



# WHEEL

THE NEWSLETTER 2021 | ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE





# Welcome

PROFESSOR SIR MARK WELLAND (2016),  
MASTER

I must start this message by paying testament to how the College has supported our current and prospective students over the last year, as outlined by the Senior Tutor (page 3). By recognising that the ebbs and flows of the COVID-19 pandemic would affect student morale, welfare and academic progress, we have been able to adapt and extend our activities – often at short notice. This nimbleness has enabled us to embrace new ways of living and working together as a community, and to attract a record number of applicants from a range of backgrounds.

I also want to welcome the ongoing collaboration between St Catharine's students and our staff and Fellows that continues to enrich College life, from organising activities for Black History Month (page 7) and participating in Catz Chats (page 20), to the naming of our temporary hall (page 19).

This issue of *The Wheel* also shines a spotlight on some of the important ways that the College fosters research excellence among our Harding Postgraduate Scholars (page 18), our Junior Research Fellows (page 8) and our Fellows (page 11). I continue to be astounded by the impact and quality of the world-class research pioneered by our scholarly community.<sup>1</sup>

Moving forward together as a tight-knit community has helped us to stay on track with our ambitious plans for a selective

---

I am incredibly grateful to students, staff, Fellows, alumni and friends for your dedication and community spirit.



The Master visits the building site for the Central Spaces project

renewal of buildings, as demonstrated by the first phase of the Central Spaces project (further details are available on page 13). I am delighted with the pace of COVID-secure building work over the last few months, which has ensured that this extensive update and redesign remains on schedule for completion in June 2022.

The progress on our major building projects is symbolic of the advances we are making towards the vision articulated in the 'Our College, Our Future' strategy. The accompanying campaign<sup>2</sup> has enjoyed a successful first two years thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors (pages 12 and 15). I look forward to sharing further news and opportunities with everyone in the coming year or so.

It is important to mention that the 'Our College, Our Future' strategy acknowledges the significance of sound financial planning. In response to the new financial pressures resulting from the pandemic, we are prioritising the long-term financial stability of the College and aiming to secure endowments that will preserve roles that play an important part in College life.

I am incredibly grateful to students, staff, Fellows, alumni and friends for your dedication and community spirit. In an exceptionally challenging year, there have been so many moments to celebrate.



## CONTENTS

News from the Senior Tutor	3
College News	5-7
Springboard to success – our Junior Research Fellowships	8
CatzPeople	9
BioRISC – Improving the links between science and policy makers	11
Thank you for your support	12
Building an even brighter future	13
Widening participation	14
Recognising our donors	15
Medicine at St Catharine's	16
Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars	18
Then and now: Marquees of distinction	19
Connecting our community	20
Society news	20

---

*The Wheel* is printed with vegetable-based inks on paper containing material sourced from responsibly managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council®.

St Catharine's College supports the World Land Trust Carbon Capture Programme.



1. For research news, please visit [caths.cam.ac.uk/news/research](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/news/research)  
2. <https://www.campaign.caths.cam.ac.uk>

# Looking back on my first calendar year as Senior Tutor

DR HOLLY CANUTO (2020), FELLOW AND SENIOR TUTOR

I have now been Senior Tutor at St Catharine's for a full calendar year. Every term has brought with it a new set of challenges and I have been immensely proud of how the College has remained focused on supporting our current and prospective students throughout this period of upheaval.

## Easter Term 2020

The first national lockdown meant that most students had left Cambridge, but the College was committed to providing rooms for students who were unable to leave. Tutors, the Welfare Team and our College counsellors provided remote pastoral care to students, whether they were at home in the UK, overseas or still in College. This was greatly facilitated by the foresight and incredible generosity of our Honorary Fellows Peter (1974, Natural Sciences) and Christina Dawson (2016).

Financial support from Members also allowed us to help our students adjust to the introduction of online teaching by loaning laptops and providing bursaries for noise-cancelling headphones or other items of equipment. This was in addition to the generous hardship funding available to students in need as a result of the pandemic.



Martin Bond, A Cambridge Diary

The College arranged a heart-shaped air display to celebrate our graduating students in June 2020. Find out more at [caths.cam.ac.uk/we-heart-our-graduands](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/we-heart-our-graduands)

Following the postponement of all in-person ceremonies, the College arranged special graduation surprises, including a congratulatory greeting card, a video featuring a song written by the Rev'd Ally Barrett (2019) and a heart-shaped air display above Main Court.

## Long Vacation 2020

The vacation flew by as College departments worked hard to prepare a COVID-secure yet welcoming environment for Michaelmas Term. Official guidance enabled some students to return before the new academic year: our postgraduate research students could return from July, followed by students on courses with early start dates, and international students who needed to quarantine.

The College faced new challenges in August around A Level results day. Although offer-holders in England and Wales had been originally awarded grades using an algorithm, the Government retracted these results in favour of centre-assessed grades due to concerns about algorithmic bias. We confirmed places for all offer-holders who met the terms of their conditional offer and our Admissions Team did a wonderful job supporting all prospective students during this challenging time.

## Michaelmas Term 2020

After a surge in COVID-19 cases in the UK, the College was saddened by the need to pare back many of the matriculation and Freshers' Week events planned for the start of term, sometimes at very short notice. We preserved activities where we could, which involved much creativity and braving the October weather. We held undergraduate matriculation on the Main Court lawn with social distancing, and the JCR and MCR organised outdoor activities to welcome matriculands, including a picnic on the sports pitches and an ice cream stand.

Throughout Michaelmas Term, the College found ways to support students and preserve a sense of community spirit despite the COVID-19 restrictions at the time. With the new lockdown in November, our

Continued...



Dr Canuto is Director of Pre-Clinical Medical and Veterinary Education at the University of Cambridge's School of Biological Sciences. She was admitted as a Fellow of St Catharine's in March 2020 and started as Senior Tutor on 1 April 2020. Dr Canuto has 15 years of experience at the University of Cambridge, including her previous roles as Admissions Tutor (Sciences), College Lecturer, Director of Studies and Tutor from her time at Fitzwilliam College.





Dr Peter Candy (2019), Fellow and Sir John Baker Lecturer

Undergraduate matriculation with social distancing in October 2020

welfare and catering teams collaborated on a series of weekly online cook-a-long experiences designed to inject some fun into lockdown (see [caths.cam.ac.uk/cook-along](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/cook-along) launched for further details). In December, when travel restrictions resulted in some undergraduate students remaining in residence over the Christmas period, we organised festive crafts, meal boxes and a shop for essential food and personal items.

Lectures were delivered online throughout Michaelmas Term, with face-to-face small group teaching continuing where possible. To make the most of this blended model, the College provided risk assessments, guidance and space to academic staff and students who were able to meet safely in person.

The College also conducted admissions interviews entirely online in December, in place of the usual face-to-face interviews. We took care to replicate much of the normal interview experience and involved current students as Catz Ambassadors, who were available in a virtual welcome room to offer a warm greeting and reassuring insights about their own interviews and life in College. Once again, the Admissions Team helped the College successfully navigate these new arrangements.

---

**Over 83% of our 2021 UK offer-holders are from state schools.**

**Lent Term 2021**

New national guidelines over the Christmas period required all teaching and learning to be delivered online (except for PCGE, clinical medicine and clinical veterinary students) and for students to remain where they were at that point in the vacation. We supported students whatever their situation, including those who needed to return to Cambridge in any of the exceptional circumstances allowed for by official guidelines. We were confident that our COVID-secure measures would continue to provide a safe environment for students in residence.

In January, we were able to confirm offers to applicants. Thanks to our ongoing engagement with talented students from backgrounds that have been under-represented in higher education, over 83% of our 2021 UK offer-holders are from state schools (the University-wide admissions target for this group is 69.1% by 2024-25).

In time for the lockdown in England that started in early January, we appointed a new counsellor and a mental health advisor to expand the capacity and expertise of our Welfare Team. In addition to two dedicated Postgraduate Welfare Tutors, we allocated a Postgraduate Tutor as a pastoral point of contact for each postgraduate student. I am also grateful to our Head Rowing Coach for the encouragement we all received to stay active while sports facilities were closed, including regular Zoom sessions for students, staff and Fellows (reported in more detail at [caths.cam.ac.uk/stroke-of-genius](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/stroke-of-genius)).



Cambridge Independent

Carmen Failla, Head Rowing Coach & Boathouse Manager, at the Boathouse when it was illuminated for Pink Week 2021

**Easter Term 2021: Starting my second year**

While restrictions for higher education remained until 17 May, the College could welcome back before then any students needing to return for personal reasons or to access our facilities (particularly important during the examination period). Once online examinations were confirmed by the University, we opened up additional study spaces and rooms for students who needed time away from their bedrooms. Easter Term also marked the return of sports, alongside outdoor yoga, picnics and other events run by the JCR and MCR with suitable precautions. I'm delighted that General Admission will be taking place in person this July and we look forward to celebrating with our graduands.

# Alumnus completes 12 years at the helm of the Boat Race

Cambridge winning both the 75th Women's Gemini Boat Race and the 166th Gemini Boat Race this year was extra special for St Catharine's, as alumnus David Searle (1974, Modern and Medieval Languages) confirmed that it was his last race as Executive Director on the Board of The Boat Race Company Ltd (BRCL). Since 2009, David has overseen the event on behalf of the competing student athletes to ensure operational excellence and showcase its heritage.

During his time at Cambridge, David represented the College, raced in the Goldie boat in 1975, earned his Blue in 1976 and served as President of the Cambridge University Boat Club (CUBC) in 1977. He also served on the CUBC committee for many years before joining the BRCL team.

Even with this considerable experience, staging the 2021 event was particularly difficult for David and his wider team. On top of public health restrictions, and contending with widespread interest after the 2020 event was cancelled, there was a further challenge when the 133-year-old Hammersmith Bridge was closed from 13 August 2020 due to safety concerns.

David explains, "Our priority for 2021 was the safety of everyone involved, including spectators. Ely soon emerged as the obvious location, with its good boathouse facilities and a course that offered the best shot of being able to host a closed event. I'm enormously grateful for the support of our established partners, and the additional public bodies, who all helped the event happen this year."

"I take my hat off to all the crews for their outstanding performances on the day. Trials



David at 5 in the College's May Boat in 1975, when the blade-winning crew bumped Trinity Hall, Emmanuel, Clare and Selwyn

and training are difficult enough under normal circumstances, so it is remarkable that they were able to prepare alone from home or College accommodation during lockdown. The racing was exceptionally good and very tight, without clear water between boats at any point. The Women's Boat Race was a particularly memorable one because the lead changed a couple of times before Cambridge crossed the line in front. I was impressed that Cambridge were able to outperform the favourites in the Men's Boat Race, with the underdogs maintaining a lead over Oxford from the very start."

---

**Our priority for 2021 was the safety of everyone involved, including spectators.**

Looking back, David is pleased with what he has achieved and glad to be taking a step back:

"The Boat Race has always been an important part of my life and I am looking forward to my return to being an enthusiastic spectator – and to actually enjoying the day! I am delighted to have contributed to the latest chapter in the rich history of St Catharine's involvement in the Boat Race and CUBC: from the golden era of the 1960s brought to life in an article by Douglas Calder (1957, English)<sup>1</sup> and the four CUBC presidents from Catz during the 1970s, to George Nash MBE (2008, Engineering) racing three times in the Blue Boat between 2010 and 2013, this last as President. George also brought huge credit to the College, and The Boat Race, with his gutsy Olympic Bronze Medal in the Coxless Pair at London 2012 and the glorious Gold in the Coxless Four at Rio in 2016."

1. Calder, D. *SCCBC in the 1960s*. St Catharine's College Boat Club. Available online: <http://www.boatclub.caths.cam.ac.uk/node/24>



# Providing safe accommodation to women and children escaping domestic abuse

LADY WELLAND (2020), FELLOW COMMONER

Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) is a charity with which I am a longstanding volunteer and whose aims I strongly support. Members of St Catharine's have also supported CWA over a number of years, and it continues to be a popular cause for JCR and MCR fundraising.

When the first lockdown hit the UK, these connections meant that many of us in College realised how the restrictions might affect households experiencing domestic abuse. On the College's behalf, I contacted Angie Stewart, Chief Executive Officer at CWA, to offer our support.

At that point in the pandemic, students were advised to leave Cambridge. The College was committed to providing a place to stay for the small number of students who were unable to leave. However, it was clear that some of our properties would be unused until September.

Discussions with CWA unsurprisingly focused on accommodation. Angie was honest with us about the shortage of refuge spaces and subsequent research found a 41% reduction nationwide in the number of refuge vacancies between 23 March and 31 May 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.<sup>1</sup> In response, we found an imaginative way to open up accommodation that would otherwise have stood empty.

We offered our vacant accommodation free-of-charge to CWA for use as "pop-up respite beds" – a short-term solution while

permanent arrangements could be put in place. Between 27 April and 3 September 2020, 23 women and children benefited from the safety, comfort and security of life in College, with CCTV and our team of porters operating 24/7. In total, the partnership provided 1,456 nights of safe accommodation.

Towards the end of the summer, Angie told us what the partnership had meant for her team: "Not only did the pop-up accommodation provide a true sanctuary to women and their children at a dreadful time in their lives, it also meant CWA actually provided an enhanced service during lockdown instead of a reduced service as was common for many UK organisations. This partnership gave my team breathing space to work out a lot of practical challenges associated with COVID-19 and gave us time to discover new ways of working that will stand us in good stead going forward."

It was also overwhelming for me and others to know that those living at St Catharine's had a positive experience, as exemplified by just two of the comments that CWA passed on to us:

*"I am incredibly grateful to St Catharine's for their thoughtful kindness. At the moment, I can't find the words to explain what it has meant to me and my daughter, and the psychological safety it has offered us."*

*"You all played an important first part of my new journey of my future happiness. My time spent at St Catharine's was very good: comfortable and so quiet!"*



Simon Durrant

The College provided a "true sanctuary" for women and their families

We wanted to ensure that our partnership had a lasting legacy beyond the summer. While Angie and I had never before done media interviews, we volunteered to speak with the BBC, ITV and *The Guardian* to spread the word about our novel approach and inspire others to open up space for families in the future.

Thank you to the St Catharine's community for embracing the opportunity to help women and children in need. The College is also appreciative of the support of the Monday Charitable Trust. I sincerely hope others will be able to learn from and build upon our experience, and I'm delighted that conversations are already underway to explore how the College might continue to support and assist women starting new lives after abusive relationships.

1. Davidge, S. A Perfect Storm. August 2020

# Celebrating Black History Month

JOSIE ARCHER (2019, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES) AND  
DANIELLE WRIGHT (2019, LAND ECONOMY), JCR BAME REPRESENTATIVES 2020-21

Looking back on our year as BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) representatives on the JCR Committee, it has been a challenging time for our community, but still one of opportunity and empowerment. We are particularly proud of the activities that we organised during Black History Month in October 2020 to celebrate over a century of Black students, staff and Fellows at St Catharine's.

We wanted to use our time as BAME Officers to embrace these histories and have a lasting impact on the College, and this drive stemmed from when we first learnt about the Black history of St Catharine's. Back in February 2020, we attended the College's seminar on 'Legacies of Enslavement' and were inspired by the College's earliest Black alumni. As part of her research into the College archives, L'myah Ross-Walcott (2019, International Relations and Politics) found that Bahamas-born Alfred F. Adderley CBE (1912, Law) was the earliest Black alumnus on record.<sup>1,2</sup>

Black History Month is traditionally held in October (in the UK, at least) in part to nurture pride and a sense of identity for students starting the new academic year. Last October marked the return of students to Cambridge for the first time since March – and even the regular preparations by the JCR and the College were complicated by changing public health restrictions.

With the support of others in College, we worked hard to find creative ways to embrace our Black history, including:

- Celebrations of Black composers, spoken word and art;
- An exhibition and accompanying video featuring Black members of the College community, past and present;



**EMBRACING OUR SHARED HISTORY**

- Dedicated services in the College's Chapel; and
- The inaugural Self Care Forum for Black and BAME students hosted online by alumna Dr Samara Linton (2008, Medical Sciences).

We hope that events like these will continue in the future, and that the St Catharine's community remains committed to embracing our shared history, taking pride in the stories of Black students and alumni, and ensuring that our legacies endure.

We were also incredibly proud to see that the College flew the national flag of the Bahamas on 1 October to commemorate Alfred F. Adderley and signify the start of Black History Month. This attracted interest from broadcasters and online media, who wanted to find out more about our activities. It was exciting to have TV crews in College for interviews with the Master, Danielle and L'myah (restrictions had eased so she could travel to join us). You can explore the resulting media coverage at [caths.cam.ac.uk/bhm-flag](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/bhm-flag)

Given Alfred F. Adderley's breadth of interests and legacy of support for St Catharine's, we like to think he would welcome the programme that we organised for Black History Month and share our hope that these activities might inspire students to write the next chapter in our Black history.



Binky Nixon

The flag of the Bahamas flying on 1 October; Josie (left) and Danielle (right) spent weeks planning Black History Month activities

1. Legacies of Enslavement: Insights from a recent seminar. Available online: [caths.cam.ac.uk/seminar-summary](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/seminar-summary)  
2. Alfred Francis Adderley CBE. Available online: [caths.cam.ac.uk/about-us/history/black-history/a-f-adderley](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/about-us/history/black-history/a-f-adderley)

# Springboard to success

## *Reflections on our Junior Research Fellowships*

The modern Research Fellowship at St Catharine's dates from just after the Second World War. Since then, the College has elected Senior and Junior Research Fellowships. To name just one of many examples, readers may recall the Heller Research Fellowship in computer science supported over a decade by the generosity of Fellow Commoners Sir Michael (1995, Economics) and Lady Heller (2003).

Current ordinances provide for the appointment of Junior Research Fellowships. These are open to individuals who have recently completed their PhD or who are close to completion. Successful candidates are chosen from a very large field of applicants, and elected to three-year Fellowships. Typically, calls for applications alternate each year between the humanities and sciences, and the College does not interview candidates, in order to treat applications equally.

Now a Professorial Fellow of St Catharine's and Professor of Italian at the University of Cambridge, Abigail Brundin (2000) explains how the process worked when she was awarded her Junior Research Fellowship: "I didn't know anyone at Catz at the time and yet the College elected me on the strength of my CV and submitted work alone, which gave me a sense that the College didn't care if I was 'the right kind of person'. This 'blinded' approach leaves no room for unconscious bias and means successful candidates represent academic excellence in all its various forms."

---

This 'blinded' approach leaves no room for unconscious bias and means successful candidates represent academic excellence in all its various forms.



Professor Abigail Brundin,  
former Junior Research Fellow

### **The benefit to early career researchers**

Professor Sir Chris Clark (1990), Ostrer Professorial Fellow in History at St Catharine's and Regius Professor of History at the University of Cambridge, speaks highly of the security and freedom offered by Junior Research Fellowships: "The early phases of an academic's career are inherently fragile, and it is difficult to thrive in the midst of this insecurity. In contrast, a Junior Research Fellowship provides three years of freedom to extend your intellectual journey – from the safety of a sheltered enclave that protects you from the storm-like shifts in fashion that ordinarily disrupt academic life."

Dr Varun Warriar (2019), one of our current Junior Research Fellows, also emphasises the importance of this freedom: "I have been able to develop and pursue my own research ideas. Last summer, I published findings in *Nature Communications* that transgender and gender diverse individuals are more likely to report being autistic compared to cisgender individuals, suggesting the need for greater acceptance and support. Now, I am working to understand the genetic architecture of the

brain, with the ambition of using this to discover more about the biology of mental health conditions. All this has been possible thanks to the intellectual freedom afforded by my Junior Research Fellowship."

Despite being new to St Catharine's when starting their Junior Research Fellowships, Sir Chris, Professor Brundin and Dr Warriar speak fondly of their early experiences. Sir Chris recalls, "I realised how lucky I was to be surrounded by so many brilliant and supportive colleagues – in fact, too many to list. It was, and remains to this day, a warm, unpretentious community." Dr Warriar agrees: "I have always felt welcomed and supported, which makes St Catharine's stand out from the rest."

During her three years, Professor Brundin not only wrote her first book, *Vittoria Colonna: Sonnets for Michelangelo*, but was also the first Junior Research Fellow to take maternity leave when she gave birth to her daughter Adelaide (now 18 years old).

"It was a game-changing moment for my academic confidence and self-belief," explains Professor Brundin. "Before my



Professor Sir Chris Clark,  
former Junior Research Fellow





Dr Varun Warriar,  
Bowling Research Fellow

three-year term ended, I was awarded a permanent position in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics. Having already grown deep and lasting loyalty to Catz, I applied to remain as an Official Fellow and was overjoyed when my application was approved by the College's Governing Body."

#### The value to the College

Junior Research Fellows are not members of Governing Body and are expected, nowadays, at least, to focus on their research. Their findings are shared with both junior and senior colleagues, at seminars and other College events, which contributes to the prestige and vibrancy of the College. As Professor Brundin notes: "Junior Research Fellowships are a key route into postgraduate work, internationally recognised and particularly vital in the humanities. Candidates apply to us from all over the world, enriching our academic community and forming lasting ties with the College."

While many researchers choose to remain at St Catharine's, a Junior Research Fellowship can also serve as a springboard to a senior appointment at another Cambridge College or leading university. When this happens, it raises the profile of St Catharine's and demonstrates our broader public benefit. Sir Chris notes, "We are so proud of the career paths that our Junior Research Fellows have taken. It is through this rich tapestry of connections that Cambridge is able to remain a major international hub in academic research."

# CatzPeople

## Members share their stories

**W**e love hearing where St Catharine's has taken you since graduation. This year, we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all of our Members who have dedicated their careers to international development and humanitarian work.

#### DR KHALID MAHGOUB (1991, Natural Sciences)

**Where it started:** After completing my PhD at Catz, I was interviewed at the World Intellectual Property Organization, part of the United Nations (UN), because my scientific background was relevant to issues surrounding the Human Genome project. Although the interview went well, there were delays so I ended up joining the World Health Organization on a short-term project, before joining the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



A day mission to the border of  
Pakistan and Afghanistan

**How it's going:** I am Head of the UNHCR Sub-Office in Kirehe, Rwanda. Working for UNHCR has also taken me to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Zambia, Pakistan (twice), Iran, Tanzania, Lebanon and South Africa. It is a demanding tough job - away from home and sometimes in very remote areas with difficult living conditions - but it is extremely rewarding when I help to protect refugees and find durable solutions for their plight. This requires the support of countries and international organisations, which can be challenging as this is often dependent on funds and the political will of governments.

**Words of advice:** There is a big world out there waiting for Catz graduates. Your empathy, your help, your humanity and your expertise can help others in need.

Continued...



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

**DR HARRIET TORLESSE**  
(1991, Archaeology & Anthropology)

**How it started:** I can trace my postgraduate studies and career in international development to studying child nutrition in Sudan for my dissertation, supported by a College travel grant. After graduation, I completed a PhD in nutrition and then moved overseas. My work since has focused on maternal and child nutrition in various African and Asian countries, primarily for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

**How it is going:** I recently returned to the UK after serving as the Regional Nutrition Advisor at the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, based in Nepal. Working in international development means you move countries frequently, which can disrupt family life. I want my children to be able to live in one place while they are at secondary school and build some roots. I now work for the UNICEF New York office, remotely from the UK.

**Words of advice:** Relevant work experience is highly valued, so flexibility and creativity will help to get a foot in the door. Prepare to start out in remote or conflict-affected settings, where postings may not attract experienced candidates. Take what is on offer – it could be the stepping stone to where you really want to be.



Trekking with family above Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

**CHINE MCDONALD**  
(2002, Theology)

**Where it started:** I dreamed of becoming the editor-in-chief of *The Guardian*. During my time at Catz, I was news editor of *Varsity* and societies editor of the St Catharine's Magazine. While I initially worked in both print and online news, I soon refocused on public sector communications. My first development charity was at World Vision and I subsequently moved to Christian Aid.

**How it's going:** I am head of community fundraising and public engagement at Christian Aid. Fundraising supports programmes around the world that aim to encourage sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief. The sense of community and communication skills gained at Catz help when working with people from all walks of life, including colleagues, journalists, supporters, donors and external stakeholders such as bishops and prime ministers.

**Words of advice:** The development sector spans a number of different types of roles so know what you are aiming for and approach someone who has that job for advice on their career path. If you are unable to break into international development straight away, consider smaller charities where you can practise being an all-rounder before homing in on particular skills.



Chine (left) at *The Time Is Now* mass lobby of parliament on climate change

**GAIA REYES**  
(2016, Human, Social and Political Sciences)

**Where it started:** Before graduating from St Catharine's, I interned with the Philippine Delegation to the UN Paris Climate Agreement, and news outlets including the BBC and *The Times*.

These experiences shaped my interest in international affairs and visual storytelling. Having long admired the United Nations, I was excited to start my first role after university with the Ending Violence Against Women policy division at UN Women and The Spotlight Initiative, an EU-UN global partnership to combat gender-based violence.



Outside the UN headquarters in New York City

**How it's going:** I work on digital strategy and communications in the Executive Director's Office at UN Women, based in New York City. I focus on developing new, innovative ways of engaging the next generation with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality. I am also on the Panel of Young Advisors to Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) and serve as a UK Delegate to the G20 Youth Engagement Group.

**Words of advice:** International development is deeply tied to globalisation and postcolonialism, so it is critical to interrogate the historical context of the field. Being open and receptive to different cultures, languages and people is especially important when navigating larger international organisations.



# BioRISC

## *Improving the links between science and policy makers*

Thanks to the generosity of the David and Claudia Harding Foundation, the team at the Biosecurity Research Initiative at St Catharine's (BioRISC) has continued to grow its profile as a world-class research hub. Since its launch in 2019, BioRISC has generated over 30 peer-reviewed publications about existing and emerging biological security risks and interventions.

An increasingly important area of activity has been developing tools to improve links between the scientific community and policy makers, so the former can provide the latter with cutting-edge, evidence-based information (see table).

Lord Des Browne (2019), Fellow Commoner, adds, "None of us who have lived through the COVID-19 pandemic can be in any doubt about the value of policy makers having a proper understanding of the latest scientific evidence and how to apply this knowledge effectively."

Professor William Sutherland (2008), Environment Fellow and Miriam Rothschild Professor of Conservation Biology, comments, "BioRISC has been ahead of the curve because our focus has been to improve the understanding of science and technology by public policy professionals and vice versa. We are finding ways to make science more useful to policy makers, with the best tools and information available."

These tools encourage strategic thinking and aid quick and easy understanding of scientific evidence. Lord Browne explains, "We need accessible ways for policy makers to look at the available evidence, in real time rather than having to wait sometimes for months. Ideally, relevant evidence would



**The BioRISC team.** Standing (left-right): Lord Des Browne (2019), Dr Phil Martin, Dr Mairi Kilkenny (2016), Professor William Sutherland (2008), Dr Gorm Shackelford, Emma Collingbine, Dr Hazem Kandil (2012). Seated: Dr Luke Kemp, Dr Catherine Rhodes, Dr David Aldridge (1997). Not pictured: Dr Sam Weiss Evans, Dr Belinda Gallardo, Dr Lauren Holt, Dr Seán Ó hÉigearthaigh and Dr Lalitha Sundaram

be available quickly so policy makers can test their assumptions along the way and pursue the most sensible routes."

### TOOLS PRODUCED BY BIORISC TO SUPPORT POLICY MAKERS

TOOL	PURPOSE	EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES
<b>Horizon scanning</b>	Identify future issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A bioengineering horizon scan<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Research prioritisation</b>	Identify questions that, if answered, would be most useful to policy and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 questions for UK biological security<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Solution scanning</b>	Identify a range of options for a given problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A solution scan on preventing future zoonotic epidemics<sup>3</sup> generated significant media interest and over 6,000 downloads of the preprint in 8 weeks</li> <li>A solution scan on reducing the spread of COVID-19<sup>4</sup> was reported by &gt;70 media outlets and was used by the Irish government for post-lockdown planning</li> </ul>
<b>Fault tree analysis</b>	Understand the impact of public policy decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A set of fault trees for each of the main areas of biosecurity</li> <li>Examples of real-world case studies including freshwater invasive species</li> </ul>
<b>Dynamic synthesis</b>	Make evidence immediately accessible and save users time when they want to extract evidence across fields on an industrial scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A database covering a range of invasive species, which users can interrogate in as little as 20 minutes</li> </ul>

1. Kemp, L. *et al.* *eLife*. 2020; 9. [elifesciences.org/articles/54489](https://elifesciences.org/articles/54489)

2. Kemp, L. *et al.* *PLoS ONE*. 2021; 16(1). [doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241190](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241190)

3. Petrovan, S. *et al.* [osf.io/5jx3g](https://osf.io/5jx3g)

4. Sutherland, W.J. *et al.* [osf.io/ca5rh](https://osf.io/ca5rh)

# THANK YOU

## for supporting St Catharine's in 2020–21

PROFESSOR SIR MARK WELLAND (2016), MASTER, AND  
DEBORAH LOVELUCK (2007), FELLOW AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to share with you an update on the progress of the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign. Launched in January 2019, the campaign aims to secure £65 million to strengthen and sustain your College for current students and future generations – the largest ever philanthropic campaign in our history.

The ongoing response to the campaign's vital goals has been inspiring. Thanks to our donors, as of May 2021, we have already raised £53 million. We have received gifts from Members aged 22 to 96, living in 30 countries around the world.

On behalf of the St Catharine's community, we would like to thank each and every donor



who has given so generously to the College, especially given the unusual circumstances so many of us have faced during the past year. Your support enables us to protect and preserve St Catharine's in perpetuity.

Central to the campaign is our commitment to provide a world-class education in a supportive environment and to renew our buildings and spaces so that our students can fulfil their extraordinary potential. Your continued support will ensure that we achieve our campaign goals and enhance our students' experiences for generations to come. For further information regarding our campaign, please visit: [campaign.caths.cam.ac.uk](http://campaign.caths.cam.ac.uk) or contact: [alumni.office@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@caths.cam.ac.uk).

### THE 'OUR COLLEGE, OUR FUTURE' CAMPAIGN



£53 MILLION IN GIFTS AND PLEDGES TOWARDS OUR £65 MILLION TARGET

#### Our campaign priorities:

- A world-class education for our students in a supportive environment that promotes academic aspiration, diversity and welfare.
- A selective planned renewal of buildings and spaces to ensure current students and College Members enjoy a high standard of living and access to state-of-the-art facilities.
- To strengthen College finances by expanding our revenue base, building up our endowment and managing our investments ethically to maximise support for our students and attract world-class academics.
- Fostering student wellbeing through outstanding pastoral care.
- Developing our people to best serve our College community.

### Giving to St Catharine's in 2020–21

All figures cover 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021

**£10,409,488**  
IN DONATIONS RECEIVED

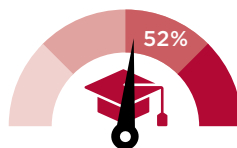
**£4,648,319**  
IN FURTHER PLEDGES

**639**  
DONORS MADE A REGULAR GIFT

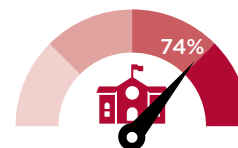
**1,066**  
PEOPLE LIVING IN **30**  
COUNTRIES DONATED

OUR YOUNGEST DONOR WAS **22** YEARS OLD AND OUR OLDEST DONOR WAS **96** YEARS OLD

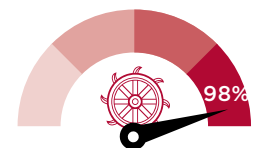
A TOTAL OF **£167,962** WAS DONATED BY INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS OF **£500** OR LESS



COLLEGE LIFE



BUILDINGS & SPACES



STUDENT SUPPORT



# Building an even brighter future

St Catharine's is proud to be a home from home, where friendships are formed that last a lifetime and students live together, learn together and support each other through a special sense of community.

**A**s part of the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign, a selective planned renewal of buildings is in progress to support the St Catharine's community. This will create a supported living, learning and working environment for our students and will ensure that all students can be accommodated in buildings entirely owned by St Catharine's.

## Our Central Spaces

Essential renovation works are now well underway for the College's Central Spaces project. This £16 million project will renovate and modernise the spaces at the heart of the Island site to provide our community with an elegant and accessible suite of buildings, and enhance the experience of future generations of students, alumni, staff, Fellows and visitors.

The College was delighted when an early phase of the project was completed in spring 2021. Relocating the staircase in

the McGrath Centre delivered immediate benefits by creating more space and light in the foyer. These stairs will become a vital connection to a new Garden Room and atrium, that will provide much-needed direct and accessible routes between student rooms to the bar, the Shakeshaft Library and the McGrath auditorium.

Careful consideration has been given to protecting and showcasing our heritage. Our extensive collection of rare books will be housed in a purpose-built store, complete with a new reading room for students, Fellows and visiting scholars. In addition, the atrium will present an opportunity to display a selection of these rare books.

Work is now commencing on the foundations for the new Dining Hall and adjoining spaces. We anticipate that this project will be completed in the summer of 2022 and look forward to sharing updates as we near this important milestone.

## New Development @ St Chad's

Our new development at St Chad's will provide two additional houses containing 23 bedrooms, as well as generous communal study and social spaces. This will complement the existing and very popular second-year accommodation and green space. Full planning permission has been received and the target start date for this project is Summer 2022. The estimated cost of this project is in the region of £6 million.

If you would like any further information about donating to this new development, please contact Deborah Loveluck, Fellow and Director of Development: [development.director@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development.director@caths.cam.ac.uk).



Artist's impression of the New Development @ St Chad's

"Our Members know that our buildings play an important role in creating an atmosphere conducive to learning and fostering a strong sense of community. Our plans will ensure that our facilities provide these benefits for many years to come."  
**Dr Peter Wothers, Fellow and President (1988, Natural Sciences)**



Artist's impression of Chapel Court, looking west towards the new garden room with the new Hall beyond

# Widening participation



Phil Myrrot

Left to right: Dr Ivan Scales (2008, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Arts and Humanities), Kathryn Singleton (Schools Liaison Officer), and Dr David Bainbridge (2003, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Sciences)

St Catharine's is committed to attracting the best and brightest young minds regardless of circumstances. We have a track record of successfully engaging with talented students from backgrounds that have traditionally been under-represented in higher education. Over 83% of our 2021 UK offer holders are from state schools, surpassing the University Admissions average of 72.7% across all Colleges. This is due to a firmly-held commitment to widening participation, which has remained strong throughout the pandemic.

COVID-19 and associated restrictions disrupted in-person teaching across the country and prevented students from visiting the College. A network of students, Fellows and staff have sprung into action to provide innovative approaches to outreach activities, coordinated by Schools Liaison Officer, Kathryn Singleton.

Kathryn has worked hard to collate a library of online resources with other Cambridge Colleges to provide teachers

with substituted resources for in-person activities. She has also organised an impressive total of 95 webinars for prospective students, including subject-specific events, Q&A discussions and informative, upbeat sessions dedicated to student welfare, led by Mary Simuyandi, the College's Welfare Officer.

The transition to online activities enabled the College to reach more students than ever before, attracting 7,100 participants to events run by St Catharine's since spring 2020.

Kathryn also worked alongside student representatives to bring about a virtual BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) access day in collaboration with Queens' College, Cambridge. The event welcomed 94 attendees across three online sessions covering the sciences, arts and humanities, and life at Cambridge.

The College's creative response to the pandemic has strengthened relationships with schools and other partners. As Kathryn comments, "Although the last year brought

many obstacles to widening participation, St Catharine's rose to the challenge and delivered an outstanding programme of events and resources for schools and applicants across the UK. In fact, we were one of the first Cambridge Colleges to move our activities online. Our undergraduate helpers, the 'Catz Ambassadors', have been a credit to the College, supporting me with an incredible array of virtual events: from sessions dedicated to specific subjects and the mental wellbeing support available in College, to interactive mock supervisions and interview workshops. I'm looking forward to building on the experiences and skills accrued this year to ensure virtual outreach remains a core part of the College's widening participation strategy in the future."

---

The transition to online activities enabled the College to reach more students than ever before.

**Gemma Deacon (2020, History)** developed a passion for history at Thomas Gainsborough School in Suffolk – a secondary state school paired with St Catharine's. Prior to the pandemic, Gemma was able to discover the benefits of studying at St Catharine's through a school visit to College, a subject taster day and a regional event with the College's Admissions Tutors and Schools Liaison Officer. "These outreach activities were pivotal and helped break down my misconceptions of Cambridge. My early glimpses of the supportive culture at Catz turned out to be pretty accurate given the tutorial and welfare provision available to me now."

Read about Gemma's experience: [caths.cam.ac.uk/gemmas-story](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/gemmas-story)

**Ali Jassam (2020, Mathematics)** attended the Chelsea Academy, a co-educational Church of England secondary school and sixth form with an established connection to The Access Project (TAP). TAP is an educational charity that supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education, through a unique combination of tuition and in-school mentoring.

Ali was able to join a TAP trip to St Catharine's in Year 12, which was a life-changing visit for him. "St Catharine's support for outreach activities is so important because a lot of applicants in my situation might be deterred from applying because of their circumstances."

Read about Ali's experience: [caths.cam.ac.uk/alis-story](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/alis-story)



# Recognising our donors

## Glen Cavellero Fellowship

The Rev'd Dr Glen Tilburn Cavaliero FRSL (1965) was a member of the College for 54 years, first as an affiliated student, then as a Research Fellow, and finally as a Fellow Commoner.

Dr Cavaliero (1927–2019) was an affiliated lecturer in the English Faculty and lecturer for the Board of Extra-Mural Studies. For many years, he supervised English tripos papers and dissertations both for students of St Catharine's and of other Colleges, only retiring in 2015.

Dr Cavaliero was a highly respected poet, scholar and critic. He was a great supporter of the College, by his presence at College events to welcome and support new Fellows, students and guests, and by his steady advocacy of our guiding principles – intellectual freedom, personal integrity and kindness.

In recognition of Dr Cavaliero's lifelong commitment to the College and his generous legacy, St Catharine's is delighted to have established the Glen Cavellero Fellowship in English. Fellow and close friend of Dr Cavaliero, Dr Caroline Gonda (1996) has been chosen as the inaugural Glen Cavellero Fellow.



The Revd Dr Glen Tilburn Cavaliero FRSL (1965)



## How you can help?

St Catharine's is now in the final stages of the 'Our College, Our Future' campaign, which seeks to raise £65 million to invest in world-class teaching and research, provide generous student support initiatives, enrich College life and execute a planned renewal of our buildings and spaces. Your support is vital 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 ([www.campaign.caths.cam.ac.uk](http://www.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](mailto: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.

## Telephone Campaign 2021

Thank you to all of our Members who participated in this year's Telephone Fundraising Campaign. Between 20–30 March 2021, ten student callers spoke with over 600 Members from all around the world. Thanks to you, we have raised over £150,000 towards the Annual Fund, which will enable us to provide a world-class education for our students in a supportive environment, enhance our students' experiences and execute a planned renewal of our buildings and spaces.

## Fellow Benefactors

We are proud of the world-class education within a supportive environment that we provide for our students. Occasionally this attracts the interest of individuals who are not members of our community. We are delighted to announce that St Catharine's Governing Body has decided to create a new tier of recognition for non-member benefactors who choose to gift £1 million or more to the College.

# Medicine at St Catharine's: Reflecting on our past, present and future

The College is rightly proud of its history of educating exceptional doctors and how its Members have advanced the quality of care for patients. Three of our younger medics kindly shared their reflections on the past, present and future of medicine at St Catharine's.

## Standing on the shoulders of giants

Among the many physicians who have graduated from St Catharine's is John Addenbrooke, who was a Scholar, Fellow, Lecturer and Bursar of the College. He left a legacy of £4,500 in his will to build "a small physical hospital for poor people," which the College used to found the hospital in Cambridge that still bears his name.

For MCR Co-president Souradip Mookerjee (2013, Medical Sciences), this history is a source of inspiration: "While the College's central location

was certainly a factor, I also applied to St Catharine's because of its historical links with medicine. Now I have embarked on the clinical phase of my studies, it is a proud moment in my daily routine when I pass the plaque displayed at the hospital, which bears the names of John Addenbrooke and St Catharine's. Alongside our very well-known alumni, it is important to remember the jobbing doctors who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of patients every day, including those on the frontlines during the pandemic. This more recent legacy is equally inspiring for me!"

Rhiannon Osborne (2016, Medical Sciences) adds, "For me, medicine is very much a social justice issue, so it was fascinating to learn that Addenbrooke specified that the charitable hospital founded in his memory should serve the needs of the poor, recognising that everyone deserves access to medical treatment. I am particularly grateful to have received the John Addenbrooke scholarship from the College, which I have used to fund a range of activism work focusing on health equity and access to medicines."<sup>1</sup>



MCR Co-president Souradip Mookerjee

## The evolution of medical studies

Teaching and education in the 21st century would be unrecognisable for Addenbrooke and his contemporaries. The University Calendar for 1702 states that 'A student of medicine in this University is not required to attend any lectures but is left to acquire his knowledge from such sources as his discretion may point out'.

Alumna Dr Caitríona Cox (2011, Medical Sciences), who now works as a National Institute for Health Research-funded academic clinical fellow at The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute in Cambridge, welcomes this progress and the support available to current students: "I am very grateful to all the supervisors who provided such great teaching and support. Studying medicine was of course challenging at times (memories of our pathology exams are enough to bring on a cold sweat), but the support of the Catz community was enough to get me and my fellow medics through!"



1. Read more about Rhiannon's recent work on global public health at [caths.cam.ac.uk/global-public-health](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/global-public-health)



“We have some brilliant teachers, researchers and a tight-knit medic community who look out for each other,” Rhiannon adds. “Saying that, it hasn’t always been easy and there were plenty of times when I needed support, and I was grateful for the guidance available.”

Souradip is part of the MB/PhD programme, which enables student to integrate a three-year period of research with their clinical education. He has returned to clinical studies after completing his PhD and singles out our Fellows’ support: “Catz students benefit from the expertise of our Fellowship in both medicine and the biological sciences more broadly. For example, Professor Stefan Marciniak (2011) leads the MB/PhD programme and I was delighted to have the opportunity to publish a paper with him.<sup>2</sup> I have also gained a broader understanding of how the human body works than I would have anywhere else, thanks to Fellows who are so generous with their time and insights.”

#### Recent advances in modern medicine

Since the College’s foundation, medicine has changed dramatically. Successive generations have been responsible for transforming medical practice, as exemplified by former Master and Honorary Fellow Sir Terence English (1993) who notably led the team who performed Britain’s first successful heart transplant and has since supported improvements to primary trauma care in Gaza.

Rhiannon pinpoints the admission of women as an important development: “The Catz40 celebrations reminded us that the first female undergraduates arrived at the College in 1979,

and the first female medical student was admitted in 1980 – a strikingly recent date! Sadly, some remnants of women’s exclusion from medicine are alive and well: from men making up the majority of senior NHS positions, to the underfunding of research into women’s health conditions. I look forward to more women practising and teaching in an equitable workplace as we work to dismantle all forms of discrimination in medicine.”

Souradip reflects, “In the last five years alone, medicine has changed beyond recognition with the development and approval of immunotherapies for cancer, antisense oligonucleotides for genetic conditions and more. Amidst the excitement around scientific advances, it is important to remember that the human body has not changed very much in all that time, and neither has the core of empathy and trust that all good doctor-patient relationships are built on.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has understandably changed the work of alumni in medicine. Dr Cox explains, “The pandemic has necessitated research in diverse areas of medicine, and it has been rewarding to work on the ethical issues surrounding public health measures. I can trace my fascination with this field of research back to a medical history and ethics paper during my third year at Catz. Most recently, as part of the ethics of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing programmes, I have been studying the schemes introduced by higher education institutions, including the weekly testing available to students at Catz.”<sup>3</sup>



“Having first qualified as a mining engineer in South Africa, I inherited sufficient money to decide I might be a better doctor and came to London to study medicine at Guy’s Hospital. I trained as a cardiovascular surgeon and was appointed consultant at Papworth and Addenbrooke’s Hospitals. It was at Papworth in 1979, after 5 years of preparation and overcoming various difficulties, that my team and I carried out Britain’s first successful heart transplant. We then went on to become recognised as one of the best and busiest heart and lung transplant hospitals in Europe. My subsequent role as Master of St Catharine’s (1993–2000) provided some very different and interesting experiences which I thoroughly enjoyed.”

**SIR TERENCE ENGLISH  
(1993) HONORARY FELLOW  
AND FORMER MASTER**



Dr Caitriona Cox (kneeling, second from right) and Rhiannon Osborne (standing, far right) were part of the victorious 2017 Cuppers mixed hockey squad

Catch up with the latest research news from our Fellows in medicine and other subjects at [caths.cam.ac.uk/research-news](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/research-news)

2. Malzer, E., Dominicus, C.S., Chambers, J.E. *et al.* The integrated stress response regulates BMP signalling through effects on translation. *BMC Biol.* 2018. 16; 34. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-018-0503-x>  
3. Read more about how St Catharine’s students and staff contributed to Dr Cox’s research at [caths.cam.ac.uk/ethics-covid-19](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/ethics-covid-19)

# Insights from our Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars

The Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme was launched following a significant gift from the David and Claudia Harding Foundation. This programme provides fully-funded scholarships to outstanding PhD students in any discipline, from all around the world, and offers life-changing opportunities to research and study at the University of Cambridge.

The ten scholars at St Catharine's include **Rachel Mckeown** (2017, Natural Sciences; RM) and **Louis Christie** (2020, Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics; LC) who began their PhD studies this year.

**RM:** It is an honour to be selected as a Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholar, given the quality of the applications that the University must receive. It is special to have a scholarship funded by David Harding (1979, Natural Sciences) who studied the same subject as me at the very same College. Catz is a second home for me and the scholarship has reinforced my sense of belonging.



Rachel's research investigates the roles and interactions of chemical and mechanical signals in nervous system development

**LC:** It was a lovely surprise to be selected for the scholarship to continue my studies after my Master's at Trinity. I feel doubly lucky given David's longstanding support for statistics at Cambridge. It has given me the opportunity to experience another college community which I can call home now too!

**RM:** The virtual welcome event organised by the University in October was the first time I properly registered the size and breadth of the programme. I think it is so important that the programme supports all the disciplines at Cambridge, because none of us knows where the next big breakthrough is going to come from.

**LC:** I completely agree. Other funders are sometimes discipline-specific but the Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme has connected me with students across a variety of subjects. It's wonderful to become part of a community of 52 scholars across 21 colleges.

**RM:** The programme provides each scholar with a generous research allowance. I hope to be able to use this to learn a specialist technique for my PhD by signing up to a training course in the United States. I consider myself very lucky to be able to take part in these incredible opportunities.

Pandemic or not, starting a PhD is always going to be a challenge. I've needed to manage my own expectations and remember that the first year or so is really about finding your feet, gaining confidence with new experimental techniques and exploring the subject before publication-standard data collection begins.

**LC:** The independence of PhD studies can be tough - you're essentially being thrown in the deep end and learning to swim for the first time. Being a part of the Harding Scholars community means that I started



Louis is researching the use of methods from differential geometry and functional analysis in statistical problems

with 25 students who could support each other, particularly this year when that's been even more important than usual.

**RM:** Absolutely! Both the Catz and Harding Scholar communities really stepped up when I self-isolated during Michaelmas Term. Other students sent thoughtful messages checking how I was and collected my post from the Porters' Lodge.

**LC:** Even during lockdowns, there have been things to look forward to including games nights and circuit trainings held online by St Catharine's College Boat Club. I am looking forward to being involved in the climbing club and the squash club again now restrictions have been eased.

---

Catz is a second home for me and the scholarship has reinforced my sense of belonging.



# Then & now: Marquees of distinction

DR COLIN HIGGINS (2018), FELLOW AND LIBRARIAN

Apart from our biennial May Balls, the College only permits temporary structures on its lawns in exceptional circumstances, such as when a tent was used for the College's quincentenary celebrations. Since then, there have been two particularly noteworthy occasions when a marquee has appeared in Main Court.

## THEN:

### A marquee fit for a queen

The honour of hosting a visit in May 1981 by Her Majesty The Queen and His Late Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, fell to Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer (1973), Master of St Catharine's and Vice Chancellor of the University – until 1992, the post of Vice Chancellor was held concurrently by a Master of one of the University's Colleges.

That day in May was a busy one for Her Majesty and her consort. They travelled by early train to formally open Robinson College, came to St Catharine's for lunch, opened Cambridge University Press' new Edinburgh Building in the afternoon, then attended a garden party before returning home. A reception was held for our visitors and other guests under a marquee in Main Court, followed by a simple meal in the Hall of salmon in aspic, petits pois, new potatoes and hollandaise sauce.

The visit in 1981 came after the Duke of Edinburgh had been appointed Chancellor, the University's titular head. He continued to serve in this role until his retirement in 2011.



The Queen met St Catharine's students and other guests in the marquee with a white and (Cambridge) blue interior, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Master

## NOW:

### The Catzebo

As part of the Central Spaces project due for completion in 2022 (see page 13), the College identified that the Hall and adjoining kitchens would be inaccessible during these essential renovations. With space limited on the Island site, the Governing Body agreed to the installation of a temporary structure in Main Court, so that catering and dining facilities remained available for our community.

The new marquee was named 'the Catzebo', after an inventive list of suggestions was submitted by students and staff. It has capacity for over 200 diners – 60 with social distancing – and provides both eat-in and take-away meals. Our dedicated Catering team worked around the clock to move furniture, equipment and supplies from the old kitchens and Hall into the Catzebo, in readiness for the Central Spaces project to begin.

On the opening of the Catzebo in December 2020, the Master commented, "It will be an important fixture of College life until 2022, when the remodelled Hall is due to be completed. In the meantime, I am confident that the Catzebo will provide a welcoming space where we can all take time away from work or studying to connect with others."



The Catzebo has been installed in Main Court

# Connecting our community

While we look forward to resuming our usual busy calendar of in-person events and reunions, the St Catharine's Alumni and Development Office is proud to provide opportunities for our Members and friends to reconnect with College wherever they are in the world.

Our series of virtual talks, Catz Chats, provided a forum for students, staff and Fellows to share different aspects of College life. Highlight videos from each event are available to view on the College website: [caths.cam.ac.uk/Catz-Chats](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/Catz-Chats).

The College was also delighted to welcome 300 Members and friends from across the globe to the inaugural St Catharine's Alumni Festival, held on 13 March 2021. Members were able to join three fascinating lectures, network with other alumni in virtual meeting spaces, explore an interactive map and an archival exhibition, and watch short films about College life and our fundraising campaign.

Dr Achim Hammerschmitt (1987, Mathematics) commented, "I enjoyed the virtual Alumni Festival immensely... St Catharine's was just a mouse click away."

We look forward to hosting the St Catharine's Alumni Festival annually. Read more about the festival: [caths.cam.ac.uk/alumni-festival-report](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/alumni-festival-report).



## LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

St Catharine's produces two publications each year to nurture a life-long relationship between alumni and the College: *The Wheel* and *The St Catharine's Magazine*. Letting us know how you would like to receive these publications (in print, digitally or both, as required) will help us to preserve natural resources and avoid waste: [caths.cam.ac.uk/keep-in-touch](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/keep-in-touch).

## Upcoming events

As soon as we are able, invitations and further details will be circulated for in-person events, in accordance with official guidelines. For now, please add these dates to your diary. For further information please visit: [caths.cam.ac.uk/events](https://caths.cam.ac.uk/events) or contact [events@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@caths.cam.ac.uk).

**4 September 2021**  
Members' Reunion (1963-66)

**11 September 2021**  
Members' Reunion (1991-93)

**18-19 September 2021**  
St Catharine's Society Reunion

**15 October 2021**  
Ten Years' On (2010)

**4 December 2021**  
Woodlark Society Luncheon

**12 March 2022**  
Ten Years' On (2011)

**19 March 2022**  
Members' Reunion (1967-70)

## Society news

DR JOHN WELLS (1976, PHYSICS), CHAIR,  
ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE SOCIETY

The St Catharine's College Society, of which all alumni of the College are members, is a social organisation governed and run by alumni themselves. It is distinct from the College but works closely with it to maintain a lifelong alumni community. Founded in 1923, the Society continues to thrive with over 8,000 members. The Society organises events

for members, provides grants for students and compiles the annual College Magazine.

**EVENTS:** In normal times we typically hold over 30 events each year in the UK with about 1,000 attendees. We plan to revive our programme as soon as circumstances permit. Our Annual Reunion in College is scheduled for 18-19 September 2021, subject to review later in the summer. Members and guests are welcome at all events.

**GRANTS TO STUDENTS:** Each year the Society typically awards grants totalling

about £8,000 in sport, music, performing arts, club travel and internships. These grants are funded from our historic reserves since we do not actively fundraise for the Society.

**MAGAZINE:** In November you will receive the annual St Catharine's Magazine, published by the Society and funded by the College, which contains both College and alumni news from the previous academic year. Full copies from 1927 onwards are available in a fascinating archive on our website: [www.society.caths.cam.ac.uk/home](https://www.society.caths.cam.ac.uk/home).



### CONTACT US

Alumni and Development Office  
+44 (0)1223 338337  
[alumni.office@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.office@caths.cam.ac.uk)

### FIND US ONLINE

[www.caths.cam.ac.uk](https://www.caths.cam.ac.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stcatharines.cambridge](https://www.facebook.com/stcatharines.cambridge)

[www.twitter.com/catz\\_cambridge](https://www.twitter.com/catz_cambridge)

[www.instagram.com/stcatharinescollege](https://www.instagram.com/stcatharinescollege)



Part of the campaign  
for the University and  
Colleges of Cambridge

Registered with



FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1137463