs Cressida Legge 1987
The Honorable Keith Long * 1976
Mr Peter Loose * 1933
Mr Dennis Mortaray * 1976
Mr Sandy Murhead * 1972
Mr David O’Connell * 1982
& Mrs Janet O’Connell * 1982
Mr Will Pack * 1990
Mr Richard Philpott * 1957
Sir Michael Scholar * Hon Fellow
Mr Bill Scott * 1975
Mr Pratik Shah 1992
Mr Richard Simon * 1931
Mr Howard Smith * 1986
Dr Gillian Sutherland Friend
Mr Ben Travers 1953
Dr Jay Watson 1984
Dr Trudy Watt * 1971
Professor Martin West * 1935
Mr Matthew Whitell * 1981
Dr Jon Wittmann * 1970
The Tisbury Telegraph Trust * Trust

THE 450 GENERATION (2005-2007) (£5,000+)
Anon. 1946 49 54 57 58 64 76 79 84 85 94
Mr Melville Adams 1936
Dr John Anderson * 1950
Mr John Archard 1969
Dr Pauline Bashforth 1988
Mr Alexander Bashforth 1988
Dr Michael Baxendine * 1955
His Honour Richard Behar * 1960
The late Professor Frank Bisby 1964
Dr Ian Bostridge * 1983
Mr Philip Bowcock * 1944
Dr Tony Boyce * Hon Fellow & 1957
Mr Yohan Bräuning 1991
Dr Jason Breed 1989
Mr Nathan-Madonna Byers 1989
Mr Nigel Carrington * 1975
Mr Ernest Chapman 1954
Mr Mitchell Cohen 1975

Mr Philip Collins 1973
The late Mr John Crocker 1936
Mr David Cullingham * 1954
Mr Timothy Day * 1970
Mr Michael Deeming 1969
Mr Doran Doeh 1968
Dr Jonathan Duke-Evans * 1974
Dr Ralph Eccleston 1974
Mr Simon Ellis 1974
Mr Thomas Ewing 1995
Professor Bernard Gee 1945
Mr Keith Gerrish 1957
Mr Martyn Glestonbury 1970
Professor Anthony Guest * 1950
Sir Nicholas Hamblen 1976
Sir Stuart Hampson * 1966
His Honour Tom Heald 1942
Mr William Henderson 1969
Mr Brian Hill 1950
Ms Sara Huston * 1986
The late Mr Noel Hughes 1940
Mr Alastair Hunter * 1975
Mr Harry Kidd 1936
Mr Robert Kipling 1974
Mr Simon Lebus 1976
Mr David Lindsay 1941
Mr John Lloyd 1961
The late Mr Mervyn Loft-Simson 1945
Mr William Mackesy * 1978
Mr Nicol McGregor 1969
Mr Peter McManus * 1959
Core Benefactors

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<td>The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Richards*</td>
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£5,000 + (2007 - )

Together we Funded

In the 2011-12 academic year, St John’s allocated over £1 million to student support, including £288,286 for 93 undergraduates on the Oxford Opportunity Bursary Scheme. The College also provided 25 full graduate scholarships at a cost of £528,312, as well as spending £66,000 on schools liaison and outreach related activities. This was financed through a combination of donations, fees and College resources. Benefactors have provided scholarships, grants and made a key contribution towards the cost of financing the following:

- 93 Oxford Opportunity Bursaries
- 11 Hardship Bursaries
- 161 Special Grants
- 399 Vacation Residence Study Grants
- 25 fully-funded Graduate Scholarships
- 21 Junior Research Fellowships
- The Schools Liaison Programme and Student Ambassador Scheme
- 4 St John’s Research Centre projects
- New gym equipment for the Kendrew Quadrangle
- Five-a-side nets and other sporting equipment
- Music lessons, recitals and plays

Totals Raised 2007-12

General Endowment: £2,192,199
Alumni Fund: £1,756,206
Alan Root Bequest: £448,448

Student Support

In addition to the Alumni Fund:
- 450 Fund: £592,022
- Alastair Sutherland Award: £10,000
- Burke Knapp Travel Fund: £22,718
- DL Davies Fund: £15,000
- Duveen Travel Scholarship: £17,000
- Hans Michael Caspari UN Travel: £10,000
- John Heath Music Bursary: £10,000
- Lester B. Pearson Scholarship: £246,964
- Slifkin BCL/MJur Scholarship: £593,579
- Yungtai Hsu Fund: £187,569

Academic Support

In addition to General Endowment:
- Ancient World Fund (2009 to present): £888,465
- Helsington Fund (2008 – Sharp Fellow in Economics): £2,000,000
- The Law Fund: £41,972
- Modern Languages Fund (Gifts and pledges 2009 to present): £1,201,488

Buildings & Facilities

In addition to General Endowment:
- Chapel Organ Fund (2007): £236,931
- Kendrew Quad Disabled Access Room: £60,000
Philanthropy in Antiquity

The fusion of Graeco-Roman practices and Judaeo-Christian ideals, argues Dr Georgy Kantor, resonates today.

Graeco-Roman society relied heavily on the contributions of its more affluent members for its functioning. In democratic Athens of the classical age, these contributions were in fact taxation in a different guise: while direct taxes were normally paid only in time of war, duties of paying for warships, theatre performances, religious festivals or gymnastic training of the youth (so-called ‘liturgies’) were distributed among the rich. Despite the obligatory nature of these tasks and a certain disapproval of elite self-advertisement (which was seen as undemocratic), there was some scope for making one’s mark and the success of the city depended, in no small part, on people called on to perform outstanding liturgies. Competition was encouraged by awarding golden wreaths to those who performed best (a thought for the Inland Revenue).

Philanthropy proper, however, first becomes a key feature of Greek civic life in the Hellenistic period. It is during this period that the term itself comes into vogue. The reasons for it are debated: a shift in elite culture, the emergence of ‘new men’ who wanted to compete with the old aristocracy, the ability of individuals to negotiate on cities’ behalf with the kings who established their power in the wake of Alexander’s conquests, and economic changes all probably played a role. Cities reciprocated by lavishing honours on benefactors and commemorating their achievements in long and detailed honoriﬁc decrees. An eﬀusive third-century BC decree of the city of Olbia on the north coast of the Black Sea in honour of a certain Protogenes provides us with some idea of the range of a private benefactor’s contributions. On various occasions, he paid for diplomatic gifts to the Scythian king Saitapharnes (a dangerous neighbourhood) and covered the costs of embassies, repaired city walls and defensive towers, paid oﬀ debts in a number of embarrassing situations (recovering, in one instance, sacred vessels pledged as security), brought down the price of bread during famines, and ﬁnally brought city ﬁnances into some order as a treasurer, refusing any fee for the job. Not everybody was as wide-ranging as Protogenes was, but other well-attested beneﬁciations include paying for public buildings and their repair, for festivals and celebrations, providing meals or cash-handouts to members of the city council or for the whole citizen body, on top of anything the liturgy system could pay for.

The attitude of Roman society, for which competition in dignity between members of the elite was fundamental, was in many ways rather similar to Hellenistic Greek cities. For example, a young Julius Caesar provided, at huge expense, 320 pairs of gladiators, all in silver armour, thus furthering his career, and making an impression on his biographer almost two centuries later. There was, however, a much greater stress on looking for support for political oﬃce in return, and a much stronger sense of personal obligation towards one’s benefactor, deeply rooted in the traditional link between patrons and clients, and often taking priority over giving to the state at large. It was, in fact, these political implications of philanthropy that brought the practice of large scale private beneﬁction to a rapid decline in Rome after the establishment of the Empire. The benefactors were afraid of outshining the emperor, and the emperor was suspicious of anyone who was too generous. When in 19 BC Egnatius Rufus, who provided Rome with its ﬁrst ﬁre brigade, was executed for conspiracy against Augustus, the message was clear.

In Italian and provincial towns, however, the role of beneﬁctors was only growing, and it is impossible to imagine civic ﬁnances of the imperial period without it. Surviving inscriptions on almost any municipal building archaeologists uncover show how much the urban fabric of a Roman city depended on the civic enthusiasm of the well-to-do (some of them living away from their hometown). The scale was often staggering: a famous benefactor from Lycia (a Roman province in the south-west of modern Turkey), Opramoas of Rhodiapolis, donated, according to just one inscription in his honour, at least 348,000 silver denarii to various cities. Other inscriptions record additional sums. By way of comparison, the annual return from customs dues collected at the provincial border was estimated at 100,000 denarii.

Beneﬁcations in the Roman period, in the words of a distinguished French scholar, Philippe Gauthier, begin to ‘approximate to a system of government’. Indeed, when civic enthusiasm could no longer catch up with the demands of urban expansion or economic conditions deteriorated, these contributions get institutionalised, and new members of city councils begin paying obligatory entrance contributions. This was, in the view of many scholars, the beginning of an end. In late antiquity, when the state tax burden grows,
civic finances still cannot do without private contributions, but these now have to be enforced.

We are familiar, in the modern world, with the important role of benefactors, whether we think of Victorian civic architecture or the budget of a 21st century university. In one key aspect, however, the pervasive ancient culture of civic benefaction was fundamentally different from the modern. Public generosity, whether by private individuals, the emperors or even the state as a whole, was not, as a general rule, explicitly addressed to the poor as opposed to the rich. In fact, it was much more often specifically addressed to the rich and even when not, measures were commonly taken to exclude the truly destitute. Members of city councils, who often received banquets at the expense of generous testators (we know of dozens of such charitable foundations across the whole Mediterranean world), were already well-off, having to satisfy property requirements which would probably place them within the richest 3–5% of the population. Even for those handouts that reached the poor, and were perhaps mainly of interest for them, such as the famous Roman corn dole (paid for by the state from 123 BC onwards), qualification was not lack of property, but citizen status. Famously, Piso Frugi, a former consul, one of the richest men in Rome, and one of the leading opponents of its establishment, queued among the first to receive his share. In the Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus, which imitated the practice of 5% of the population. Even for those handouts that reached the poor, and were perhaps mainly of interest for them, such as the famous Roman corn dole (paid for by the state from 123 BC onwards), qualification was not lack of property, but citizen status. Famously, Piso Frugi, a former consul, one of the richest men in Rome, and one of the leading opponents of its establishment, queued among the first to receive his share. In the Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus, which imitated the system, corn dole was provided only to the closed number of 3,000 holders of a more exclusive category of citizenship, and when one of them died, a lottery for a recipient place was held. Characteristic charitable foundations of the Roman imperial period, so-called alimentary funds (interest from cheap loans on land security to provide for orphaned children), created both by private individuals and by the emperors themselves were, in fact, benefitting limited numbers of children of freeborn citizens. In short, access to benefactions was about privilege and entitlement.

It is only with the advent of Christianity in late antiquity that general attitudes change. Language of help to ‘the needy’, ‘the afflicted’, ‘the destitute’ permeates early Christian literature, which followed in this respect an old Jewish tradition. From fairly sophisticated texts, such as the commentary of St Ambrose on the Gospel of Luke, speaking of the ‘precept of charity’ (in Luke 18:22), to popular collections of moralistic sayings, they were driving home the idea that ‘love of the poor’, as such (and not as your fellow freeborn citizens), is a desirable, indeed a necessary quality for religious and public leaders, and that prayers of the poor will be heard particularly favourably. Hopes for such prayers replace civic honours as the main reward of benefactors. Perhaps another reason why philanthropic support of civic finances dries out in that period. There were, to be sure, still status exceptions – practice of public Christian philanthropy still seems to have excluded the slaves, but the basic approach changes dramatically. To quote Peter Brown, the greatest living historian of the period, ‘what is interesting about late antiquity is that we are looking at much the same poverty as had always been there. But we now look at it with the sharper eyes of Christians, for whom it was both a moral challenge and a spur to action’. It is in the world formed by the fusion of Judaeo-Christian and Graeco-Roman civic attitudes that we still live.

I intend to make a bequest to the College. This is because of a deep sense of gratitude and obligation. I must add that it is 48 years since I came down, and almost 25 years since I last visited. But passing time has, if anything, increased my affection for the College, as I see my life’s events in better and better perspective.

WRITING YOUR WILL

St John’s owes its existence to the thoughtfulness and generosity of previous generations. In recent years, 82 alumni have pledged to leave a legacy to the College. Over the centuries, bequests to St John’s have contributed to the College’s ongoing success and, at the same time, allowed benefactors to leave a lasting legacy for those who study here in the future. Alumni often describe their time at College as life changing: finding joy in scholarship through studying with an inspiring tutor; making lifelong friends; overcoming difficulties and feeling better able to meet challenges in life after receiving a St John’s education.

Please consult your solicitor. St John’s UK Registered Charity Number is 1139733 and our Inland Revenue reference number is X6791. The full designation for the College is: The President and Scholars of Saint John Baptist College in the University of Oxford.

A bequest to St John’s may be free of Inheritance Tax in a number of jurisdictions.

I went up in October 1962 from Auckland, New Zealand, and spent six terms studying French language and literature for Schools. I was very fortunate to get in, having been through no selection process, though I did have a New Zealand university degree. While I was in College, I felt part of a family. I received hospitality and other acts of kindness from the President, Dr Costin, my own tutor, Dr W.G. Moore and his wife, Joy, and some of the other Fellows and students and their families. I lived in Middleton Hall, and enjoyed the interaction within the College community.

My tutor, Will Grayburn Moore, was spoken of as the best modern language don of that time. I was privileged to spend quite a few hours with him in his room at the top of the North Quad. His admonishments taught me a lot and have enriched my inner life immensely. I have noted from down here in New Zealand the great success of some of the College’s alumni in recent times. The best British writer, they say, since 1945; you know who, don’t you? Two (yes, two) Prime Ministers. Even from my own time, an Editor of The Times, and a leading authority on Descartes (not a student of Will Moore’s by the way!); and the others.

I am not surprised by this success. The College, when I was there, was serious about its mission, caring about its students, down-to-earth, and hard-working, not to mention the glories of its buildings and grounds. We students felt we were valued and the College inspired us to respond as well as we could.
As we embark upon a new academic year in which incoming students are paying the highest university fees in UK history, an increasingly vociferous public debate is taking place over the value and purpose of universities and a university education. Is the role of a university to explore and impart awareness, knowledge and learning? Should a modern university endeavour to educate, or train, the leaders of tomorrow? Should it find answers to the world’s most pressing problems? The corollary is: can a university fulfil all public expectations of its role and purpose?

Lord Chris Patten, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford claims that, “Through the centuries, Oxford’s great minds have changed and bettered the world through their discoveries, innovations and insights”. Is this claim justified; even, does a university have to make such a claim to justify its existence? At Oxford, research and scholarship is often directed at addressing the issues and dilemmas of the human condition: How can we stop cancers from developing? Can we limit the spread of malaria? Academics approach the great questions of the day; often with courage and considerable commitment: Is world peace possible? Will we have enough food to feed our growing population? How can we harness the power of the sun or the sea and store it as electricity?

Awareness, knowledge, analysis and world-changing answers are separate things of course; plus the power to declare which issues are worthy and major is itself contested. Socratic dialogue and the sound bite culture of the modern media clash over this particular anvil. At St John’s our Fellows and graduates are conducting research into a hugely diverse range of subjects from Latin epic poetry, French film, the modernist novel and employment law to animal navigation, cancerous tumours, and human population genetics. Some of this research will provide answers, some will provide insight and analysis; but all are valued at our College.

We are also part of a teaching university. At the heart of an Oxford, and St John’s, education is the tutorial system, which provides a unique opportunity for students to be taught by some of the world’s leading academics in their respective fields. The knowledge and skills gained from this kind of intellectual endeavour, especially learning how to think critically, may enable the next generation to draw intelligent conclusions, expose cant and give them the power to advance themselves and our society and culture. It may help them, simply, to have a rich inner world or to lead civilised lives – the techniques of mindfulness were also developed at Oxford.

The tutorial system has helped to place Oxford among the best universities for teaching in the world, yet maintaining our excellence, both nationally and internationally, comes at a price. Over the last 30 years, it has become increasingly apparent, as the cost of educating students rises and Government funding decreases, that if universities wish to maintain high standards of teaching and research, they need to diversify their sources of income. At the same time we work very hard to make sure that we admit the best students, regardless of financial background, and educate them to the very highest standards. Not surprisingly our academic expenditure exceeds our income, with much of the deficit being paid out of the endowment every year. As a registered charity, St John’s College must meet its charitable aims and objectives to ‘make, found, erect and establish a perpetual college of learning sciences, sacred theology and philosophy and good arts’. That entails protecting the endowment and ensuring our financial security for future generations at St John’s.

No institution exists and prospers for more than 800 years unless it is skilled at adapting. Oxford, and St John’s as a constituent part, has to build its future in a world characterised by unprecedented and rapid change. In May 2008, the University of Oxford launched the biggest fundraising campaign in Europe – The Oxford Thinking Campaign. Its aim was to raise, in collaboration with all colleges, departments, faculties, museums and libraries, a minimum of £1.25 billion ‘for Oxford, for scholarship, and for the common good’. This target has been exceeded; the Vice-Chancellor has now launched a new initiative to raise a total of £3 billion.

We have done our part thus far: over the last 5 years, 1,400 St John’s alumni have shown their support for our aims and objectives by making a benefaction to the College. Over £11 million in gifts and pledges has been received: providing support for students and the tutorial system; Fellowships; research; extra-curricular activities and buildings and facilities. Thank you for Participating in Excellence. This has made a huge difference; long may it continue.

‘For Oxford, for Scholarship, for the Common Good’

Dr Jonathan Snicker (Fellow for Development), Kiri-Ann Olney (Development Officer) and Caitlin Tebbit (Development Assistant) outline why St John’s needs your philanthropic support.
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* The percentage figure indicates the proportion of alumni who have made a donation to the College in any given year of matriculation.

* Gift or additional gift made in the last year.
We are pleased to report that it has been another successful year for the St John's College Alumni Fund. This year 584 donors gave £419,674 in gifts and pledges: bringing the running total for the Alumni Fund up to £1,756,206.

This summer, during our third annual telephone campaign, our team of 16 student callers did a great job: making contact with over 700 alumni; updating them on College news and asking for their support. By all accounts, alumni enjoyed the conversations. 45% of those we contacted made their support. By all accounts, alumni enjoyed the conversations. 45% of those we contacted made gifts and pledges amounting to £189,403. Thanks to the generous support of David Fischel (1976, Lit Hum), who was willing to match gifts, the current total now stands at £219,803.

As fees rise, many more alumni are becoming aware of the pressures on the current intake of Freshers. The College is very grateful for your support; we are very pleased to welcome 281 new donors to the Benefactors’ Network this year. We look forward to the chance to get together and thank our donors in person at the annual Benefactors’ Receptions.

Over the last few years, the Alumni Fund has helped the College to support, for example, hardship bursaries, special grants, graduate scholarships, JRFs, Research Centre Projects, music lessons and sports equipment. (See Together We Funded on page 11).

Gifts to the Alumni Fund make a significant difference to the College as they create funding opportunities immediately without diminishing the endowment. The Alumni Fund has become a fantastic source of income for St John’s to fulfil its aims and objectives. We would like to thank all the alumni, students, Fellows, friends and staff whose contributions provide our students with the support they need throughout their time at St John’s.

Top row from left to right: Angelika Benz, Kiri-Ann Olney (Development Officer), Tom Doak, Alex Harvey, Sam Ward, Jack Cliff, Adam Heardman, Lauren Au and Sam Quicke.

Bottom row from left to right: Maddy Ward, Katie Sle, Sally Le Page, Doran Boyle, Hamaad Mustafa, Jennifer Appleton, Annabel Barratt and Jessica Cummings.

GIVING BACK
To make a gift to the Alumni Fund today: www.giving.ox.ac.uk/stjohns

How can I help?

£5 per month for a year could fund a book grant.

£15.55 per month for a year could fund a student hardship award.

£20 per month for four years could fund an annual academic grant.

£40 could buy an additional copy of an essential text for the library.

£1,555 from 30 donors could fund the College contribution to the cost of a lectureship.

£2,055 from two donors could help with the initial funding of a key research project.

League Table 2007 – 12

Some matriculation years have a higher proportion of donors. Here we list the current leaders by matriculation decade.

1955 Highest overall participation rate (54%).
1942 Joint highest participation (44%) of the 1940s.
1944
1962 Highest participation (46%) of 60s.
1973 Joint highest participation (30%) of the 1970s.
1974
1983 Highest participation (25%) of 80s.
1990 Highest participation (13%) of 90s.
2001 Share the honours with 11%.
2002
2004

Annual Participation Rate
What makes the Oxford experience so unique is the tutorial system where you meet in small groups to discuss your work with experts in their field. 

Lajoy Tucker (2010, Chemistry)

1958 (45%)
Anonymous (5)
Dr John Bastow
Mr Martin Beresford
Dr Rodney Bessent*
Dr Clifton Clevelend*
Mr Bob Crawley*
Mr Andrew Edwards*
Professor David Ferris*
Mr Denis Finning*
Mr Charles Fryer
Mr John Hardman
Professor Sir Brian Harrison
Mr David Harwood*
Sir Geoffrey Holland
Mr Clive Horsford*
Mr Jon Jeffery*
Mr Graham Laurie*
Mr John Makin
Professor Richard Mayou*
Mr Fawzan Muderres
Sir Nigel Nicholls*
Mr Julian Otto*
The late Revd Dr Cormac Rigby
Mr Walter Robson*
Dr David Sharpe*
Mr Roger Short*
& Mrs Susan Short*
Mr John Wilson

1960 (22%)
Anonymous
Professor Ervand Abrahamian*
His Honour Richard Behar*
Mr Roy Collins
Mr Roger Filer*
HE Mr Sadayuki Hayashi*
Mr Stephen Higginson*
Mr Michael Huebner*
The late Dr Hugh Macdonald
Dr David Mitchell*
Mr Frank Mumbry
His Honour Judge Andrew Patience*
Revd Canon Timothy Sedgley*
Mr Robert Tomkinson*

1961 (34%)
Anonymous (4)
Mr Anthony Addis*
Mr Christopher Binns*
Professor Robert Cameron*
Mr Gyles Cooper*
Mr Dean Copeland
Mr Tobias Eckersley
Dr Dick Hill*
Mr Ian House*
Dr John Lingard
Canon Dr Malory Makower*
Mr Tim Price
Dr Roger Pritchett*
Dr Richard Sawyer*
Mr Tony Sheridan
Sir Adrian Sibo
Mr Brian Swale*
Dr Barry Thomas
Mr John Thorp*
Dr Brian Tulloch*
Mr Nigel Underwood*
Mr Peter Walter*
Dr Roderick Woods*

1962 (46%)
Anonymous (2)
Dr Michael Anson*
Mr John Appleby*
Mr Eric Arnold
Mr Christopher Bennett*
Mr James Berry*
Mr David Bogder*
Mr Maxwell Bristowe
Professor Glyn Burgess
Dr Richard Carden*
Mr Robert Chase*
Professor John Cottingham*
Mr Ross Craig*
Professor Paul Fletcher*
Mr John Greenwood*
Mr Richard Harper*
Mr Stephen Heeney*
Mr Grahame Higginson*
Mr Ian Ingram*
Dr Ian Kvet*
Mr Ian Lloyd*
Mr Michael Lowe*
Dr Morton Moste*
Mr Richard Moyo*

Student Support: JCR Welfare

The St John’s JCR Welfare system, like its counterpart for the MCR, is an extremely important part of the College’s overall welfare provision. The JCR Welfare Officers outline what makes it so special.

The JCR is committed to the welfare of its members and provides a variety of services. The Male and Female Welfare Officers are members of the JCR committee and are tasked with dealing with many of the welfare-related provisions. Other members of the JCR committee are also important members of the welfare team. In addition, a team of fully trained peer supporters are on hand to be a much-needed listening ear. They are available to discuss whatever students wish to discuss, such as homesickness, bereavement, relationships and much more, and are a key part of the welfare support. The Welfare Officers are given a budget for the year which is drawn from the overall JCR budget and assigned by the JCR Treasurer. It is one of the largest budgets in the JCR, representing how seriously welfare is taken at St John’s, and allows the Welfare Officers the chance to hold regular and popular events, undertake actions like giving every finalist a ‘survival pack’, and being able discreetly to provide supplies relating to sexual health. The Welfare Officers also work with the College to organise Freshers’ Week, especially the social events and St John’s Freshers’ Fair.

Welfare events such as Tommy White Teas and Welfare Lunches are much-loved fixtures of the termly calendars, happening every fortnight. They, and other events, involve lots of free food (hence their popularity) and the chance to draw people out of their rooms and away from their work, if only for a little while. Importantly, Tommy White Teas and similar events bring people face to face with the peer supporters, making them well-known faces and approachable around the college. Of course, welfare events are about more than simply free food. In the past the welfare team has helped organise a mental health awareness session, and every year they run a series of ‘college weddings’ to set up the college family system. This assigns fresher ‘children’ to ‘parents’ who look out for them during their time at St John’s, especially when they first arrive.

The JCR Welfare Officers also join their MCR counterparts on committees with Fellows and College staff and represent the views of the undergraduate population. This is often a very important process, providing a vital line of communication between college authorities and undergraduates. These meetings have allowed JCR Officers to raise their thoughts and recommendations with the Fellows and staff. It was through one such meeting that the College offered to pay for a doubling of peer supporter training slots.

Overall, the welfare of students is taken very seriously by the JCR (and MCR) and we are always trying to improve our provisions. Welfare is both about helping those in particular need and also ensuring people are generally happy. We want to work with the College so that students have the best experience possible during their education at St John’s.
Mr Tony Billington
Anonymous (4)

Mr Damien Tunnacliffe
Professor Brian Scarfe

The late Mr Philip Rue

Mr Alan Reid
Dr Hugh Ralph

Mr Michael Nield *
Mr Michael Deeming
Mr Brian Woolley *

1963 (27%)
Anonymous
Mr Ian Armitage *
Mr Michael Deeming
Revd Barry Entwistle *
Dr Ron Ghosh *
Mr Roger Goodwin
Mr George Hodgkinson
Mr Christopher Johns
Mr Jonathan Longhurst
Mr Robert Mackenzie
Mr Michael Nield *
Mr Hugh Ralph
Mr John Raynor *
Mr Alan Reid
The late Mr Philip Rueff
Professor Brian Scarfe *
Mr Tony Sloggett *
Mr Damien Tunnclcliffe *

1964 (97%)
Anonymous (4)
Mr Tony Billington

The late Professor Frank Bisby
Dr John Brocklehurst *
Dr Alan Butt Philip *
Professor Brian Cavenett
Mr Courtenay Ellis *
Mr Tony Foster *
Mr William Graves *
Dr Roger Keeton *
Dr David Lee
Mr Stephen Lloyd *
Mr Robert Minors *
Mr Derek Morgan *
Dr Robert Page *
Mr Michael Pye *
Mr Martyn Robinson
Dr John Schofield *
Mr Norman Smith *
Mr Tony Smith & Mrs Margaret Smith
Dr Robin Taylor
Dr Christopher Turner
Mr Nick White *

1965 (28%)
Anonymous
Mr Ian Alexander-Sinclair *
Mr William Bailey *
Mr Andrew Clarke *
Dr Gregory Stevens Cox
Mr Jonathan Davies
Dr David Fisher *
The Hon Mr Andrew Fraser
Professor Michael Grace
Dr Peter Humphrey *
Dr David Hunt *
Mr Mark Johnson *
Mr Marek Kwiatkowski *
Dr David Nicholls *
Mr Michael Pragnell *
Professor Peter Raynor *
Mr Rupert Swyer *
Mr Henry Ward
Mr Anthony Whitestone *
Dr Christopher Wright *

1966 (26%)
Mr Graham Atkins *
Professor Sean Brosnan *
Mr Peter Brown
Mr William Callaghan *
Mr Martin Donald *
Mr Philip Drummond
Professor Andrew Hamnett *
Sir Stuart Hampson *
Fr Nicholas King *
Mr Patrick Longhurst *
Rev Iain Macdonald *
Mr Keith Mallinson *
Mr Andrew McNab *
Mr Wilson Parasuk *
Sir David Pepper *
Mr James Shaw
The late Mr Robert Shragar
Mr Richard Smyth
Mr Geoffrey Tantum
The Revd Dr John Twisleton
Mr Graham Wood *
Mr Roger Zair

1967 (21%)
Anonymous
Professor Samuel Adeyoyu *
Dr Michael Atkinson *
Mr Nicholas Bratt *
Dr Nigel Buttery
Dr Terry Collins *
Mr Peter Davies
Dr Michael Eggar
Dr David Giachardi *
Mr Richard Hoare *
Mr Adrian Lloyd *
Dr Andrew Lynn *
Mr Peter McDonagh *
Mr Stephen Oxlade *
Mr John Sherrington
Professor Roderick Smith
Mr Alan Walder
Mr Christopher Ward *
Professor Peter Young

1968 (24%)
Mr Kevin Alton Honeywell *
Mr Graham Ashurst *
Professor Keith Bradley *
Dr Alexander Bridges *
Mr Michael Cayley *
Mr Derek Doeh
Dr David Gamlens
Professor Donald Mason
Mr Edward Peacock
Mr Charles Price *
The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Richards *
Mr Anthony Robin *
Mr Peter Robinson
Professor Andrew Russakoff
Mr Christopher Sawyers *
Dr Peter Scott
Mr Michael Thomas *
Mr Crispian Villeneuve *

1969 (25%)
Anonymous (2)
Mr James Amoss III
Dr Tyler Baker
Mr Geoffrey Bourne *
Mr Andrew Campbell *
Professor Timothy Congdon
Canon Jeremy Cresswell *
Mr Richard Darbourne *
Mr Robert Dingley *
Dr Derek Earl
Mr Martyn Glastonbury
Mr John Graham *
Mr David Hulme
Mr Richard Kemp *
Mr Ian Pye *
Mr Philip Lee
The Right Revd Jonathan Meyrick *
Dr Adrian Perry *
Mr Tony Smith
Mr Norman Smith *
Mr Richard Stimpson (22%)
Mr Robert Minors *
Dr Robert Page *
Mr Anthony Robinson *
Mr Alan Sandall *
Mr David Scivier *
Mr Hector Smith *
Mr Jeremy White *

1972 (28%)
Professor Stephen Banfield
Professor Terence Cave
Mr Giles Dawson
Dr John Colwell *
Mr Richard Emmerson
Mr Duncan Foster
Mr David Fursdon
The Hon Dr Geoffrey Gallop
Mr Robert Garvin *
Dr Daryl Goodwin *
& Mrs Prye Goodwin
The Revd Nicholas Lowton *
Dr John Mathias *
Mr Sandy Muirhead *
Mr Mark Owen *
Dr Christopher Roberts *
Dr James Robertson *
Mr Nicholas Robinson *
Mr Michael Russell *
The late Mr Robert Stephenson *
Mr Murad Sunalp
Dr William Wagner *
Dr Graham Walker *
Mr Peter Walls
Mr Brian Woolley *

1973 (28%)}
Anonymous (2)
Mr Richard Axford *
Mr Graham Belcher *
Mr Clayton Brammall
Mr Raymond Burse

1970 (28%)
Anonymous
Revd Dr Arnold Browne

Mr Timothy Day *
Dr Robert Dingley *
Mr Martyn Glastonbury
Mr John Graham *
Mr David Hulme
Mr Richard Kemp *
Mr Alan Pye *
Mr Philip Lee
The Right Revd Jonathan Meyrick *
Dr Adrian Perry *
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Mr Duncan Foster
Mr David Fursdon
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Mr Robert Garvin *
Dr Daryl Goodwin *
& Mrs Prye Goodwin
The Revd Nicholas Lowton *
Dr John Mathias *
Mr Sandy Muirhead *
Mr Mark Owen *
Dr Christopher Roberts *
Dr James Robertson *
Mr Nicholas Robinson *
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Mr Graham Belcher *
Mr Clayton Brammall
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Mr Martyn Glastonbury
Mr John Graham *
Mr David Hulme
Mr Richard Kemp *
Mr Alan Pye *
Mr Philip Lee
The Right Revd Jonathan Meyrick *
Dr Adrian Perry *
Mr Tony Smith
Mr Norman Smith *
Mr Richard Stimpson (22%)
Mr Robert Minors *
Dr Robert Page *
Mr Anthony Robinson *
Mr Alan Sandall *
Mr David Scivier *
Mr Hector Smith *
Mr Jeremy White *
Circle of Philanthropy

St John’s promotes Benefactors’ charities. Rachel Stephenson (2003, French and Linguistics) is a trustee of Oxford Hub, a charity she set up with Adam O’Boyle (2003, History and Economics).

Oxford Hub was featured in the last issue of TW magazine, to mark the opening of our new premises in central Oxford. It is with enormous pride and excitement that we can look back on a year of running the only building in the UK dedicated to supporting student-powered social change. We celebrated our fifth birthday in May 2012; the Development Office at St John’s was set up around the same time. This issue of Benefactors’ Report affords us both the opportunity to reflect on our progress.

We founded Oxford Hub whilst second year students at St John’s, to build up a culture of ‘giving back’ amongst Oxford’s students. We wanted it to be normal for students to be volunteering, campaigning or fundraising – just like doing sport, music or drama. Slowly but surely, we’re getting there. We are now the largest student-facing charity in Oxford, with over 8,000 students signed up, and hundreds volunteering each week in the local community. We took the model to other universities, forming the ‘Student Hubs’ network across Oxford Brookes, Bristol, Cambridge, Warwick, Southampton and, more recently, Imperial College and SOAS in London. Each ‘Hub’ serves to support and inspire students, with the aim of unleashing potential and creating more and more positive impact.

We believe that university is a formative stage in life; habits formed whilst a student will persist into the future. So, whatever the student’s career or future pathway, Oxford Hub works to encourage engagement in social and environmental issues which will endure. To do this, we run events and conferences to inform and inspire, then offer advice and opportunities to get involved practically. This is followed up with hands-on training and workshops so students can act effectively and sustainably.

When we began, we knew that one day we would need our own home. And that eventually we would need our own sustainable income stream. With these two motivators in mind, and after a lot of searching, we found and leased a tall old Georgian townhouse (formerly the Taj Mahal restaurant and latterly the QI Club) on the Turl, opening in late September 2011.

The main commercial operation, and the heart of our home, is Turl Street Kitchen, which serves seasonal and, where possible, locally-sourced food. Even the drinks we sell have a flavour of the charity’s values: we choose independent brewers over giant suppliers, natural juices, and fairtrade tea and coffee. Every few months we host a special event to showcase our sustainability agenda, sourcing all the produce for a three course meal (with drinks!) within a 25 mile radius of our kitchen. It’s a challenge, and one we relish. Upstairs is our real, live Hub which is always bustling with events and meetings led by students and local community groups alike. We’ve had Oxfam host a swap shop on International Women’s Day and fundraising events run by the student group Friends of Helen and Douglas House. There have been film screenings as part of the Oxford Brookes Human Rights Film Festival, away days for local charities, and student comedy nights raising laughs, funds, and awareness for international development initiatives.

We’ve created a library of resources especially for students running social action projects. And the door is always open to the offices where our team help students on the ground find opportunities to make a difference, whether that’s volunteering to increase literacy in local schools or campaigning against climate change. The list of ways in which Oxford Hub and our Turl Street home is changing the way students change the world is endless, growing, and never ceases to amaze. We can’t wait to see what the next five years hold.

Oxford Hub is looking for advice and support; we seek continually to improve our operations and services. Legal, communications and human resources advice in particular is very welcome so please do get in touch: manager@oxfordhub.org

You can also support us through donating or by visiting Turl Street Kitchen – www.turlstreetkitchen.co.uk. The food is delicious, the staff are friendly and the afternoon scones are guilt-free – all profits support Oxford Hub and our Student Hubs network: www.oxfordhub.org/giving

St John’s gets Student Vote

According to the Student Barometer survey results published by The Oxford Student in April 2012, St John’s was rated just a percentage point behind Jesus College for Graduate Funding with 8% of Graduate Students saying they were happy with “the availability of financial support/bursaries provided by the College”.

The President responded, “We’ve put a lot of effort into this area, with, for example, our Lamb and Flag scholarships which are funded from the profits of the pub. But we, like the rest of Oxford, are up against fierce North American competition in graduate funding, which we cannot yet match. We’re making this an important target for our fundraising efforts and I have high hopes of securing new funding for graduates in the years ahead”.

oxfordhub.org/giving
I attended a Gaudy and listened to a persuasive speech by the President. I was moved by a feeling that the College hadn’t really changed – not in essentials anyway. I took a decision to start a direct debit. I want to make sure St John’s continues to do the things that it has done really well throughout my lifetime...SJ C alumni are lagging behind those of other colleges, and we need to persuade a higher percentage to support the College. I’m very conscious of my graduation oaths...when the College needs my help, I have a responsibility to act.”

Keith Jewitt (1978, Modern History)

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Mr Edward Bickham
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Mr Graeme Cooper

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Mr Simon Lester
Mrs Francis Lindsey-Clark *
Mr Matthew Lindsey-Clark *

I get an Oxford Opportunity Bursary. This is provided for students from lower socio-economic areas. I’m finding managing my finances really easy with the help that I have received.”

Current student

“
Dr D.L. Davies (1930, Medicine) had a distinguished career as a consultant psychiatrist. His three sons, Jonathan (1965, Jurisprudence), Peter (1967, Mathematics) and Geoffrey (1973, PPE), made a benefaction in his memory to support ‘medicine and subjects related to medicine’. Anika Ramesvar is a recent recipient of the D.L. Davies Bursary.

For my first three years of pre-clinical medicine I studied at Downing College, Cambridge. In 2008, I transferred to St John’s for three years of clinical medicine. My decision to transfer to Oxford was multifactorial, but I was particularly drawn to the high quality of teaching that the well-structured Oxford clinical course has to offer. It was the best decision I could have made: walking into St John’s College for the first time already felt like home. The transition and the integration into the graduate community was smooth, particularly because of the support of my fellow medical peers at St John’s and the various MCR events in Freshers’ week.

In 2009, I was acknowledged by the Oxford Medical School Nuffield Department of Surgery for excellent performance in the written examination. I earned several Merits, including Laboratory Based Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Psychiatry, and achieved a first quartile ranking in the Oxford Medical School. I undertook two four-week research projects during clinical school as part of my Special Study modules. The first project involved exploring the central mechanisms regulating appetite in early neonatal development (with Dr Paul Taylor at Guys and St Thomas’s Hospital, Kings College London). The second project involved investigating the differences in peak flow and wall shear stress in the aortas of patients with Marfan’s disease (with Dr Alex Pitcher, Cardiac MRI Department at the John Radcliffe Hospital). This revealed potentially important findings, which have been submitted in an abstract to the American Heart Association.

I passed my Final BM examinations for Medicine and Surgery with a distinction in February 2011. I undertook my elective in Vanuatu, an archipelago of islands in the South Pacific. This five-week placement gave me the chance to gain clinical experience in tropical medicine including TB, Malaria and fungal infections. Interestingly, metabolic disease including severe hypertension and diabetes were also relatively prevalent. I spent the remaining 5 weeks in Taranaki Hospital, New Zealand. Working in acute medicine helped me to enhance my clinical skills further. I am grateful for additional financial support from St John’s, which enabled me to undertake this thoroughly worthwhile experience. I also appreciate the generosity of the Davies brothers for their award which I have used to help further my medical education and postgraduate training through various teaching for doctors courses.

Apart from my academic work, I enjoyed participating in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. My role as Welfare and Women’s Officer for the MCR enabled me to raise welfare and equality issues on behalf of graduates. As Torrance Society President, it was a privilege to represent my fellow medical peers at St John’s College. It was also through the Torrance Society that I initiated the first St John’s Medical Alumni event, held in September 2011. I intended for this day not only to be a reunion, but also to create a platform for current medical students to meet medical alumni and seek inspiration, teaching opportunities, elective and career advice.

Many people often ask which do I prefer, Oxford or Cambridge. I will always consider St John’s to be my number one. I am incredibly grateful to be given the opportunity to complete my medical training here and humbled to be part of such a great institution.

Theresa Wildegger
(2011, Experimental Psychology)
In this current economic climate, we could all do with a bit more cash in our pockets; fortunately there are grants available to all St John’s students. One that makes a huge difference is the Academic Grant, where you can claim a couple of hundred pounds back for academic purchases you’ve made that year. When I started I needed a new laptop and managed to get half of the money back! There is the Vacation Residence grant; we get an allowance of 21 free days per year to stay at St John’s during vacation. Also available to all St John’s students is the travel grant. This is a great opportunity to broaden your horizons, and visit the places that you and your students is the travel grant.

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Working in the USA was a profound learning experience: I was exposed to the admirable culture of philanthropy and the strong sense of loyalty that US alumni have to their alma mater. I support St John’s because I want to help ensure that the college can continue to provide the same opportunities that were made available to me.”
Pratik Shah (1992, PPE)
St John’s... has an easy going student body with strong academic performance. Life at St John’s is fun and chilled out. It is very diverse with a strong community spirit. Students come from all types of background and countries with a wide variety of experiences.”

Uche Ukachi, JCR President 2011/12 (2010, Engineering, Economics and Management)
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Thank you for your support.
Please accept our apologies.
If there are any mistakes of omission, please accept our apologies. Thank you for your support.
**Frequently Asked Questions 2012**

The 2012 Telephone Campaign Student Callers respond to the questions asked most often by alumni on the other end of the line.

**Are you just calling about money?**

We are, in part, phoning to talk to you about the Alumni Fund and its increasingly important role in maintaining the standards of excellence at St John’s and across the University. But we’re also phoning for a chat about your time at St John’s and where your degree has led you since you graduated – these telephone calls are a great way for current students to talk to alumni with whom they have shared interests and experiences, academically or otherwise, and we really enjoy them. In addition, we hope to tell you a bit about what’s going on at the moment and encourage you to visit us!

Jack Clift (2009, Spanish and Arabic)

Whilst there is a fundraising aspect to this call it is by no means the be-all and end-all. St John’s is keen to preserve relationships with its students that extend beyond their time in Oxford. The College believes that in doing so it will facilitate interaction between past, current and future students who can share their experiences of life at St John’s. The Alumni Fund is just one of the ways in which the College hopes to foster these relationships.

Sam Ward (2010, English)

**What is the Alumni Fund?**

Since it was launched in 2009, the Alumni Fund has become a resource that is helping to maintain the standards of excellence at St John’s that others have worked so hard to achieve. By encouraging our alumni to make a gift to the College, we hope to establish a source of funding that can be used to ensure the continued academic success of St John’s, to maintain the broad base of subjects offered for study, and to extend the scope of the student support system that offers bursaries, scholarships and grants. This ensures that St John’s remains an institution where any student, regardless of background, can realise their potential.

Jack Clift (2009, Spanish and Arabic)

**What does the money donated to the Alumni Fund go towards?**

Donations support current students by funding things like book grants, travel grants and pastoral care, by preserving the tutorial system and maintaining the great facilities we have and also providing scholarships for students from more difficult financial backgrounds.

Doran Boyle (2010, Modern Languages)

**Can I choose where my money goes?**

We encourage you to express a wish to support one of a number of areas such as student support, the tutorial system and fellowships, research or buildings and facilities. Alternatively, gifts can be directed to funding specific fellowships in Law and the Ancient World at St John’s, ongoing projects that will help to replace fellows who have retired or left the College. If you can’t decide, we’re happy to put your donation towards the area where the need is greatest.

Jack Clift (2009, Spanish and Arabic)

**Why should I consider giving money to St John’s? Isn’t it rich enough anyway?**

St John’s is very fortunate in that its endowment is among the largest across the University. We are, though, asset-rich but cash-poor – that is to say that while the endowment is rich in property, investments and savings, our expendable income is often limited by our need to preserve the endowment over the very long-term. The cuts to government funding for the University have had a knock-on effect on the endowment. With departments increasingly deprived of key funding, Colleges such as St John’s are required to make up the shortfall with their own money – taken, more often than not, from the endowment. The significant rise in tuition fees will not be enough to plug this deficit, and St John’s does not want an unsustainable drawdown on its endowment that will have serious effects on future generations of students. The money raised for the Alumni Fund helps to address this challenge, providing an income source other than the endowment.

Jack Clift (2009, Spanish and Arabic)

**I can only afford a small gift. That won’t really make a difference, will it?**

A gift of any size, large or small, can make a huge difference, and we’re not just looking for donors who can contribute thousands of pounds – a regular annual gift of even £15.55 is a valuable asset for the College, particularly as it helps to raise the participation rate of our alumni which can, in turn, be a great incentive for other potential donors to get involved.

Jack Clift (2009, Spanish and Arabic)