



WHEEL

THE NEWSLETTER 2022 | ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



Welcome

PROFESSOR SIR MARK WELLAND (2016),
MASTER

As I write this message, we are beginning to emerge from the immediate consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud that the College remained open whenever possible throughout the restrictions. We ensured that we could provide catering, cleaning, academic and pastoral support for our students. Our Health and Wellbeing Team, under Senior Tutor Dr Holly Canuto (2020), have worked tirelessly to provide immediate support to our hugely challenged students, staff and Fellows. I cannot thank Mary Simuyandi, Head of Wellbeing, The Rev'd Ally Barret (2019) Fellow and Chaplain, and Janette Dougal, Community Health Practitioner enough for their extraordinary commitment to the College. Their endeavours have put St Catharine's at the forefront of welfare provision at the University of Cambridge.

Although the immediate effects of COVID-19 in terms of actual illness are now passing, we must anticipate a number of years supporting our students who, whether at school or in their early years at Cambridge, have been deprived of their full education and social experience. A true test of any person or institution is not how they respond when things are good, but how they respond when things are truly tough. The fact that St Catharine's has come through the pandemic as a community tells me exactly how strong we are together.

Despite these challenges, building works for our new Central Spaces project have progressed remarkably well. Every month I walk around with Peter Armstrong from the contractors SDC and I marvel at the progress of the project; the extraordinary challenges of deconstructing and then reconstructing a set of spaces and rooms in the middle of an historic Cambridge college in an historic city. The final pieces and embellishments are now being installed. The Dining Hall looks like a Hall, the kitchens are almost ready for our outstanding catering and hall team, the rare books library really



The Master of St Catharine's

only needs the books, and all the other rooms and stairways are starting to feel like a space just waiting for our vibrant community of students, Fellows, alumni and staff to complete it.

Over the last year, Teaching and Research at St Catharine's has thrived within our talented student body and Fellowship. It has been wonderful to see all aspects of College life, including sport and music, flourish once more.

I am immeasurably proud at how the St Catharine's community has prospered despite adversity, especially supported by our alumni and friends. Special thanks go to our alumni-based Campaign Advisory Group whose enthusiasm and support, providing so much sound advice ranging from our investments through to student wellbeing has been invaluable.

I am about to start my last year as the 39th Master. There is the excitement of the official opening of the Central Spaces on 5 October this year to look forward to, and then, I hope, an academic year where we can come together and celebrate everything that makes St Catharine's truly unique.

ME Welland



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FRONT COVER: Artemisia Gentileschi, 1593-1654 or later; Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17; Bought for the National Gallery with the support of the American Friends of the National Gallery, the National Gallery Trust, Art Fund (through the legacy of Sir Denis Mahon), Lord and Lady Sassoon, Lady Getty, Hannah Rothschild CBE and other donors including those who wish to remain anonymous, 2018 © The National Gallery, London

Reflections on this year at St Catharine's

DR HOLLY CANUTO (2020), FELLOW AND SENIOR TUTOR



Elodie Gilgic

Dr Holly Canuto

At long last, higher education appears to be navigating away from many of the immediate challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and our community is starting to recover some of the usual rhythms associated with a busy academic year at St Catharine's.

At the start of Michaelmas Term 2021, we were delighted to hold not only matriculation dinners for our freshers, but also celebratory dinners for our second-year students who missed out on this important milestone last year. As we sat in the Catzebo enjoying this special occasion together, it felt like such a positive start to the academic year!

The College also hosted a 'refreshed' Fresher's Week. Working within the confines of public health restrictions, we organised activities to introduce our undergraduates to life at St Catharine's, including advice on health and wellbeing and how to navigate student finances. These informative sessions helped to equip our new students at the very start of their journey at St Catharine's, and provided an opportunity to get to know their way

around College and meet their cohort as they moved between sessions in different rooms and interacted with one another.

Another special moment for me this year was the appointment of our first Community Health Practitioner. Thanks to the generous philanthropy of Christina Dawson (2016) and Peter Dawson (1974, Natural Sciences; Honorary Fellow 2016), we were able to enhance welfare provision within the College by appointing Janette Dougal to this new full-time post. Readers of *The Wheel* will be familiar with the other members of our core Health & Wellbeing Team: Mary Simuyandi, Head of Wellbeing, and The Rev'd Ally Barrett (2019), Fellow and Dean of Chapel, who continue to provide outstanding support for students, staff and Fellows alike.

I am tremendously proud that we remain at the forefront of welfare provision across the University. On top of individual sessions with members of our community, the team has led a range of training and wellness activities: from workshops to improve sleep and mental health training for staff, to a pop-up clinic providing flu jabs for College employees.

As we look ahead to the summer, I'm pleased that support from our Members

means that we can continue to offer generous financial support to our students in the form of hardship bursaries, Long Vacation accommodation funds (for those undertaking summer projects in Cambridge) and travel grants. Now that many restrictions have eased, students are again able to pursue their academic interests and complement their studies with exciting travel opportunities. Our Modern and Medieval Languages (MML) students are just one example of the subjects that will benefit, as Fellow Dr Sura Qadiri (2018) explains:

"It's really wonderful that MML students can once again take up the kinds of travel opportunities that were available before the pandemic. Travel is such a vital part of their studies; not only does it enable them to improve their language skills, but is an important, enriching and enjoyable part of any course that involves understanding languages and cultures from other parts of the world."

Summer will also bring with it May Week activities, garden parties and in-person graduation events to celebrate the end of the academic year. Also on the horizon is the completion of our new Central Spaces Project, and plans are already underway for the first Matriculation Dinner in our new hall!



Nick Saffell

Matriculation 2021

Advancing polar research

The polar regions may be far away from Cambridge, but what happens there affects us all. St Catharine's researchers are investigating and monitoring environmental change in the Arctic and Antarctica, as part of a vibrant global research community that is advancing our understanding of planet Earth and how we safeguard its future.

Invasive species threaten Antarctica

Professor David Aldridge (1997), College Professor of Zoology and Fellow of St Catharine's, was the senior author of a new report published in January 2022, which identified that marine life can 'hitchhike' to Antarctica on ships, with the potential for invasive species to arrive from almost anywhere across the globe. He was part of a team from the University of Cambridge and the British Antarctic Survey who revealed an extensive network of fishing, tourism, research and supply ships, which is threatening the stability of Antarctica's pristine environment:

"Invasive, non-native species are one of the biggest threats to Antarctica's biodiversity – its native species have been isolated for the last 15–30 million years. They may also have economic impacts, via the disruption of fisheries."

Read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/hitchhiking

Amplifying diversity in polar exploration

Pearl Ayem, who is studying an MPhil in Polar Studies, has been raising awareness of the changing face of polar exploration. She is a co-organiser for Polar Impact, an inclusive network of volunteers founded in Cambridge in 2019 to connect and amplify the voices of Black, Asian, Indigenous and minority ethnic professionals and people of colour working in polar research:

"Polar research certainly wasn't a career choice that I was aware of during my early years in India or growing up in Canada – but I'm proud of the journey I've made to St Catharine's. I'm inspired by how Polar Impact connects minorities and allies in our niche field. By sharing real-world experiences, we can begin to challenge the stereotype of polar exploration being exclusively the domain of white men. We're expanding our activities into scholarships, training and workshops to support talented researchers from under-represented backgrounds."

Read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/polar-impact

Studying ice shelves

Fellow Professor Ian Willis (1989) arrived in Antarctica in November 2021 to retrieve data from polar research instruments that were set up on the George VI Ice Shelf in 2019:

"These data will enable us to examine how much melting occurs each summer, how much of that water ponds up in lakes, and how that melting and ponding causes the floating ice shelf to bend and possibly crack. It is essential to understand how ice shelves fracture and break up because this may be more likely in the future due to global warming."

The first leg of his expedition involved quarantining in the Falkland Islands and a short delay while runway conditions improved at the British Antarctic Survey's Rothera base. From Rothera, there was a further 400 km to Fossil Bluff on the edge of the George VI Ice Shelf. The team then commuted onto the ice shelf by skidoo to find their global positioning system instruments, water level sensors, weather stations and time-lapse cameras. Before heading home, a novel hot ring corer was used to retrieve 10–15 m deep ice cores for scientists to study back home.

Read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/antarctica



Net zero by 2040

In February, St Catharine's published a new environmental sustainability strategy¹ setting out an ambition to achieve carbon-equivalent net-zero status² by 2040. The strategy explains what the College means by environmental sustainability, why it is important and the guiding principles that will shape how our goals will be delivered.

The Master commented, "Achieving net-zero emissions depends upon our community making substantial progress each and every year between now and 2040. I have no doubt that the required changes will feel challenging, uncomfortable even, but I also have every faith that we will draw on our community spirit and pull together for the sake of our environment and future generations."

The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, meaning that the UK's total emissions would be equal to or less than the emissions the UK removed from the environment. The University of Cambridge has gone further and committed to reducing its emissions to absolute zero by 2048.³

Professor Bill Sutherland CBE (2008), Environment Fellow and Chair of the St Catharine's Green Working Group, explained, "We are challenging ourselves to be more ambitious than required and, as soon as a realistic pathway to absolute zero has been established, I have no doubt that our community will welcome the opportunity to revise our current goal. We are rightly proud of our track record of advancing environmental sustainability, through world-class research that advances policy and academic discourse, and community-led improvements to how the College operates.⁴ I'm delighted that we can now build on these experiences and articulate our shared ambitions for the future."

St Catharine's environmental sustainability strategy was approved by Governing Body in early 2022 and developed with the support of students, staff and Fellows, including representatives on the College's Green Working Group. The Green Working Group is in the process of developing an accompanying roadmap that will define and quantify current emissions and provide action plans for achieving net-zero emissions across different areas of College life.



Plant sale run by Adam Durrant (second year Anglo-Saxon Norse and Celtic student) and Asya Ostrovsky (second year Geography student)

Sustainability successes in our community

PROFESSOR DANIELLA TILBURY (1990, Environmental Studies; Honorary Fellow 2018) is Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations for HM Government of Gibraltar. She was a member of the UK Government's delegation to CoP26, and moderated an inter-ministerial event on education and climate action.

LORENA GORDILLO-DAGALLIER (a Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology PhD student) and colleagues from the open-seneca initiative were highly commended in the University's Outstanding Student Contribution to Education Awards for their educational and empowering workshops on air quality. Learn more at caths.cam.ac.uk/lorena

PROFESSOR JULIAN ALLWOOD (2018), Dudley Robinson Professorial Fellow in Engineering at St Catharine's, and colleagues have been awarded new research funding for their invention of the world's first ever zero-emissions cement. Find out more at caths.cam.ac.uk/cement

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the College launched a bike maintenance drive and new equipment, including an electric delivery bike for our housekeepers, to encourage students, staff and Fellows to cycle safely. Read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/safe-cycling

1. To read more, please visit caths.cam.ac.uk/net-zero-2040
2. Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*. 2021. [gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy)
3. University of Cambridge. *University of Cambridge adopts Science Based Target for carbon reduction*. 2019. [cam.ac.uk/news/university-of-cambridge-adopts-science-based-target-for-carbon-reduction](https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/university-of-cambridge-adopts-science-based-target-for-carbon-reduction)
4. Read a summary of existing activities at caths.cam.ac.uk/sustainability

Patron saint: New gift from alumnus

Alumnus Garrett Curran (1991, Law) is generously donating to the College a high-resolution print replica on canvas of 'Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria' by Artemisia Gentileschi. Owned by the National Gallery, the original artwork was included in an exhibition in 2020, which celebrated the artist's position as Europe's most celebrated female painter of the Baroque period.

"Feminist interest in her work has led to Artemisia Gentileschi being championed as an inspirational figure of resilience and unbowed creativity in the face of exceptionally challenging odds," said Letizia Treves, curator of the National Gallery's *Artemisia* exhibition. "Her originality lay in her exceptional gifts as a storyteller, her powerful imagery and bringing a singular female perspective to her subjects."

Gentileschi's portrayal of herself as a saint venerated by women and girls facing

violence and persecution around the world to this day is particularly poignant. Gentileschi was raped aged 17 by a fellow male artist and, after providing evidence at his trial, she was tortured to prove the veracity of her statement. Foreshadowing her martyrdom, a palm frond is held as if it were a paintbrush, further emphasising the connection between the painter and her subject.

Garrett added, "In a first for the National Gallery, the replica will be created by recording the painting in high resolution using the Gallery's own image file and then reproducing the image on canvas. The National Gallery has also kindly agreed to create a replica of the 17th-century Florentine frame."

The replica will be proudly displayed in a prominent position in College from October 2022 for the enjoyment of our community and visitors.



Artemisia Gentileschi, 1593-1654 or later
Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17.

Bought for the National Gallery with the support of the American Friends of the National Gallery, the National Gallery Trust, Art Fund (through the legacy of Sir Denis Mahon), Lord and Lady Sassoon, Lady Getty, Hannah Rothschild CBE and other donors including those who wish to remain anonymous, 2018. © The National Gallery, London

Supporting survivors of domestic abuse

In February 2022, St Catharine's announced the start of a new programme of activities with Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) to improve the support available to survivors of domestic abuse.¹ The College was keen to expand our existing partnership after the success of a "pop-up respite beds" initiative in 2020 and the ongoing backing of the Monday Charitable Trust (MCT).²

St Catharine's is set to host a conference for CWA in September 2022 to enable

30 survivors from the Cambridge area to share their experiences with each other and advise local service providers on how to improve the support available. The partnership will also give St Catharine's students, staff and Fellows the opportunity to participate in training sessions provided by CWA's Ask Me Community Ambassador Scheme. To cover the partnership's costs, MCT has committed a grant of £114,287 payable over the next three years, thanks to the support of alumnus and MCT Trustee Douglas Blausten (1971, Land Economy).

Angie Stewart, Chief Executive Officer at CWA, said, "We have been on a remarkable journey with St Catharine's and I am delighted that we will be strengthening our connection in the months ahead for the benefit of survivors in the Cambridge area. CWA has particularly appreciated the support and guidance of Lady Lyn Welland (2020), Fellow Commoner of St Catharine's, when deciding what shape our future collaborations could take."

1. Read the full announcement at caths.cam.ac.uk/supporting-survivors

2. Read about the 2020 partnership at caths.cam.ac.uk/partnering-cwa

Creating a portrait of a Master

PROFESSOR SIR MARK WELLAND (2016) MASTER

You can tell when your Mastership is drawing to a close because whispers of "The Portrait" start to grow until it is no longer possible to ignore them. Anyone who knows me will understand that the very last thing I want to see is a picture of myself, so a full-sized portrait to hang in the Hall? A terrifying prospect. However, giving in to the inevitable, I decided to start researching how portraits are painted and who there might be who would produce a portrait with the style and content that worked for me.

At one end of the scale, preferred by some, is a portrait that, essentially, is a reworked posed photograph. At the other end is a portrait where the components of the painting are individually assembled from many photographs and sketches to represent not simply the sitter captured in a moment in time, but a more meaningful representation of the sitter in a context that reflects key elements of their life. I chose the latter.

So then began the search for the portrait painter. In addition to their style, it was important to me that the artist could also work with me so that the ideas and context that I sought to realise would happen in a positive and collaborative spirit. I started looking at members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, and I was more than fortunate to find Miriam Escofet whose previous portraits exactly suited me and whom I found engaging, thoughtful, deeply expert and a pleasure to work with.

What is remarkable to me is that, despite such rich detail and symbolism in the images, the subject of the portrait nevertheless stands out.

Miriam's portraits are works of art: she painted Her Majesty the Queen for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2019 and won the prestigious BP Portrait Award in 2018. What I particularly love about her portraits is the incredible detail in every element of the image. What is remarkable to me is that, despite such rich detail and symbolism in the images, the subject of the portrait nevertheless stands out.

Miriam has visited St Catharine's three times to date and taken many photographs of me in a variety of poses, along with

photographs of the other elements that I wish to be incorporated in the final portrait. Miriam is close to the point where she will sit down and paint: a process that will take her 3-4 months, working full time. I am giving nothing else away; you will need to wait for the unveiling later in the year. I of course want a portrait that I feel comfortable with, but I also want to ensure that the College has – thanks to Miriam's interpretation and extraordinary skills – a work of art that stimulates, at least, conversation and, I hope, appreciation.



Photograph taken by Miriam Escofet as inspiration for the portrait

Fellows in focus

The Official and Professorial Fellows of St Catharine's make decisions collectively as Governing Body and serve as the College's trustees. Roughly 60 in number, the size and shape of this group recognises and reflects the subjects taught at undergraduate level and our interest in supporting our community pedagogically and pastorally, and also the senior administrative roles that enable our academic mission.

This article celebrates the contributions of three Fellows during their time at St Catharine's.

PROFESSOR ANTHONY DAVENPORT (1995)

Professor Davenport was introduced to St Catharine's through research collaborations with Professor John Pickard CBE (1964, Medical Sciences; Fellow 1990; Emeritus Fellow 2013) and Sir Terence English (1992; Master 1993-2000), who both supported his nomination for a Fellowship. He recalls, "There were far fewer Fellows when I joined, but this meant I could meet all the Fellowship and enjoy a sense of collegiality pretty quickly, even when my working day was largely spent at Addenbrooke's Hospital."

After his admission, Professor Davenport secured long-term funding from the British Heart Foundation, initially for a ten-year lectureship and then as a principal scientist, which resulted in his promotion to Reader at the University of Cambridge. Most recently, he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society in 2020 and named as a Highly Cited Researcher in 2021.

In March 2020, the pandemic temporarily closed Professor Davenport's department, but he was among a group of researchers given special permission to continue research activities:

"Hearing accounts from clinical colleagues about the shocking effects of COVID-19, there was a desperate need to understand how drugs could be used to block the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was a bit of a crash course in viruses for me, but I was fortunate to be working with expert virologists. With our combined expertise, we were able to grow beating heart cells in our laboratory and show that an experimental peptide drug called DX600 could prevent the virus entering heart cells. This drug could offer a new treatment to reduce harm to patients and even help reduce the symptoms of long COVID."¹

In addition to supporting undergraduates as Director of Studies, Professor Davenport has now supervised over 60 postgraduate



Julian Johnson

students, 30 of whom were St Catharine's students. He has reflected on the major developments in the student body:

"Since I arrived at St Catharine's, the number of medical students has almost doubled and our postgraduate community is now much larger. I also find it remarkable how far we've come in terms of welcoming talented students from a much wider range of backgrounds."



Hebe Hunter-Gordon

DR HESTER LEES-JEFFRIES (2006)

An experienced teacher and supervisor, Dr Lees-Jeffries joined St Catharine's from Magdalene College where she had been a Research Fellow. Initially, she only expected to spend two years at St Catharine's:

"My fixed-term post was created to temporarily enhance teaching capacity while Dr Paul Hartle (1971, English; Fellow 1977; Emeritus Fellow 2018) supported the University's Senior Tutors Committee as Secretary. I am delighted to remain at

St Catharine's all these years later, having been appointed to a University Lectureship in 2013, and now as an Associate Professor. My admission coincided with the arrival of a clutch of new Fellows from the same generation and at the same point in our careers - it was quite a lively period to join the Fellowship.

"During my time, the College's commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive and accessible environment definitely stands out, with all the challenging conversations

1. For further information, visit caths.cam.ac.uk/heart-cells-COVID-19

this entails. I am proud that we were the first Cambridge College to fly the Rainbow flag in 2014 and of our commitment to ongoing research into the legacies of empire in the College. Our capital projects play an important role in shaping our environment and I've valued my time on the Major Building Projects Committee, working closely with students and staff on the McGrath Centre and Central Spaces project. On a personal note, the College was extraordinary when I was treated for cancer in 2010-11, with so many colleagues offering practical help and support."

Dr Lees-Jeffries' first book, *England's Helicon: Fountains in Early Modern Literature and Culture* (Oxford, 2007), was completed during her first year at St Catharine's and was followed by *Shakespeare and Memory* (Oxford, 2013). Since 2018, she has also been an active blogger across a series of #SlowShakespeare projects focused on *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Richard II* and most recently *Macbeth*.² At a St Catharine's English reunion in 2016, she was approached by Professor Brian Gibbons (1958, English) to write the new introduction to *Romeo and Juliet* for Cambridge University Press:

"Beyond updating the scholarship, I have enjoyed including new material about the performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, such as the recent film produced by the National Theatre and directed by Simon Godwin (1994, English), as part of a section entitled 'Love in the time of coronavirus'. In tandem, I am writing *Shakespeare's Histories: A Very Short Introduction* and the final chapter of my new book on *Textile Shakespeare*."

During my time, the College's commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive and accessible environment definitely stands out.

DR NIAMH GALLAGHER (2009, History; Fellow 2018)

Dr Gallagher completed her MPhil in Modern European History and PhD at St Catharine's. In 2018, she was appointed Lecturer in Modern British History, and this year took up a new lectureship entirely dedicated to Modern Irish History, funded by the Irish Government. Dr Gallagher said:



"As a student, it was a dream come true to arrive at Catz, and I felt fortunate to be part of the College's international postgraduate community. When I returned to the Faculty of History in 2018, I had several colleges to choose from, but Catz stood head and shoulders above the rest. It honestly felt like coming home.

Collectively and intellectually, the College punches above its weight. Its record in History is particularly strong and high-profile women are at its core. Professor Dame Jean Thomas (Master 2007-16; Honorary Fellow 2016) was an inspiration when I was a student and a major reason why I came to call Catz my home. The academic brilliance, collegiality, dedication and strength of character of colleagues past and present have helped make a Fellowship I'm proud to be part of."

Dr Gallagher's debut book on *Ireland and the Great War: A Social and Political History* (Bloomsbury, 2019) was the first work of Irish history to win the Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize. Her second book, *The Political Thought of the Irish Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), came out in May 2022. She has emerged as a leading public figure during the centenaries that Britain and Ireland marked in 2020-21, speaking at events organised by the President of Ireland; serving on the Northern Ireland Centenary Historical Advisory Panel; and contributing to news broadcasts and documentaries.

She has also helped to grow *The Cambridge seminar on the future of the island of Ireland*:

"British-Irish relations have become far more challenging since Brexit, as the UK's withdrawal from the EU continues to reorder relations between the peoples and governments of these islands. Our forum debates these and other problems in an inclusive way. Some of our past speakers include former taoiseachs (prime ministers) and party leaders."³

As Postgraduate Tutor (Finance), Dr Gallagher helps students access hardship funding and bursaries:

"We are lucky to have generous alumni who give willingly to student support. The pandemic, rising cost of living, and political upheaval across Europe have severely impacted our postgraduates. We are very grateful to our alumni for allowing our talented and diverse student body to thrive."

2. Visit english.cam.ac.uk/people/Hester.Lees-Jeffries for further information

3. For further details, please visit cfg.polis.cam.ac.uk/island-ireland

Celebrating literary successes

The St Catharine's community has a proud history of shaping the literary world. In celebration of all our Members with literary talents throughout the ages, we wanted to take a moment to feature the contributions of a few individuals past and present.

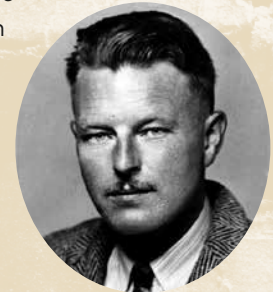


JAMES SHIRLEY (1615)

Playwright and poet James Shirley (1596–1666) became the principal writer for Queen Henrietta's Men (1625–36), John Ogilby in Dublin (1636–40) and the King's Men (1640–42) prior to the English Civil War. He wrote nearly 40 plays before Parliament suppressed theatre in 1642. Oxford University Press's forthcoming *Complete Works of James Shirley* draws upon our Library's fine collection of early editions of Shirley's plays. This edition will also feature commentary by Fellow Dr Hester Lees-Jeffries (2006) on Shirley's play *The Example*.

MALCOLM LOWRY (1929, English)

Malcolm Lowry (1909–57) wrote his first novel, *Ultramarine*, while an undergraduate at St Catharine's. During his lifetime, he published only one other book, the modernist masterpiece *Under the Volcano*, set on a single day in a small Mexican town. He spent much of his time as an undergraduate living in London, befriending the 'Auden Group' of British and Irish writers active at the time, and he graduated with a third-class degree in 1931. His reputation grew following his early death; unpublished novels and collections of his stories and poems appeared throughout the 1960s.



New York Times



Nadia Lines, second-year English undergraduate and President of the Shirley Society, comments, "The Shirley Society is thought to be the oldest literary society in Cambridge. The College holds records that the Society was founded in 1919 and continues to this day. Once a week students gather to read aloud their favourite pieces of literature to each other over wine. The atmosphere is at once reverent, intellectual, and fun. Long may the Shirley Society live!"



T. R. HENN (1919, English)

Born in Sligo, T. R. Henn (1901–74) came to St Catharine's as an Exhibitioner. He was elected to a Fellowship in 1926 and later served as Senior Tutor (1945–47) and President (1951–61). He was also a soldier (promoted to brigadier during the Second World War), an angler (the author of *Practical Fly-Tying*), a poet and an essayist of some style. He specialised in the teaching of poetry, particularly Yeats, and also wrote two books on Shakespeare. Henn kindled an enthusiasm for English literature amongst his students, including Sir Ian McKellen (1958, English; Honorary Fellow 1982) and Sir Peter Hall (1950, English; Honorary Fellow 1964).



Robert Gillanders

SIR TIM WATERSTONE (1958, English)

Sir Tim (born 1939) founded Waterstones Booksellers in 1982, setting up his first small, experimental store in Old Brompton Road, Kensington. In rapidly building a chain from this tiny base, he promoted a unique model of major and

sustained exposure for literary authors. He employed highly read and informed staff, who were passionate about literature. Under this personalised stocking, marketing and staffing model, Waterstones grew within ten years to become the largest bookseller group in Europe. Waterstones continues to thrive and expand to this day, now with over 300 branches.

Sir Tim is himself a novelist, with five books published to date. His memoir, *The Face Pressed Against a Window*, was published by Atlantic Books in February 2019. In 2018 he was awarded a knighthood for his services to bookselling and to charitable organisations.

Always an active member of our College community, Sir Tim reflects, "It was during my time at Catz that my dream of the Waterstone's creation first grew. Taught, dauntingly, by Tom Henn, then, brilliantly, by Francis Warner, I subsequently set out into the world having spent in Cambridge, and at the College, three of the happiest years of my life."

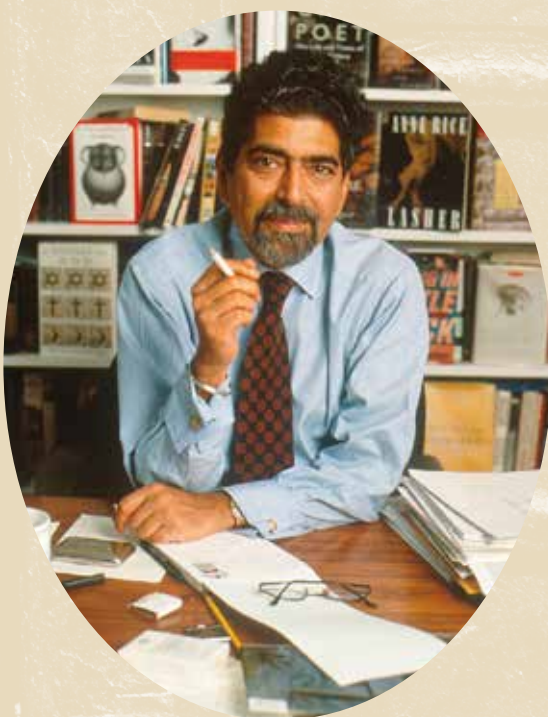
DICK ROBINSON (1959, English)

Dick Robinson (1937–2021) came to St Catharine's from Harvard as an affiliated student and read English under T. R. Henn. Back in America, after two years of teaching, he joined his father's publishing company, Scholastic, becoming President in 1974 and Chairman in 1982. He transformed Scholastic into a home of children's books, and notably acquired the American rights to J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, as well as Suzanne Collin's young adult dystopian *The Hunger Games* trilogy.

Speaking to *The New York Times* in 2005, he said, "Publishing the Harry Potter books has changed the company and made it more visible, but what everybody feels the most about Harry Potter is that it brought kids to the reading process who had never been readers."¹

Fellow and Development Director Deborah Loveluck (2007) reflects, "Dick was a major figure within our New York alumni community as well as the publishing sector internationally.

He was an extraordinary man and always made time for College when the Master and I were in New York. He was a huge admirer of T. R. Henn and on one trip we took him a copy of T. R. Henn's *Selected Poems*."



Getty Images

SONNY MEHTA (1961, History)

Sonny Mehta (1942–2019) won a scholarship to St Catharine's and worked for the literary magazine *Granta* during his degree.

He went straight into publishing upon graduation, with Hart-Davis and then Granada, where he co-founded Paladin and commissioned *The Female Eunuch* from his University friend Germaine Greer.

In 1987, he became CEO of the Random House division Knopf Doubleday, where he remained for the rest of his career. He published many award-winning authors including, Toni Morrison, John Updike, Anne Rice, John le Carré, P.D. James, and many culturally iconic books, such as Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* and Stieg Larsson's *Dragon Tattoo* trilogy.

He received the 2018 Maxwell E. Perkins Award for lifetime achievement from the Center For Fiction. In accepting the award, he said, "Reading has been a constant in my life... I have always found comfort in the confines of a book or manuscript. Reading is how I spend most of my time, is still the most joyful aspect of my day. I want to be remembered not as an editor or publisher, but as a reader."²

1. The New York Times. [nytimes.com/2021/06/07/books/richard-robinson-dead.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/07/books/richard-robinson-dead.html)
2. The New York Times. [nytimes.com/2019/12/31/books/sonny-mehta-dead.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/31/books/sonny-mehta-dead.html)

THE REV'D DR GLEN CAVALIERO (1965, English)

Poet and critic Dr Cavaliero (1927–2019) joined St Catharine's as a mature student reading English, then stayed on for doctoral work and was awarded a PhD in 1972. He was a much-loved teacher for generations of St Catharine's English students, and his literary interests ranged widely; he seemed to have read everything, and taught well into his eighties. He wrote books on John Cowper Powys and E.M. Forster, on the supernatural and on comedy in fiction. He was also an accomplished poet, publishing several volumes, including his *Collected Poems* in 2016. Always dapper, never dull, he was a fixture at High Table lunch until shortly before his death.



DR JOANNE HARRIS OBE (1982, Modern and Medieval Languages; Honorary Fellow 2012)

Dr Harris (born 1964) arrived just three years after women were first admitted to St Catharine's. She has published 18 novels and two books of short stories, as well as three cookbooks with Fran Warde. Her books are now published in over 50 countries and have won a number of British and international awards. Her most recent work, *Narrow Door*, was released in August 2021. Set in a grammar school embarking on co-education, Joanne tells us that there may be something of Catz in the story. Joanne was awarded an OBE in 2022 in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and has served as Chair of the Society of Authors since 2019.



Peter Godwin

PETER GODWIN (1976, Law)

Peter Godwin (born 1957) was born and raised in Zimbabwe and came to England for the first time to read Law at St Catharine's, before continuing his studies in international relations at the University of Oxford and practising human rights law in Zimbabwe.

Peter has become an award-winning non-fiction author following his career as a respected foreign correspondent, reporting worldwide from over 60 countries during major conflicts as well as the last years of apartheid South Africa.

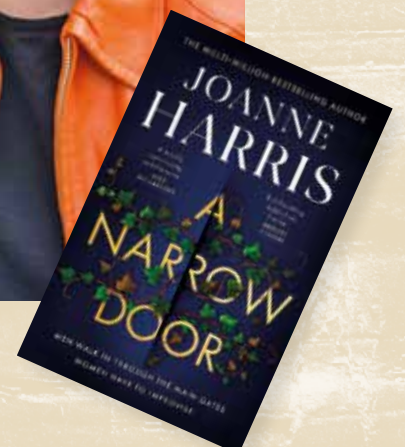
His works include *Mukiwa* (winner of the George Orwell prize and the Esquire-Apple-Waterstones award), *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun - a Memoir of Africa* (Borders Original Voices Award winner) and a New Yorker 'best book of the year' *The Fear: The Last Days of Robert Mugabe*. He has also written for a wide array of publications, including *Vanity Fair*, *National Geographic* and the *New York Times* magazine.

Peter served as East European correspondent and diplomatic correspondent for the *Sunday Times*, and chief correspondent for BBC television's flagship foreign affairs program, *Assignment*. He wrote and co-presented the three-part Channel Four series *Africa Unmasked*, and his film about the sex trade in Thailand, *The Industry of Death*, won the gold medal for investigative film at the New York Film Festival.

Peter reflects on his time at St Catharine's, "I arrived as a teenager straight out of conscripted military service in Rhodesia. The two worlds couldn't have been more different and the cognitive dissonance, extreme. I'd just been in combat, and now I found myself in wood-panelled, book-lined rooms debating arcane legal theory. Unsurprisingly it took me some time to settle in! Being an undergraduate at Catz gave me a chance to claw back my youth."



Kyle Photography





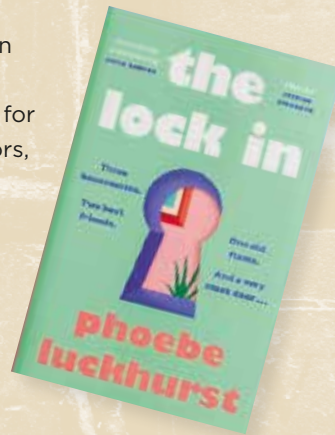
PHOEBE LUCKHURST (2008, English)

Phoebe Luckhurst is currently the Features Editor and a columnist at the *Evening Standard*, where she also looks after their books coverage, and has written interviews and features for the *Guardian*, *Sunday Times Style*, *The Telegraph* and *Vogue*. In July, she will start a new role as the Senior Commissioning Editor at the Sunday Times Magazine. She has appeared on BBC Radio 2, Times Radio, and on podcasts including *The Leader*, *I'm Absolutely Fine!* and *The Sunday Salon*. Her first novel, *The Lock In*, was published in July 2021 and we are looking forward to the release of her next novel, *The Back Up Man*, in January 2023.



It is unusual, but not unheard of, for students to publish literary works before and during their time at St Catharine's. One example is *Letters to Gil: a memoir* (2021, William Collins) by Malik Al Nasir (PhD History student), about the life-changing experience of meeting poet, musician and civil rights activist Gil Scott-Heron (read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/letters-to-gil). Nadia Lines (second-year English undergraduate and President, Shirley Society) started writing poetry at the age of 14 and has won many awards. Her most recent volume (*Stephen the Phlebotomist*, 2022, Nine Pens Press) has just been launched (read more at caths.cam.ac.uk/student-poet).

Phoebe says, "I'll forever feel lucky for my three years at St Catharine's: from the friends I made, to the long nights in the Sherlock Library to prepare for morning seminars with Hester Lees-Jeffries. The College is a creative powerhouse for literature, music and drama, and I remember plenty of actors, writers, musicians and student journalists from my time at St Catharine's, many of whom are doing exciting things today. I have no doubt that this creative environment helped to set us all on our way, and I'm very grateful for my time there."



DR SAMARA LINTON (2012, Medical Sciences)

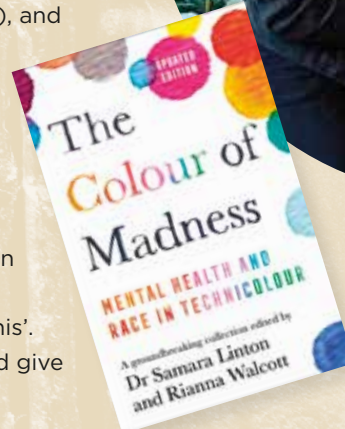
After graduating, Dr Linton completed her medical studies at University College London. She worked as a junior doctor before joining the BBC in 2019, where she went on to work in the Audio Science Unit as an assistant producer for several BBC World Service and Radio 4 programmes.

Today, Samara is known as an award-winning writer and multidisciplinary content producer. Her work includes *Diane Abbott: The Authorised Biography* (2020) and *The Colour of Madness: Mental Health and Race in Technicolour* (2nd ed, May 2022), and she has also contributed to *Rethinking Labour's Past* (2022) and *Understanding 'Race' and Ethnicity* (2019).

Samara reflects, "My writing career began while I was a student at Catz. I wrote a blog post for FLY Cambridge about representation at the university, and it was so well-received that I thought, 'Maybe I should do more of this'. In writing, I found my voice and learnt I could give others a voice too."



Samara Linton



Thank you

St Catharine's is proud that so many Members and friends choose to support the College. Your generosity enables St Catharine's to enrich College life, preserve our buildings and spaces, invest in world-class teaching and research and provide student support. Thanks to the generous donations of our College community, we have now raised £56.2 million out of £65 million for the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign.

Message from Deborah Loveluck (2007), Fellow and Development Director

I would like to share with you that, at the end of April 2023, I will be retiring from my role as Development Director, a position I have held since 2007.



During my time at St Catharine's, I have worked hard to develop closer relationships with our Members across the world, and have steered us through two

fundraising campaigns. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our Members and friends, the first St Catharine's Campaign raised £30 million for teaching posts, student support, and the McGrath Centre. Our current campaign, launched in 2019, is entitled "Our College Our Future" and, at the time of writing, I am proud that we have raised £56.2 million to grow our endowment and fund many important aspects of College life, including an extensive welfare programme for our community. In addition, our donors have funded a complete remodelling of our central spaces, which will open in autumn 2022. I know this timely and necessary redevelopment will be appreciated by many generations to come.

I arrived at St Catharine's in 2007, having had a varied career in a number of sectors, starting in Newcastle in a junior role with the Arts Council and then spending a number of years in London with a small independent agency, organising tours for jazz supremos out of Ronnie Scott's and major rock artists, such as *The Police*, *Eurythmics*

and *U2*. My next step, the creation of a fine-dining country restaurant and hotel in Northamptonshire, was a particular highlight for me, where I could pursue my passions for fine food and good wine. After a career break in England and France to raise my two beautiful children, Louisa and Tom, I moved to Cambridge and found myself working in fundraising for the first time with Cam Sight, a local charity for people with low vision and blindness. My first experience of a Cambridge college was at King's, where I worked for four years in the

Alumni and Development Office (ADO). I was then fortunate enough to be appointed Development Director at St Catharine's and a member of its Fellowship.

Life at St Catharine's over the last 15 years has been exciting, challenging and very rewarding. I do feel that the College and my team in the ADO have brought our Members closer together and closer to the College. You are a core part of the St Catharine's community. I have met so many of you and I will certainly miss you all.

Giving to St Catharine's in 2021-22

Figures from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022

£6,657,867

IN DONATIONS RECEIVED

£3,381,071

IN FURTHER PLEDGES

614

DONORS MADE A REGULAR GIFT

950

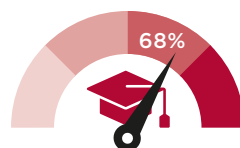
PEOPLE LIVING IN

21

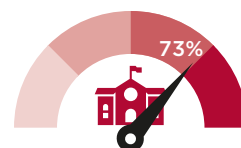
COUNTRIES DONATED

OUR YOUNGEST DONOR WAS **27** YEARS OLD AND OUR OLDEST DONOR WAS **99** YEARS OLD

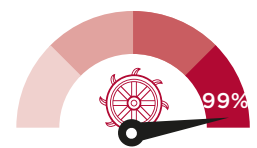
A TOTAL OF **£153,106** WAS DONATED BY INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS OF **£500** OR LESS



COLLEGE LIFE



BUILDINGS & SPACES

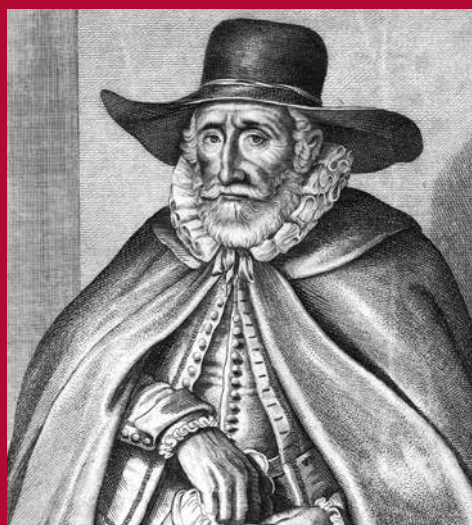


STUDENT SUPPORT

An extensive renovation of Hobson's

The much-loved frontage of St Catharine's is flanked on one side by the Woodlark building and by the Hobson building on the other. The latter was erected in the 1930s and so has long provided accommodation for our students. Although refurbished in the 1960s, it has remained largely untouched since.

With the development of the Central Spaces reaching completion and work at St Chad's beginning this summer, we are now focusing on fundraising to support the renovation of Hobson's, as the final phase of our building projects for the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign. We plan to modernise the building by making the accommodation more accessible and adding en-suite bathrooms. This will offer a high standard of accommodation for our students as well as any visiting alumni and conference guests. The estimated cost of this project is £3 million, which will restore



Thomas Hobson, after John Payne line engraving, published 1793

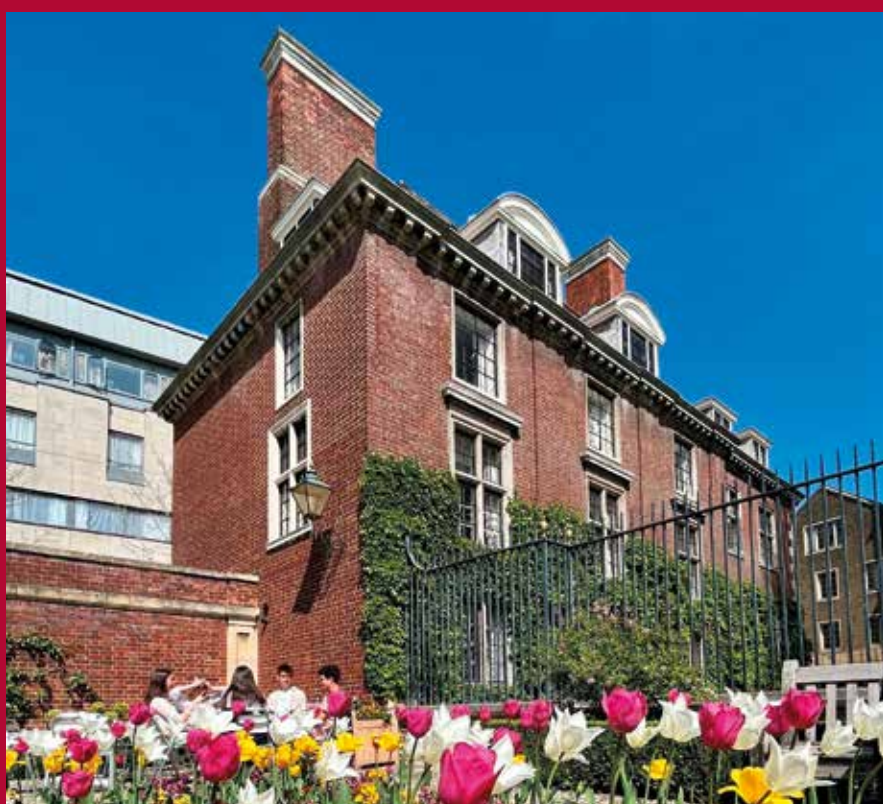
this stunning building to its former glory whilst updating the facilities within. Donors to this project will be recognised on a donor board and major donors will have the option to have a room dedicated in their name.

Hobson's: A History

Our building is named after Thomas Hobson (c.1544–1631), one of Cambridge's most famous townspeople. Hobson provided services and horses to transport both goods and people. He is best known for his business strategy. Recognising that his best horses were in most demand and that they were also the most overworked, he devised a rotation system and only allowed customers to use the next horse in line. Rather than seeing this ultimatum as an act of animal welfare or just common sense, the expression 'Hobson's choice' was created to mean an apparently free choice when there is no viable alternative. The earliest known appearance of this phrase in print is contained in a 1660 document by Samuel Fisher.

The Hobson building is thought to have been built on the site of the George Inn, owned by Hobson with his stables next door (believed to be where the College chapel is now located). It was purpose-built to provide student accommodation, following the College's expansion after the First World War. Archaeological evidence of the land's former use has been found during building work and was written about in the *St Catharine's Magazine*, 2019.¹ The most identifiable object was a corroded horseshoe, spotted by Professor Anthony Davenport (Fellow, 1995) in a spoil heap from Main Court in 2017. The question was soon raised as to whether it could be contemporary to Thomas Hobson. Facilitated by alumna Eleanor Clapp (née Baines; 1996, Natural Sciences) and her twin Dr Philippa Moore, experts in forensic metallurgy at TWI X-rayed the horseshoe to reveal traits characteristic of the late 16th or early 17th century, such as the number of nail holes and absence of a toe clip. While we cannot be certain it was used during Hobson's time, their investigation presents a tangible link with St Catharine's equestrian past.

With your help, we look forward, once again, to making Hobson's *choice* accommodation.



Hobson's in the Spring

1. society.caths.cam.ac.uk/Public_Magazines/2019r.pdf

Enriching College life

As St Catharine's enters the final stage of the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign, we are focusing on fundraising to enrich College life.

St Catharine's is proud to attract the brightest minds from diverse backgrounds and provide a world-class education for all our students, in a supportive environment where academic aspiration, diversity, welfare and extra curriculum opportunities are equally promoted and encouraged.

However, University fees only cover 28% of St Catharine's annual income and the College subsidises each student every year by an average of £5,000 to deliver the world-class education

we all expect and value. This creates an ongoing deficit to the College.

Many of our Members and friends decide to make unrestricted gifts to College – and we are hugely grateful for the trust you put into your College when making an unrestricted donation. This type of support enables us to fund the areas of greatest need for the College at any given time. The continued generosity of the College community has supported a number of projects, a few recent examples of which are outlined below.



Student support

St Catharine's is committed to the principle that no student should be deterred from applying due to financial barriers. Support from the College community helps us to ensure that all students who are offered a place to study are able to accept their place and benefit from all that Cambridge has to offer through the provision of generous bursaries, scholarships and hardship grants.

St Catharine's is also proud to have earned our reputation for being at the forefront of welfare provision at the University of Cambridge. We want to ensure that health and wellbeing runs through every part of College life to provide a supportive environment for the whole College community.

"As we enter the exciting phase of coming back together as a College after the pandemic, it has never been clearer how crucial it is to provide rapid and meaningful support for those in our community who need it most. Every day the Health and Wellbeing Team see the positive impact of the funds raised to support student welfare. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing generosity of members of the College community which enables us to continue to enhance our wellbeing programme."

MARY SIMUYANDI, Head of Wellbeing

Clubs and societies

With more than fifty College clubs and societies, students at St Catharine's have a wealth of opportunities to explore their talents and interests outside the rigours of their academic programme, which is important for building lifelong friendship and community spirit.

"College sport created a deep sense of community and common purpose, which enriched the friendships I had at Catz and generated a supportive atmosphere for academic work."

HARRY LENG, (2017, Economics), College Cricket and Hockey, Hockey Blue and Sports Bursary Recipient



Hockey matches at Acheson-Gray Sports Day

Acheson-Gray Sports Day

On Saturday 23 April, the Acheson-Gray Sports Day took place with alumni and student representatives playing cricket, badminton, football, hockey, netball, rugby and tennis. It was inspiring to see such a team spirit across the College's close-knit community. Sporting matches between alumni and students have been a long-standing tradition since the Second World War. In more recent years this sports day is named after Charles Acheson-Gray (1991, Social & Political Sciences), as a tribute to his memory, providing an opportunity for our community to remember the importance of talking openly about the subject of mental health.

Advancing outreach at St Catharine's

St Catharine's is committed to encouraging applications from the most talented students, regardless of background. Our Outreach Team hosts virtual and in person school visits, open days, subject taster days and workshops. The team also provides a wide variety of digital and printed resources – all to inspire, engage and support prospective students and their teachers.

After a record number of applications for 2021 admissions,¹ we have remained one of the most popular Cambridge colleges, with 985 applications for undergraduate places from across the United Kingdom, European Union and the rest of the world. 79% of our 2021–22 UK undergraduate students are from state schools, surpassing the University of Cambridge's target of 69.1% by 2024–25.

We are especially pleased to report that, in the last admissions cycle, there was parity across applicants from UK state and independent schools; success rates for applications from both cohorts remain similar. These outstanding achievements are due to our Members' firmly held commitment to, and support of, widening participation.

Here are some recent highlights from our outreach programme:

- Working in partnership with Target Oxbridge on a webinar series aimed at improving access to higher education for black students.
- Co-hosting a four-day initiative with the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (CIMR) that gave local Year 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds first-hand experience of life as a Cambridge student and a biomedical research environment.
- In collaboration with Newnham College and The Access Project, St Catharine's PhD students and Fellows welcomed over eighty students from disadvantaged backgrounds from across the UK for a day of talks, tours and 'mock supervisions' to give students a taste of College-style teaching.
- The Outreach Team recently visited fifteen schools in North and West Yorkshire to offer a range of workshops, talks and Q&A sessions.

Ongoing support from alumni and friends will ensure that St Catharine's is able to continue to fund an effective and varied outreach programme.

How you can help

Your support is vital to complete the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign, so that we can realise our strategic plans for the benefit of our students and to strengthen and sustain St Catharine's for generations to come.

You can visit the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign site (campaign.caths.cam.ac.uk) for further information. Gifts can be made on a one-off basis or as regular donations. A donation form is included as part of this publication.

Please contact the Alumni and Development Office if you would like to discuss your support: +44 (0)1223 338337 or giving@caths.cam.ac.uk.

Recognising your support

All donations, whatever the amount, are greatly appreciated. Donors of £500 or more are invited with a guest, to the annual garden party, traditionally held in June at St Catharine's. There are also two giving circles:

The 1473 Foundation

recognises Members and friends who have shown their support for the College's strategic aims through their extraordinary generosity. Donors whose lifetime giving is £50,000 or greater are invited to join.

The Woodlark Society

recognises all those who have pledged to support St Catharine's through legacy giving. Members receive tailored communications and an annual lunch in College.



CIMR Inspiring Scientists: Year 12 student in laboratory

1. For information about 2021 admissions see caths.cam.ac.uk/welcome-2021

Nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset

It is a source of great pride that the knowledge and experiences gained at St Catharine's have enabled entrepreneurs in our community to seize opportunities, challenge the status quo and create innovative solutions that benefit wider society.

Finalist Tsemaye (Tse) Uwejamomere (2018, Engineering) recently met Stan Boland (1978, Natural Sciences) and Mark Richer (1982, Natural Sciences; Fellow Commoner 2009) to discuss their time at St Catharine's and experiences during their careers as entrepreneurs.

Reflecting on their conversations, Tse commented, "I really appreciated Stan and Mark taking the time to share so much knowledge, wisdom and experience with me. It has been fascinating to compare our experiences of life at Catz and how this has helped to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit. I'm glad to have the opportunity to share their insights with the wider alumni community."

Having the ability to understand, to listen and to learn remains constant throughout an entrepreneurial career. It is important to keep that hunger for knowledge, embrace learning throughout your life, and retain the technical skills to be successful.

Thinking back to his time at St Catharine's and how this experience supported his career. Stan recalled, "It is eye opening when you first come to Cambridge. There's a fire hydrant of information to try and drink from and it's incredibly challenging. Having the ability to understand, to listen and to learn remains constant throughout an entrepreneurial career. It is important to keep that hunger for knowledge, embrace learning throughout your life, and retain the technical skills to be successful."

Mark added, "There's huge scope to explore and build upon different talents and interests at St Catharine's. I ran the College's Computer Science Society, which was quite fun. I'd originally started programming when I was 15 - back in 1980 when computers were quite rare - and I actually ended up teaching on training courses to help managers learn how to program computers, which gave me a confidence boost. I was a high-tech person and I knew I was going to do something like that."

Tse also had a chance to reflect on how important support from St Catharine's has been: "Whenever I have an idea about anything, I always find the St Catharine's community really supportive in helping me get the idea off the ground with volunteers, connections and funding. When I first shared my idea for Cascade, I received support from the Master's Fund,¹ not only in helping us to fund some parts of our development, but also helping us connect with the wider Catz community who can offer advice and guidance."

Whenever I have an idea about anything, I always find the St Catharine's community really supportive in helping me get the idea off the ground with volunteers, connections and funding.

Tse, Mark and Stan realised during their discussion that they share a passion for creating innovative solutions that address challenges in wider society, and this purpose has driven the decisions they've made. Mark commented, "I am happiest and proudest of the ways in which I have managed to help individuals through the success of my companies; either through products and services or individuals within the company, or by supporting charitable causes including St Catharine's and other educational and social initiatives. This is what makes success meaningful for me."

Similarly, Stan said, "The biggest reward is actually knitting together people and their ability to solve a problem. The UK and Europe has so much entrepreneurial talent and I became interested in how we could configure this kind of talent to build businesses that could be as successful as their US counterparts."

1. caths.cam.ac.uk/masters-fund-application

Meet the entrepreneurs



Alongside her studies, Tse Uwejamomere is an aspiring young entrepreneur with a passion for sustainable development and harnessing technology to provide more sustainable solutions. She was awarded a Social Impact Award by the Vice-Chancellor for her innovative work on social and climate justice, including an app called Cascade, which aims to make climate research more accessible by combining it with behavioural science, to support people in forming sustainable habits.



Adrian Sherratt

Stan Boland joined Rolls-Royce from Catz as an engineer, prior to a career spell in Treasury and Financial Management, before coming back to technology as the CEO of Acorn Computers, which created and owned ARM. Stan went on to found and run several semiconductor companies and now leads FIVE, a Cambridge-based software company using AI to solve the challenges of automated driving.



Mark Richer has founded a number of companies, which specialise in video conferencing and business meeting solutions. Mark was inspired to ensure that video conferencing could become ubiquitous and he is currently Chairman and Founder of StarLeaf - software designed to enable easy to use business quality video conferencing for meeting rooms, desktops and phones.

Tse also took the opportunity to ask Mark and Stan about their advice for the next generation of entrepreneurs in the St Catharine's community. Their responses emphasised the need think creatively and flexibly, while at the same time maintaining a steadfast belief in what you are striving to achieve.

Mark explained how this advice works in practice: "On the one hand, I will present a product to a customer as somebody with no doubt whatsoever and I will absolutely believe in the product; but on the other hand, there will always be little bit of me that doubts and challenges current thinking about what would work better and how to strive to respond to any challenges that customers may continue to experience."

Stan agreed: "The most valuable thing to do is to be able to conceptualise and imagine the world that you're about to

The most valuable thing to do is to be able to conceptualise and imagine the world that you're about to create and to passionately believe in it and convey that passion and not to be overly cautious.

create and to passionately believe in it and convey that passion and not to be overly cautious. Of course, the initial idea you have will almost certainly be wrong, but it doesn't matter because you will learn that you can pivot and flex along the way. The important thing is to remain flexible and be able to carry the team and the investors along with you."

Stan even offered a recent example from his current company Five: "We set off building a full software stack to enable a car to drive safely in European cities. However, we soon realised that there were so many software components that it would take billions of pounds of capital to achieve, which was beyond what we can raise in Europe from venture capital. So we pivoted the company to build a cloud simulation and testing environment, which was very challenging but ultimately the right pivot to make."

St Catharine's always enjoys hearing from our Members and friends. If you have any news or achievements to share, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Alumni and Development Office: alumni.office@caths.cam.ac.uk

St Catharine's Winter Ball

Members of the College are warmly welcomed to book tickets for the St Catharine's Winter Ball on Thursday 1 December 2022.

Over the years, St Catharine's has hosted many memorable May Balls. The May Ball has now become a much-loved biennial tradition that sees Members come together for a night of eclectic entertainment and themed festivities.

The history of the St Catharine's May Ball is as varied as the celebrations themselves. The first ever 'Souper du Bal' of 1929 was a sophisticated affair, in stark contrast to the 1965 soirée at which a famed belly-dancer performed. From 1947, the Cardinals' Balls were run by the St Catharine's Boat Club and held in the Guildhall and Corn Exchange to raise funds to send College crews to Henley Regatta.

Inventive themes were introduced in the 1990s, including 'Mad Hatter's



1929 Ball attendees in all their finery in Main Court; An immaculately handwritten invitation from the first St Catharine's May Ball in 1929



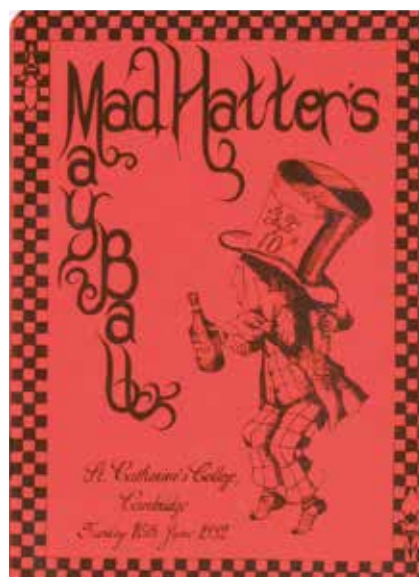
May Ball' (1992) and 'Monumental' (1993) – a nod to a popular porter named Mr Monument. Meanwhile, the 2000 May Ball was suitably themed for the Millennium as 'Continuum', based on the premise that time is not a line but a dimension.

Fast-forward to 2022, and we are thrilled to announce that St Catharine's is hosting a Ball for the first time in four years, following the cancellation of the 2020 event due to COVID-19.

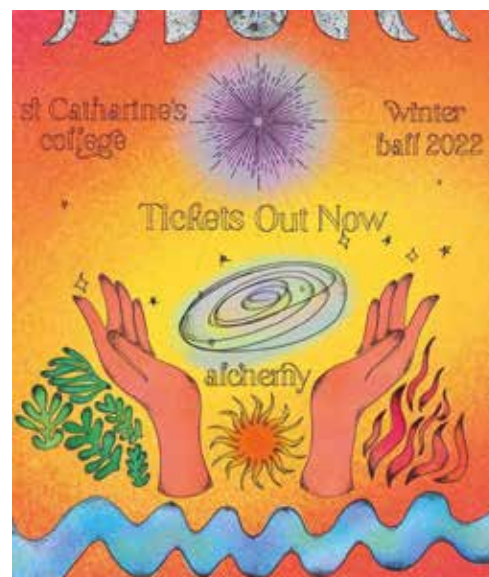
As the Central Spaces project will be completed later this year, there is a rare opportunity for the organisers to host a Winter Ball on Thursday 1 December 2022 with the theme 'Alchemy'.

Taking full advantage of the College's new state-of-the-art Central Spaces facilities, the Winter Ball promises to be a night to remember, with catering and entertainment set to rival any May Ball in St Catharine's history.

Alumni tickets can be purchased from the website catzmayball.co.uk, subject to availability. If you have any questions about the Ball, please email winterball.ticketing@caths.cam.ac.uk.



1992 poster – Mad Hatter's May Ball



Winter Ball 2022 – Alchemy

Upcoming events

As soon as we are able, invitations and further details will be circulated for in-person events. For now, please add these dates to your diary.

For further information please visit caths.cam.ac.uk/events or contact events@caths.cam.ac.uk.

10 September 2022
Members' Reunion (1994–96)

17 September 2022
St Catharine's Alumni Society Reunion

24 September 2022
Members' Reunion (1963–66)

14 October 2022
Ten Years On (2011)

1 December 2022
Winter Ball – Alchemy

25 March 2023
Members' Reunion (1971–75)

9 September 2023
Members' Reunion (1997–99)



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