

DONOR REPORT 2024



Message from the Master

During the last year of my tenure as Master, I am pleased to reflect on the many positive changes here at College – in our now equal gender balance, our commitment to sustainability, the accommodation we are able to offer to all students, in support for postgraduates and the continuation of the Winston Churchill Top Up Bursary scheme, alongside many other named bursary funds. As well as travelling to San Francisco, New York and Boston last year, I have enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with alumni and supporters at events here in the UK also.

Drawing on the voices of leading women in science, my book *Not Just for the Boys: Why we Need More Women in Science* published by OUP argues the moral and business case for greater diversity in modern research, the better to improve science and tackle the great challenges we face today. It was wonderful to celebrate with a book launch for Churchillians at the Athenaeum last May, generously sponsored by Lesley Knox (U72).

Professor Cath Green (U93) joined me at the Royal Society to give a funny, moving and fascinating talk about her experience developing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. Dr Gillian Tett, award-winning Financial Times journalist and Provost of King's College Cambridge, and Professor Deborah Prentice, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, came to Churchill to take part in the two most recent "Give Me Inspiration" events.

As well as celebrating 50 years of the College's student-initiated Southern African Bursary Fund (featured on pages of 14-15), the Churchill Archives Centre marked its fiftieth anniversary. A two-day conference featured talks by eminent speakers including previous Roskill lecturers and staff, and they launched a free access portal which allows researchers to explore archival material shared online for the first time.

I am delighted that (in a process that I took no part in) the Fellowship has elected Professor Sharon Peacock OBE, a microbiologist, to be its eighth Master. It seems appropriate that the election of the second woman to the role has caused no comment. Sharon is Professor of Public Health and Microbiology in the Department of Medicine at the University of Cambridge. Her research has focused on translating pathogen sequencing into mainstream practice. Sharon was founding director of the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, which generated SARS-CoV-2 genomes to inform the pandemic response. Our conversation on 10 May as part of the "Give Me Inspiration" series is bound to be fascinating.

I enjoy seeing how transformative donating can be for recipients of funding and hope that this Donor Report will give you an insight into the difference that your gifts are making. This is an opportunity to share stories from the beneficiaries of various forms of Student Support, none of whom would have had support without substantial financial gifts from alumni and friends of the College.



We sincerely value your help in the contribution this College makes to educating talented students – wherever they are from, and regardless of their socio-economic or national background. That our students will go on to make a difference to the world, whether it is researching new technological advances for the energy transition, developing vaccines for future pandemics or being educators themselves, sits at the heart of our Founder's vision and this College.

Of course it was also at the heart of what our first (and to date only) Winston Churchill Fellow, Michael Cowan, believed and supported. The College community was deeply saddened by his death in October 2023. Michael was a great cheerleader for the College as well as adding substantial support to our campaigns, and the Think Forward campaign in particular. He felt his experience as a student here had truly been transformative in his life, and felt

it was imperative that the College's investment needed to continue to grow to face the world's current challenges. We hope to continue this work but will miss Michael enormously as a friend and a sage advisor to us.

Little of the progress that has been made during my tenure would have been achieved without the support of Michael and the many donors reading this Donor Report. Thank you all again for your generosity over the past ten years.

Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE, FRS
Master

College Finances

July 2022 – June 2023

| | INCOME (£ thousands) | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Academic fees and charges | 4,485 | 4,359 | 4,227 |
| Accommodation, catering and conferences | 8,084 | 5,773 | 4,301 |
| Investment income | 2,232 | 1,590 | 4,200 |
| TOTAL INCOME before donations and endowments | 14,781 | 11,722 | 12,728 |
| Donations | 1,951 | 1,363 | 1,226 |
| New endowments | 2,247 | 1,845 | 560 |
| Other capital donations | 461 | 702 | |
| TOTAL INCOME including donations | 19,439 | 15,632 | 14,514 |

2022-23 was the first full year not to be directly affected by the Covid19 pandemic and it is reassuring to note that commercial activities are now almost back to their pre-pandemic levels. The return of commercial activity had a significant positive impact on the results for the year, with the Møller Institute also seeing a significant increase in its business and a return to profit. This coupled with your generous philanthropic support, meant that the College made a surplus of £948k for the year compared with a forecast loss of £15k and a loss of £1.1m in 2021-22.

The turbulent economic outlook continues to provide challenges for the College. The war in Ukraine contributed to the significant increase in utility costs seen during the year. The UK also experienced

its first period of high inflation for over 40 years – reaching a peak of 14.2% in October 2022 and remaining above 10% for the whole year.

Expenditure on water, rates and utilities increased significantly for the second year in a row, up by 35% (£331k) in 2022-23. Gas costs increased by £244k this year, despite hedged consortium purchasing, water costs increased by £23k and electricity costs by £24k. Despite food costs being well controlled through careful menu planning and the ongoing benefits of the consortium purchasing agreement, the cost of catering and butchery supplies also increased by 47% as the price of food increased and commercial activity returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Investment Performance

The College's Amalgamated Investment Fund (AIF), which makes up over 90% of the College's investments, delivered a positive return of 9.24% in 2022-23 compared with a negative return the previous year. New funds of £0.8m were invested in the Amalgamated Investment Fund just

before the year end and no funds were withdrawn during the year. The value of the College's investments increased by £9.5m compared with a fall of £9.2m the previous year. The total value of investments held by the College was £127.1m at the year-end compared with £119.7m last year.



Archives Centre

The year saw the Centre begin the celebration of its 50th anniversary, with an open day for all members of the College community, an online exhibition project with Anglia Ruskin University students, and a major social media campaign.

New accessions included further papers of the Esher family and historian Correlli Barnett, the archives of Sir John Tusa and material relating to the Bletchley Park codebreakers. Collections processed during

the year included the papers of Sir Hersch Lauterpacht and Baroness Trumpington.

The Centre invested in a new digital preservation management system and hosted two researchers from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. 404 researchers registered with the Centre and 8,415 files were issued in the reading rooms. Over 90,000 images were captured and supplied for researchers, most as part of the remote access service.

How has your money been spent?

College spending in the 2022-2023 financial year



£442k for undergraduate student bursaries



101 undergraduate students received a Cambridge Bursary



51 were awarded the full Cambridge Bursary of £3,500



£25k spent on travel and other grants to undergraduates



£41k for undergraduate scholarships and prizes



£65k to fund clubs and societies



9 students received a Summer Opportunities Bursary



£620k spent on postgraduate studentships



£88k for hardship grants to postgraduates

Expenditure

Student Support

The total spent on scholarships, studentships and grants was £1.26m. Over 80% was funded by donations or investment income from restricted named funds. Of the Student Support awarded, £733k was in support of postgraduate students, £515k for undergraduates and £10k for Research Fellows.

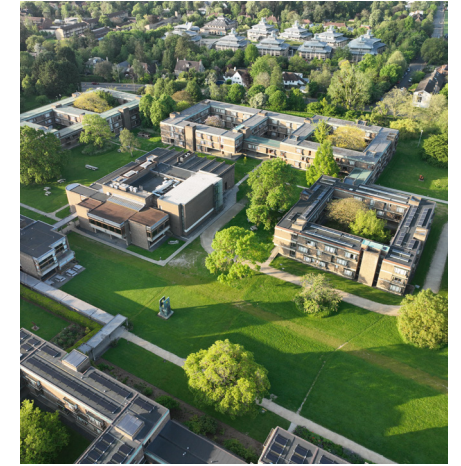
Postgraduate Studentship funding remained static at £620k, whilst expenditure on supporting postgraduates facing financial adversity increased significantly to £88k, and travel and conference grant provision increased to £65k.

The level of undergraduate bursary support increased to £442k, up by £41k on the previous year. £179k of this was the College's contribution to the enhanced Cambridge Bursary scheme: this figure represents 58% of the £311k total cost of providing the bursaries to our eligible students, with the University funding the other 42%. The other £73k awarded to undergraduate students includes £41k in scholarships and prizes, 7k in hardship awards £7k, and 25k in travel and other grants.

Capital Expenditure

The College spent more than £1m on repairing and maintaining its operational buildings and grounds and a further £3.3m was capitalised. Most of the capital expenditure was on buildings. Major projects undertaken in 2022-23 included:

- Refurbishments of 36 A&B Storey's Way
- Changing Places toilet installation
- Bill Brown Creative Workshop
- North Court roof repair and solar panel installations
- Introduction of green walkways



Energy costs and sustainability

The Green Impact Project for Churchill College was again awarded a Platinum (top) award. The extensive program of retrofitting and insulating works continued as part of the College's carbon reduction target and long-term plans to remove natural gas from the site. Solar panels have been installed on South Court and the College now generates approximately 20% of its electricity usage through solar power on site, up from 14% the previous year. 36 A&B Storey's Way was refurbished during the year and all natural gas has been removed, heating now being provided by air source heat pumps and solar panels providing electricity. Hand soap is now provided across College with zero plastic waste.

We continue work to improve biodiversity across the College site. A further 25,000 bulbs have been planted with the help of hardworking student volunteers and additional wildflower planting has increased our areas of meadow with an estimated 80,000 new plants in total. A wild plant audit has been undertaken which revealed 292 species of plant. We continue to maintain our Hedgehog Friendly Campus and the beehives produced 50kg of honey this year.



Donations Received 2022-23

We would like all of our donors to feel that they are contributing to the area of College that they care the most passionately about, and so we have a wide variety of funds. The table below lists the total amount of donations received into just some of the many funds our donors choose to direct their support to at Churchill.

| Fund | Total |
|--|----------|
| Bill Brown Creative Workshops | £460,969 |
| Boat Club | £12,450 |
| Friends of the Archives Centre | £40,021 |
| Southern African Bursary | £13,821 |
| Stuart Warren Studentship Fund | £24,932 |
| Student Support Fund | £367,637 |
| Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Fund | £4,301 |
| Summer Opportunities Bursary Fund | £4,679 |
| The 1972-77 Bursary Fund | £35,878 |
| Think Forward Fund | £236,820 |
| Winston Churchill Top Up Bursary Fund | £107,338 |

Our donor community

2,364 total donors

1,516 gifts between £1 and £999

672 current students donated to the Southern African Bursary Fund

495 new or returning donors who did not donate in 2021-22

216 continuing donors increased the number of gifts they made this year compared to 2021-22 (19% of the donors who gave in both 21-22 and 22-23)

213 alumni donating for 10+ years

22 alumni donating for 20+ years

111 Giving Day 2022 supporters donated to Giving Day 2023

63 countries represented by donors

3 year groups with over forty alumni donating to College: 1972, 1973 and 1977

1/4 of alumni donors are female alumnae



Donor Recognition Circles

We have a variety of giving circles at Churchill to recognise significant philanthropic commitment to the College. Members enjoy various benefits based on their circle including special event invitations and College Fellowship rights. To find out more, get in touch with the Development Team (development@chu.cam.ac.uk).

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Winston S Churchill 1958 Society (planned legacy gift) | 91 legators |
| Oak Circle (£10,000+ in preceding 5 years) | 93 donors |
| Patrons' Circle (£25,000+ in preceding 5 years) | 49 donors |
| Master's Circle (£100,000+ in preceding 10 years) | 37 donors |
| Benefactors' Circle (£500,000+ in lifetime) | 18 donors |
| Benefactor Fellow (£1million+ in lifetime) | 6 Fellows |

Giving Day and Telethon

Over 270 donors made a gift during the College's second Giving Day, raising over £146,500 across 8 – 9 March 2023. Matching donors generously pledged funds which would be unlocked by reaching certain milestone targets during the 36 hours. Completed challenges included Millennium Matrics and Global Giving with 61 students and alumni who matriculated this millennium making a gift and donations being made from 18 countries. More than 70 people made their first ever gift to the College.

Thank you to everyone who added their support to the Women in Science Bursary Fund, the Summer Opportunities Fund and the European Students' Bursary Fund, as well as to those who made unrestricted donations which unlocked matching gifts into the Graduate Studentship Endowment Fund.

Both online and in College, our community of alumni, students, Fellows and staff celebrated what Churchill College gives us. The word cloud below brings together the words that were written on cards pinned to the ChuGives Me... wall in the Buttery over Giving Day, with the largest words being those that appeared most often.



Roary the Lion, our special guest, took the opportunity to roam the College to meet students and even braved the snow to visit the Churchill rowers at the Bumps.



2023 telethon in numbers

40+ alumni made their first gift to the College

Youngest donor aged 23

50+ donations from alumni under the age of 35

140+ donors chose to support the College through a regular gift

Donations from 14 countries around the world

In the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the College is navigating monumental rises in operational costs, such as food prices and energy bills, but is doing everything possible to minimise how much of these increases are passed on to its students and to extend the amount of support that can be provided to the greater number of students who are struggling. The long-standing annual Telethon is essential to raising donations to fund the significant financial support programme the College aspires to award to ensure that all students can thrive here regardless of their socio-economic background.

Once again, over half of the 600 alumni the twelve student callers reached in the telethon last September (2023) chose to make a gift to the College. This level of support is a real testament to the kindness of the Churchill community.

"I enjoyed talking to Mridul and sharing our experiences of undergraduate life at Churchill although separated by 50 years."

Alumnus (U73)

Though in a different financial year and consequently not included in the figures reported in this Donor Report, over £155,000 was raised for the Winston Churchill Top-Up Bursary Fund (before matching) which will help the College to meet the rising need for these additional bursaries, providing £1,000 to £2,000 of extra financial support to the increasing number of undergraduates from the very lowest socio-economic group, for whom the financial aid of the maximum Cambridge Bursary (£3,500) is insufficient. The College's Class Giving programme gained significant momentum (read more on page 13) and postgraduate students were also supported, with over £19,800 raised for the Graduate Studentship Endowment Fund (before matching).

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Fund programme by making a donation as part of the College's Giving Day and/or Telethon. We look forward to updating you on the 2024 Giving Day and Telethon in next year's Donor Report.



Postgraduate Travel Grants

Presenting research at conferences is an important part of the postgraduate experience, as it allows students to gain valuable feedback to hone their research, and network with other members of the wider academic community. The College supports postgraduate students with Travel Grants of up to £350 per academic year, which can be applied for to help with the costs of attending conferences.

Benjamin Wetherfield (G20)

Originally from Los Angeles, Benjamin is a PhD Student at the Centre for Molecular Materials, Photonics and Electronics in the Department of Engineering. In August 2023, he received a Travel Grant to present at the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) Optics + Photonics Conference in San Diego.

“In terms of scale, this conference is probably the second largest of SPIE’s offerings and one of the largest in the fields of optics and photonics as a whole. Indeed, there were some participating sub-conferences that do not even concern optics or photonics (for instance “spintronics” and work involving “memristors”), but that nonetheless are only present at Optics + Photonics. So you get to explore a fundamentally different collection of themes by jumping around the offerings of the conference and I am glad that I got to experience a new space of research excitement and exchange. As a key example, the research areas I have mentioned contribute to larger efforts in which photonics is central to the conversation but not the only methodology seeking breakthroughs. Photonic design seems to be one of the best candidates for high performance Neuromorphic (brain-inspired) Computing, but these other areas of research offer alternatives and contributed

to a very exciting, genuinely solution-oriented, environment, where everyone wants to develop technology that benefits society, and it is not necessary to be on the “winning team”.

The conference had a fantastic ethos for promoting open sharing and fostering collaboration. One of the chairs of the “Emerging Technologies for Artificial Intelligence” sub-conference gave a brilliant high-level talk in which he prompted attendees to return the source of inspiration in Neuromorphic computing, the brain, arguing that we have lost sight of some of its most miraculous adaptations and should not rest on the technological translations that we have so-far seen. In another sub-conference, on “Metasurfaces”, a theorist, and leading light in the field, Sir John Pendry, made his own call-to-arms, gently asking experimentalists to “get to work” and demonstrate some of his new predictions!

I have no doubt that researchers will be responding to these and other invocations made during the conference, and I felt really inspired to be there, especially at a pivotal moment in my PhD, where the end is in sight, and where I can start to cast my mind forward to future directions.

It was very inspiring to rub shoulders with the illustrious award winners, SPIE



leadership, and even rank-and-file, who are often impactful researchers in their own rights! Most excitingly of all, I saw two luminaries of the theory of metasurfaces in conversation: Sir John Pendry and Evgenii Narimanov, who respectively contributed the two known schemes for perfect diffraction-free lenses, which have since been coined “the superlens” and the “hyperlens”. Their convergence was too funny to me to pass by and I borrowed them for a brief moment to get a photo (my opening gambit was “superlens, meet hyperlens”).”

Katie Mann (G21)

Originally from Atlanta, Katie is studying for a PhD in Politics and International Relations. She received a Travel Grant to attend The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) at Syracuse University, New York, in June 2023.

“The 2-week workshop proved to be invaluable for me and helped me re-think the research design of my dissertation project and, in fact, re-frame some of my research questions. I participated in research design and methodology modules on interpretive methods, re-thinking small-N comparisons, and ethnographic methods. I also joined research design sessions in which PhD students submitted their research designs and received feedback from students and faculty. I received substantial and very



valuable feedback on my project that has given me the tools to think through some of the research dilemmas I am facing while in the middle of my fieldwork. I am most grateful for the relationships I have been able to build with faculty and fellow PhD students from other institutions, whose work is closely related to my own and with whom I am now setting up a reading group with to review each other’s work.”

“Many thanks for supporting my attendance which would have been impossible, or at the very least would have strained the credulity of my PhD stipend! I hope the above gives a snapshot into the inspiring set of experiences I was able to enjoy while representing the University and the College.”



Thank you to all those who have made donations to support Postgraduate Travel Grants and allow the College to continue to foster a vibrant postgraduate community producing cutting-edge research.

IMPACT OF GIVING

The Stuart Warren Studentship

Thanks to generous support of this fund since its creation in 2020, Churchill College is proud to be able to award the Stuart Warren Studentship to promising postgraduate chemists from sub-Saharan Africa to honour the life and achievements of the late Dr Stuart Warren. Stuart was an outstanding leader, mentor and teacher whose ideas and example inspired generations of chemists. This studentship ensures that talented and deserving young Africans who are historically disadvantaged and under-represented in chemistry can continue to have the opportunity to realise their full potential here at Churchill.

The first outstanding PhD student who is receiving the Stuart Warren Studentship is **Choonzo Chiyumba (G22)** from Zambia. Choonzo completed an undergraduate degree in Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Zambia in 2016, then worked as a laboratory technician while looking for scholarships to continue her education. Unfortunately, most Zambian degrees were then downgraded by other countries which made it extremely difficult to secure admission or funding outside Zambia, so Choonzo saved up to study for an honour's degree in South Africa at Rhodes University and went on to graduate top of her class with a first-class degree in Chemistry. The following year, the National Research Fund of South Africa granted Choonzo a scholarship to study for an MSc at Rhodes, and during the same year she made the decision to apply to Cambridge.

"I could not explain the joy that flooded my soul because the Studentship would award me an opportunity to pursue the career of my dreams: a career rooted in groundbreaking chemistry research that aims at improving the quality of human life. It means a huge amount to be the first recipient. It has brought my unspoken dream

to study at Cambridge to life, something I could never have afforded on my own."

Choonzo's main research interest is in artificial metalloenzymes. She removes a protein's natural cofactor and replaces it with one that she has designed. This encourages proteins to catalyse new reactions that are currently unknown to nature with the aim to speed up reactions, like the production of medicines or breaking down plastic waste. You can read more about Choonzo's research at www.chu.cam.ac.uk/news/women-churchill/student-spotlight-choonzo-chiyumba/.

Choonzo is looking forward to returning to Africa after completing her PhD, to conduct independent research and train a new generation of African researchers with the expertise she has acquired from Cambridge.



"Words cannot fully describe how grateful I am for your generosity."

IMPACT OF GIVING

Class Giving update

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1977-81 Bursary | Endowed |
| 1988-92 Bursary | Endowed |
| 1972-77 Bursary | 86% of target |
| 1995-99 Bursary | 61% of target |
| 2000-04 Bursary | 40% of target |

Class Giving is an initiative which names an endowed Cambridge Bursary after a particular cohort to provide an undergraduate student in significant financial need with the same educational opportunity enjoyed by previous generations of Churchillians. The College and University fund Cambridge Bursaries at a 3:2 ratio, and 52 students qualified for the maximum £3,500 this year (2023-24) because their family income is below £25,000. This is only sustainable thanks to your generous donations.

Alumni support has been such that two Class Gifts are endowed and can be awarded in perpetuity. The new recipient of the 1977-81 Bursary for 2023 is English student **Daisy Challoner (U23)** from Derbyshire, and the 1988-92 Bursary recipient **Molly Cushing (U21)** is excelling at rowing as well as in her academic studies:

"Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting me through my time at Churchill and allowing me to access the amazing opportunities that Cambridge has to offer. I'm so proud of being selected to represent the University in the Lightweight spare pair race in March!"

Though the 1972-77 Bursary Fund is not yet fully endowed, we are pleased to let you know that it has been possible to award this bursary for the first time this year to **John Bennett (U23)** from Powys, Wales.



"I want to say thank you to those who are donating as it does make an impact on the lives of students, especially in a place like Cambridge where disadvantaged students are perhaps even more disadvantaged in comparison to the large proportion of richer students who study here. It's especially nice to be around so many like-minded people who are also very enthusiastic about Maths. I'm enjoying how fast paced it is and we are being taught by people who are clearly experts in their fields.

I feel very grateful to have the 1972-77 Bursary. It really takes the pressure off and makes it easier to do things that I perhaps wouldn't otherwise be able to. I am part of the University Athletics Club and compete in the 110m hurdles, and it definitely makes it easier for me to justify the cost of competitions, training etc."

As well as continuing to fundraise for the 1995-99 and 2000-04 Bursary Funds, 1979-84 and 2006-11 Bursary Funds are launching this year, so if you are part of any of these cohorts, **please do consider supporting your Class Gift and encourage your friends to join you.**

The Southern African Bursary: 50 years on

Since Churchill College strives to foster academic excellence and innovation, it is no surprise that the resumés of our alumni include significant achievements. Senior University officials; winners of the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa and South African Department of Science and Technology's Women in Science Award; Special Advisor (political) to the cabinet minister responsible for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in South Africa's National Government. And those are just a handful of the accomplishments of four of the past recipients of The Southern African Bursary so far.

For students, by students

The majority of the £1million of financial support the College awards to its students each year is funded by donations from the alumni community, but it is the generosity of current students and Fellows that, since the early 1970s, has been funding The Southern African Bursary. The Southern African Bursary began as an idea from the JCR for a student-funded bursary intended to enable more students from Southern Africa to study at Cambridge. Indeed, many of you will have donated to this Fund whilst you were a student at Churchill. Fifty years on, around 80% of today's current students and Fellows opt to contribute £6 each term.

"I felt honoured to have been supported by people from their pockets. To feel you are in a close-knit community that gives and nurtures, with some co-ordinating, makes one feel especially valued. It is almost like an African version of the saying 'It takes a

village to raise a child' – in this case Churchill College was raising a professional."

Professor Mpilehle Sithole (G94)

Both the Bursary's creation and the unique manner of its funding have resonated deeply with the recipients.

Professor Njabulo Ndebele (U73), the bursary's first recipient, said "I admired and respected how the bursary was a concrete manifestation of the collective commitment of the College's students and Fellows to what I experienced as humane internationalism." The reason behind the award was also particularly meaningful for **Dr Oscar Van Heerden (G06)**, who had been a student and youth activist in the 1980s and early 1990s. Given his own contribution in the Anti-Apartheid struggle, which included being arrested and detained without trial, he "was immensely proud to be associated with an initiative which came about precisely to fight against such an evil system and assist students from Southern Africa in some small measure".



Oscar Van Heerden (G06) with Nicky Roberts (G08) and their twins



Njabulo Ndebele (U73) punting on the Cam with his wife, Mpho, and son, Makhaola

Professor Ndebele gives a deeper insight into why the creation of this bursary was so important in the 1970s:

"It enabled me at the time, to escape from the severe, daily restrictions apartheid South Africa imposed on the thinking, feeling, imagining, and movement of black South Africans. Away from such a dispiriting environment, I got to experience, far more than I could imagine at the time, a lot more freedom in the United Kingdom, particularly in the welcoming atmosphere at Churchill College."



Mpilehle (Pearl) Sithole (G94) in the window seat of Room 2G in 1995

The Southern African Bursary is an important tradition to uphold so that the College can continue to assist persons who are less fortunate than most in Cambridge. Professor Sithole believes that "such traditions as The Southern African Bursary, create international affinities nested in hearts. They teach us pure care – that there are human beings who care for human beings".

Thank you to the hundreds of current students and Fellow currently donating, as well as to the generations of Churchillians who have donated over the past fifty years.

Professor Njabulo Ndebele (U73) Chairman of two of Nelson Mandela's three legacy organisations; formerly Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town; teacher and researcher in English Literature, African Literatures, and Creative Writing; Noma Award winner for the best book published in Africa in 1984

Professor Mpilehle Sithole (G94) Vice-Principal: Academic and Research at the Qwaqwa Campus of the University of the Free State; social scientist recognised by the South African Department of Science and Technology with a Women in Science Award in 2011

Dr Oscar Van Heerden (G06) Special Advisor (political) to the cabinet minister responsible for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in our National Government; formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor at Fort Hare University

My donor story

Tony Wierzbicki (U80)

Twenty years of Regular Giving

As a medic in a College full of engineers and natural scientists, Tony remembers Churchill in 1980 often being described as “an anorak city”. He was an archetypal suburban Londoner, so his time here widened his perspective. On the academic side, he was able to gain a greater appreciation of the potential uses of mathematics in other contexts from his contemporaries.

Tony’s favourite memories from his student days in the early 1980s include playing frisbee around (and through) the Hepworth on the lawns after dinner in the summer. He spent winter evenings at the University observatory at the end of the grounds with other College members of the University Astronomical Society observing the universe with the aid of large thermos flasks of milky tea and milky bars.

Tony became a regular donor to the College in the summer of 2005 and has been making monthly donations ever since. His longstanding philanthropy to Churchill College is motivated by a wish to support current and future students in their courses.

“The days of substantial student grants that paid for the academic year and left something left over for inter-rail holidays are long over.”

The switch to far less generous loans with high interest rates that are penal especially for those on longer courses makes it significantly more difficult for Churchillians



today compared with forty years ago. Tony is also happy that his monthly gifts help renovate high-quality architecture and provide more facilities for students and staff.

Tony is one of 22 loyal donors to the College who have been giving for more than twenty years consecutively. Regular Giving is such a fantastic way to support the College because donating a manageable amount each month adds up to have a truly meaningful impact over a long period of time.

“I am delighted to be making a real contribution to the future of the College which is to be found in its members and not just its buildings.”

Update on the University of Cambridge’s Harding Challenge

In 2019, with a £100m donation from David and Claudia Harding, the University established the Harding Challenge to encourage new donors to give to collegiate Cambridge and support students in greatest need across the University. They wanted to provide an opportunity to enhance the impact of your generosity and multiply the power of your giving, whilst supporting student life and wellbeing to ensure students can truly thrive at Cambridge.

Only gifts from new and returning donors made to funds that specifically support students are eligible for matching, and during the 2022-23 financial year another 283 of your gifts to Churchill College were matched. Your donations to Churchill have unlocked over £728k of match funding through the Harding Challenge between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2023. Thank you.

This initiative is especially important for our College community because such a large proportion of students at Churchill benefit from the enhanced Cambridge Bursary



scheme. The unlocked Harding Challenge money funds the University’s contribution (42%) to the Cambridge Bursaries that our undergraduate students receive. The means-tested scheme was enhanced to mean that students from squeezed middle-income families are now eligible to receive partial support. 101 students received a Cambridge Bursary of some level during 2022-23 and so we are extremely grateful to everyone who has been part of this collective effort.

| | Number of gifts eligible to be matched | Total donation amount matched |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 2019-20 (Year 1) | 28 | £14,401.84 |
| 2020-21 (Year 2) | 341 | £414,442.38 |
| 2021-22 (Year 3) | 168 | £162,087.49 |
| 2022-23 (Year 4) | 283 | £137,648.93 |
| Total to the end of the 2022-23 year | 820 | £728,580.64 |

Churchill College Boat Club (CCBC)

The College is extremely proud to have had an exceptional five students taking part in the trials process for a coveted spot representing Cambridge in The Gemini Boat Race 2024. The triallists include three openweight hopefuls; fourth year NatSci student **Iris Powell (U20)**, who represented CUBC in the winning Blondie crew in 2023, third year Maths student **Thomas Connor (U21)** and second year Engineer **Seth Delap (U22)**. In addition, for the first time in years, we also had two lightweight triallists; third year History student **Molly Cushing (U21)**, and PhD student **Chris Hughes (G19)** who took part in the process until late 2023.

Rowing for Cambridge University Boat Club (CUBC) requires a unique combination of academic and sporting excellence with an intense trialling process starting each season in September. The squad train every day and take part in at least six sessions on the water, 2 indoor rowing sessions, and 3 strength and conditioning trainings during each week. This term they also travel to London every other week to race in side-by-side fixtures against other clubs, as well as training camps in Italy and Portugal.

Triallists are required to fund all their training costs personally, which total over £2,000 for each student. Thanks to the generous support of our alumni, the triallists from Churchill were each awarded a grant of £500 to help cover their costs in the Michaelmas term, with a further £500 awarded to those still in the squad in the Lent term.



“Support from College has been critical to training this year. I rack up quite the food bill and it means I don’t have to compromise eating enough with money troubles, because as we all know, food is fuel. Also, the increased training load means the need for more kit and that wouldn’t have been possible on just my student loan.”

Seth Delap (U22)



“It would mean the world to me, with the support of the College, to be the first blue boat rower from Churchill College in nearly 35 years.”

Iris Powell (U20)

Round up of 2023

In March 2023, the Head of the River Race in London tested M1’s endurance over 6.8km. They finished 188th overall, Univ 60th, Medium Academic 21st. At May’s Bedford Regatta, M1 beat Green Templeton (Oxford) by a considerable amount but lost out to St Edmund Hall (Oxford) by 1/4 of a length after a very close race. W1 held off Emmanuel for the first half of the race, hitting a very fast pace off the start, but Emmanuel made a move under one of the bridges to win by 1.5 lengths.

City Sprints returned to the stretch of river outside the boathouses and W2 and M1 won pots. At City’s Spring Head to Head, W1 placed 3rd in their 4+ category, M1 were just 0.2 seconds off 4th place, and W2 placed 4th in the Mays 3rd & Below category. W2 and W3 both finished second in their categories at Champs Head, then in 99’s Spring Regatta M1 beat Homerton and Girton, losing out to Corpus in the final.

Having qualified for Lent Bumps for the first time ever, W3 went on to qualify for May Bumps for the first time since 1999, and so CCBC had six crews in Mays 2023. The biggest congratulations for Mays 2023 go to W1 who got blades by bumping Christ’s, Fitzwilliam, Downing, and Pembroke. Sixth on the river is the highest a Chu W1 has been in Mays since 1998! M1 headed to Henley to compete in the Temple qualifiers at the Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers. The level of competition was very high and though they did not qualify they beat M1’s time from 2022.

And so, to Michaelmas. The November sun accompanied M1 and W1 to the Ely Head for their first off-Cam race of the year, whilst the novices were pulling some serious watts at Qergs. Impressive splits were pulled by both our men’s and women’s novice crews, with our novice women finishing 2nd overall. CCBC entered two women’s crews into the Winter Head



and had a successful day: NW1 won their division and our combined W1/2 boat beat some boats that were just W1. The novices painted the river pink in Barbie-themed costumes at Emma Sprints. Both NW1 and NM1 raced two races, and despite some issues with seats and footplate in the first races, both crews went on to win their second race by a huge margin.

Four crews braved chilly weather at December’s Fairbairn Cup. NW1 came 3rd and NM1 finished 12th. Churchill seniors and novices then raced at Christmas Head, another fancy-dress race. CCBC certainly excelled in the costume department in 2023! Special shoutout to NW1 who won their division.



Renewed thanks goes to sponsors MathWorks and the generous donors who support CCBC to ensure that all Churchillians are able to access this incredible sport.

Looking Forward

Message of thanks from the Development Director

This Donor Report recognises the incredible warmth shown to the College by the Churchill community. As well as financial support through life-time donations and legacy giving, the Churchill community also offers support by sponsoring events and volunteering their time: 52 cohorts now have a Year Group Representative. Thank you to the alumni who have offered to help the College keep in touch with alumni from their year, suggest ways to best foster relationships with alumni, and provide feedback on the College's plans for alumni and fundraising initiatives. More details can be found by visiting www.chu.cam.ac.uk/alumni-and-supporters/churchill-college-association. The inaugural meeting during the 2023 Association Weekend was tremendous, with 47 Year Group Reps from across the decades in attendance, 36 in person and 11 online. Senior College Officers including the Master and the Bursar also attended, and topics under discussion included the College's sustainability goals, a breakdown of the College's current financial position and forthcoming Reunion Dinners.



The inaugural meeting of Year Group Reps



Gallery roof lanterns in the Bill Brown Creative Workshops

I am pleased to let you know that the eagerly-anticipated and generously-supported Bill Brown Creative Workshops will be soft opening this summer. The discovery of a store of rubble including asbestos-contamination under the workshops took some time to remove safely and delayed the project, but we are now looking forward to an official opening. We will be celebrating the space being ready for the 2024 Michaelmas term, as the first students arrive to study for the University's new Design Tripos (MDes). In addition to the traditional teaching methods at Cambridge, studios and workshops are going to be central to the new Design Tripos course. The programme is aiming to provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills, and other attributes in the context of creative interdisciplinary design. Thanks to your donations, the digital fabrication room, VR room and project room in the Bill Brown Creative Workshops will provide the environment needed for these sorts of endeavours to flourish.



2022 Donor Garden Party

The aim of the Think Forward Campaign is to increase the College's endowment to £200million by 2030, and thanks to donations and investment returns the endowment is now close to £150million. Since its launch in 2020, the Think Forward Campaign has raised over £22million for the College. Thank you again for thinking forward with us.

I hope to have an opportunity to thank you in person if you are able to join us at Churchill this July for our biennial Donor Garden Party. This occasion is a chance to celebrate your part in the collective support our community shows the College, from those making their first gifts as alumni through to our long-standing donors. Each and every gift you donate makes a real difference to the College. Thank you.



Francisca Malarée

Francisca Malarée
Development Director and Fellow



Your Alumni and Development department in numbers

£4m total funds raised during the 2022-23 financial year

£603k total department expenditure (including staffing costs)

£318k alumni relations expenditure

£285k fundraising expenditure

6.47 number of full-time equivalent staff in department

6.6 ratio of funds raised in 2022-23 financial year against expenditure in same financial year



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