



The  
**Bridge**



# From the Lodge

Welcome to another edition of *The Bridge*. I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you know, Queens' is committed to providing transformational intellectual opportunities to students and is thought of as one of the most friendly, supportive, inclusive and diverse academic settings in both Cambridge and Oxford.



However, our efforts to deliver even better on this commitment continue to be challenged by Covid-related disruptions. Many of our students studied from home during Lent term, adding to their understandable frustration and overall fatigue. Our finances took another big hit. Progress on strategic initiatives competed with a seemingly never-ending need to respond to immediate challenges and changing government guidelines.

Similar to the vast majority of people in the UK and around the world, it has been far from an easy term – for our students, staff and Fellows. In this generation-defining moment, we continue to live in a world of “unusual uncertainty” that requires us to pull even more from a dwindling reservoir of resilience. Yet, due to the agility and responsiveness of many members of our community, several good things are happening that bode well not just for the immediate period ahead but also for the longer-term.

Trying to be a little more “hip” in my engagement with students – it seems that fewer and fewer e-mails are read fully these days (as I have noted daily in my interactions with my daughters in the United States) – I taped a video clip that you will find posted on our website, should you be interested in more information about both the good and less good things happening at Queens'. It points to seven areas where important progress is being made: from open, competitive and inclusive transition processes for key decision-makers in College to exciting opportunities to bring new intellectual capabilities to Queens'; and from enhanced donor-supported capacity to alleviate what otherwise would be crushing financial and welfare burdens on students and Fellows, to the launch of an exciting project to convert Owlstone Croft from what is commonly (and erroneously) viewed as a secondary residence site, to a dynamic part of Queens' that contributes materially to our intellectual vibrancy and curiosity.

Throughout all this, we are doing more to expand access and participation. This is a particularly critical effort at a time when the great “unequalising” effects of the virus risk undoing years of gains in reducing the inequality of educational opportunity.

None of this would be possible without the considerable help we get from you, our alumni, donors and friends. Your support has been critical, and especially so at a time when major sources of funding are severely damaged (such as room rents and conference income) and we continuously risk the “urgent and important” crowding out important strategic efforts.

It's not just about the direct support you provide. As has been crystal clear from lots of feedback to the donor-supported “Covid Student Support Fund,” your involvement has been instrumental in illustrating and reinforcing a critical message that serves as an important anchor for our efforts to navigate better this difficult period: that of solidarity, emphasizing that we are all in this together, and that we will manage through it together.

Thank you again for all your insights, guidance and donations. We are extremely grateful.

I look forward to seeing you at Queens' as soon as circumstances allow. In the meantime, I wish you and your family health, happiness and success.

Dr Mohamed A. El-Erian



# Bringing accessibility to the heart of Cambridge

**Abigail Smith (2018)** has been recognised for her tireless campaigning for inclusivity and accessibility at Cambridge with a University Prize.

## Background

Geography student

Recipient of the Venn Prize, the President's Prize for Geography & the Bibby Prize for all-round contribution to the College

**Third-year Geography student Abigail Smith won an Outstanding Student Contribution to Education Award last year in the category Inclusive Practice for her tireless work to help improve inclusivity and accessibility at the University.**

## Looking back

My time at Queens' began with an unexpected fire alarm during my interview and, in many ways, it's been about as unpredictable ever since. From sinking in the Cam to nation-wide lockdowns, I think it's fair to say that it's been a bit of a rollercoaster.

Regardless, the past three years have been great – and certainly unforgettable. I can't believe it is all going so quickly!

There have been many 'big' highlights: the May Ball, JCR Handover dinners and Bounce, to name just a few. Though, the 'little' things such as frequent trips to Q Café, sunny days sat on Erasmus Lawn, and rowing outings have been definite highlights too.

## The Power of the Boar: are the early starts worth it?

Prior to coming to Queens', I knew I enjoyed being on the river, so rowing seemed like a good sport to try. I had a go at one of the tubbing sessions during Freshers' week, and before I knew it, I was setting my alarm for 6am



*The crew after a successful bumps campaign*

multiple times a week. I can't say the early starts are particularly enjoyable, but time spent on the water and post-outing breakfasts as a crew help to make up for it. In this sense, the social side of the boat club is great and means you have the opportunity to get to meet a whole range of people you otherwise wouldn't. QCBC have always been incredibly welcoming.

A real highlight was definitely May Bumps in first year. It was my first experience of Bumps, so I had absolutely no idea what to expect. Yet, despite a lot of chaos (some caused by us...), we won our blades!

## Accessibility & inclusivity in everything

It is easy to consider accessibility as an 'add on', or as something which is necessary only in response to an individual need. However, the importance of an institution's anticipatory duty cannot be overemphasised.

It is vital for inclusivity to be at the heart of everything the University does.

This benefits not only disabled students but is often helpful for everyone, as shown by the example of widespread lecture recording this year. Equally, it is vital for prospective students to be able to see the University as a supportive place.

To share ideas more effectively, it is also beneficial to include all levels of the University in these discussions, and to bring together faculties, departments and colleges, which can sometimes feel quite separate.

We met with the Vice-Chancellor and the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education to discuss everything related to accessibility. The main outcome after the meeting (and all the hard work of the Disability Resource Centre over the last few years) was the funding approval for a centralised team at the University Library to deal with any requests for accessible formats. Previously, this was managed on an individualised basis, so it is an exciting development which should hopefully make a difference.

## A strange year...

It's hard to believe how much time has passed since lockdown started, and that in Lent 2020 I had no idea what Zoom was! The past year has been mixed: there have been challenges, but also many positives too. Terms at home are definitely strange; however, trying to find new ways to keep in touch with everyone has been a nice distraction. It's difficult to summarize the year, as each lockdown has been quite different, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed for some more normality as soon as it is safe.







# The Revd Canon Dr John Polkinghorne KBE, FRS (1930-2021)

President of Queens' 1989-96



**John Polkinghorne (1930-2021) was a scientist and scholar whose career fell into two halves, and who managed to achieve more in each half than most of us could aspire to in a lifetime.**

For the first half he was a mathematical physicist of distinction – Senior Wrangler from Trinity College, a university lecturer at Cambridge and then, from 1968, Professor of Mathematical Physics. His important contributions in the mathematical modelling of sub-atomic particles led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1974.

The second half of his career took a radical and surprising turn. Resigning his professorship on the grounds that his best days in mathematics were behind him, he commenced studies for the Anglican priesthood in 1979, and took holy orders in 1982, no doubt expecting to spend the rest of his life in the parish work to which he now devoted himself.

But Cambridge had not finished with him. His new intellectual passion, to challenge and refute the lazy notion that 'science' has signed the death-warrant of 'religion', led him to publish a series of influential books, starting with *The Way the World Is* (London, 1983).

This in turn led to an invitation to return to Cambridge as Dean of Trinity Hall in 1986. From there to the Presidency of Queens' in 1989 was but a short step. His love for his third college was made evident when, in 2002, he was awarded the Templeton Prize, an annual award recognising achievements in the spiritual domain. He bestowed this prodigious sum, around a million dollars, upon the College to support a fellowship in the field of science and religion.

Some years later, as the College sought to secure the financial basis of its fellowship, he agreed to adapt the benefaction to support the College's teaching fellowship in Theology and Religious Studies, which now bears his name, and which I currently hold.

John Polkinghorne remained a familiar and welcome figure in the SCR until, latterly, declining health intervened. He was a man of firm and kindly faith, rigorous intellect, and a deep but unostentatious devotion. The gentle laugh that always punctuated his conversation will long remain in my memory.

**Professor Richard Rex  
Polkinghorne Fellow in  
Theology & Religious Studies**



*John with his three children,  
Michael, Isobel and Peter*



*Hosting The Patroness*



*With The Queen Mother and  
Sir Humphrey Cripps at the  
opening of Lyon Court*

Please send your news & photos to  
[thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:thebridge@queens.cam.ac.uk)

# From our Alumni

## More honours for Queens' members...

Many congratulations to **Sir Robert Chote (1986 & Hon Fellow)**, knighted in the New Year Honours for services to fiscal policy and to the economy. Since 2010 he has been Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility.

Sir Robert read Economics at Queens' and was Chair of the University Social Democrats, later the Social & Liberal Democrats. In 2015 he returned to Queens' to be made an Honorary Fellow.



**Ian Plaistowe (1961)**: OBE for services to the care of the elderly and education. Ian read Classics at Queens' and has worked for the last 14 years in the care sector, becoming chairman in 2015 of The Abbeyfield Society, which manages Abbeyfield charity who provide housing for older people across the UK and internationally.



**Anthony Price (1975)**: OBE for services to the energy storage industry. Anthony is currently the Chief Executive of Swanbarton Ltd, an energy storage consultancy he founded in 2003. Energy storage is vital to the UK Government's Clean Growth Strategy, its Industrial Strategy, and the transition to a smart energy system.

Anthony has also developed energy storage solutions delivering affordable energy access in communities in the Global South, with projects in Botswana, Rwanda and Nepal.

**Laura Clarke (1997)**: OBE (Civil Division) for services to British foreign policy. Laura is British High Commissioner to New Zealand, based in Wellington. Prior to this she was Head of the South Asia Department in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and Government Coordinator for India.

**Dr Alastair Burn (1971)**: MBE for voluntary service to nature conservation in Cambridgeshire. Alastair works for Natural England, a public body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which aims to protect and improve England's natural environment and encourage people to enjoy and get involved in their surroundings.

## A virtual cycle ride from Hexham to Dover...

**Robin Millar CBE (1970)** was recently appointed chair of the disability charity Scope UK. With charity shops up and down the country closed for much of the last year and income taking a significant hit, Robin has taken on the challenge of cycling the distance between Scope's northernmost shop in Hexham to its southernmost one in Dover – no mean feat at 407 miles! – in one month, to raise money for the charity. So far, Robin has raised over £25,000 from more than 100 supporters.

## AlphaFold: a 50 year old challenge solved

In December DeepMind AI, co-founded by **Dr Demis Hassabis (1994 & Hon Fellow)**, announced that the latest version of their artificial intelligence system, AlphaFold2 has been recognised as a solution to the "protein folding problem" grand challenge. One of the authors on this study was **Dr Tim Green (2006)**, who read Computer Science at Queens' and is a Senior Research Engineer at DeepMind.

Part of Dr Hassabis's efforts to "productionise" cutting edge innovations, AlphaFold2 accurately predicts the shapes into which proteins will fold when presented with their one dimensional amino acid structure. As the shapes proteins take largely dictate what they do, this advance will accelerate progress against the world's biggest challenges, such as developing treatments for diseases or finding enzymes that break down industrial waste.



## The virtual Queens' Community

The Queens' community has continued to flourish this year, albeit through the form of virtual events. We were delighted to hold Queens' Global events for alumni in South Africa and Hong Kong. The latter was co-hosted by **Roy Pang (1999)**, who organises regular meet-ups for Queens' alumni in Hong Kong. If you would like to join these, please contact Roy directly on [roytang@gmail.com](mailto:roytang@gmail.com).

We celebrated virtually the 50th anniversary of matriculation for those who joined Queens' in 1970 and 1971. Speeches were given on the call by **Robin Millar CBE (1970)** and **Professor Jim McKeown (1971)**.



*Roy Pang (1999) was able to hold an in person meet up for Queens' alumni in Hong Kong*



Recently we also held a Six Nations rugby event, with Queens' rugby legends **John Spencer (1964)** and **Jamie Roberts (2015)**, chaired by **Bianca Sainty (1994)**, the first captain of a female rugby team at Queens' and now an Honorary Patron of the Club. On the call, The **van der Lande Cup** was presented for the first time, to **Charlotte Spruzen (2016)**. The Cup has been generously named by **Mark van der Lande (1981)**, in memory of his father, **Charles van der Lande (1956)**, the only person to captain the Club for two seasons. It will now be awarded annually to the Players' Player.



*The South Africa event*



*The Six Nations Rugby call*



## Braintastic!

Founded by **Ginny Smith (2008)**, Braintastic! Science provides fun and engaging educational shows, resources and clubs for schools and families, to get children thinking about how their brains work. Informed by the latest scientific research, they cover topics including tricking the senses, learning and memory, and mental health.

In lockdown, they developed an online science club packed with illusions, to keep kids playing and learning at home. They have also made videos for children and adults on managing anxiety during the pandemic, and offer lots of free resources on their website: [braintasticscience.com](http://braintasticscience.com).

Ginny also writes about the brain for adults, with her first solo book, *Overloaded*, about brain chemistry, published in April 2021.



## Dealing with adversity: Tara Howell

During her time at Queens', **Tara Howell (1990)** was a natural athlete, a member of the Hare & Hounds and ran for the University second team, which earned her a place in the Valkyries, the Queens' women's sports society. In 2014, while a successful advertising executive, Tara's life changed drastically after falling from her horse and breaking her neck. She lay in a field for over five hours until a passer-by noticed her horse standing rider-less. It had not left her side. She was rescued by the air ambulance.

In hospital after the accident, Tara went through an eight-hour operation, a two-week coma in intensive care, a chest infection and a stint on a ventilator. Once transferred onto a general ward, her diaphragm was still paralysed and her lungs only partially working. To help her sleep, her mother suggested audiobooks and she decided to listen to the **Harry Potter** novels, narrated by **Stephen Fry (1978)**. As she noted in her blog chapter,

"The comfort factor of having something to anchor me and to take my mind off the discomfort and the fear was priceless. I can tell you that it is impossible to panic with Stephen telling you a story."

Recently, thanks to Queens', Tara corresponded with Stephen and was able to thank him directly for sparing her from the panic attacks, describing his role in her life as that of an 'inadvertent hero.' Very kindly, Stephen responded, noting that when recording audiobooks for days on end, it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that there will be people to whom the voice and the story will make a difference.

Tara is now working to raise funds for Spinal Research and still blogging with dark humour on her website [www.buckinghorses.co.uk](http://www.buckinghorses.co.uk).

## Updates from the community

### Professor Keith Rutter (1957)

received in February the Silver Medal from the Royal Numismatic Society. In his lecture marking the occasion, Keith commented: "People quite often ask me where my interest in numismatics began. Well, it began at Queens', where my tutor the **Revd. Henry Hart** held weekly seminars in his own rooms, where he circulated coins from his own collection, along with tea and cherry cake. These 'seances', as he called them, left a lasting impression."



**Professor Simon Thompson (1975)** has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate and a Professorship in Computer Science at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. Simon is currently Professor of Logic and Computation at the University of Kent, having read Maths at Queens'.

### Professor John Barclay (1977)

has been elected Fellow of the British Academy. John is currently Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University, having read Classics at Queens'.



**Professor Yadvinder Malhi CBE (1987)** has been voted President Elect of the British Ecological Society. Established in 1913, the society fosters the science of ecology, publishing six journals, providing grants to support ecological research and promoting ecological science and evidence informed solutions to policymakers.

**Professor Jon Brundan (1989)** has been made a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. Jon is a professor at the University of Oregon and was selected for his contributions to the Lie theory and representation theory of mathematics.



# Queens' ideas...



ngupakarti - stock.adobe.com

Throughout lockdown, the intellectual society that is Queens' has held a series of talks facilitating the interdisciplinary cross-fertilisation of ideas and informed debate.

This term, the talks have included:

Gaza research & public engagement, Dr Mona Jebril (Rokos PDRA, Political Economy of Health)



'Deceiving the good people of England', The rise of coinage criminals during the English Civil Wars, Christopher Whittell (PhD, History)

Would you realise if you were hungry, dizzy or irritable? Investigating the loss of awareness of hypoglycaemia in diabetes, Emily Staricoff (PhD, Metabolic Sciences)



Speculating on vacancy, Dr Elsa Noterman (Junior Research Fellow, Geography)

Cancer immunoediting, Tarrion Baird (PhD, Pathology)

Listening (or not) to the Qur'an?, Dr Peter McMurray (Director of Studies in Music, funded by The Friends of Alikei Vatikioti for Music & The Arts)

American Soldiers & the Politics of Rape in World War II, Dr Ruth Lawlor (Junior Research Fellow, History)

Did that really happen? Self recognition & reality monitoring, Dr Jane Garrison (Director of Studies in Psychological & Behavioural Sciences & Admissions Tutor)

Cybersecurity Risk to Hospitals from Building Services, Sheryn Gillin (MSt, Construction Engineering & Judge Business School)

Trusting videos in a very fake world, Mansoor Ahmed-Rengers (Research Associate, Computer Science)

Uncertainty, procrastination & artificial intelligence, Professor Neil Lawrence (DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning)



Understanding the regulation of chromatin accessibility by KRAB-ZFPs through the study of their co-factor KAP1 (TRIM28), Juliette Davis (PhD, Genetics)



Simulating turbulent combustion in jet engines, Jenna Foale (PhD, Engineering)

Machine learning with randomised optimisation: new perspectives, Dr Jonas Latz (Rokos PDRA, Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics)

Arctic explorations: rethinking religion in the nineteenth-century Angloworld, Dr Gareth Atkins (Fellow, History)

Into the black box: A cross-county exploration of the mechanisms driving education reform implementation, Adam Barton (PhD, Education)



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# Opportunities for early-career researchers & academics

## Junior Research Fellows

These positions have full membership of the SCR and are provided with College facilities and a research stipend.

Our newest JRFs are:

**Dr Rosa van Hensbergen.** Rosa

researches the languages that make bodies move – dance notation, verbal instruction and stage directions – in the period from post-war to the present day. Her focus is on the written and performance works of Japanese choreographer Tatsumi Hijikata, playwright Samuel Beckett, and choreographer and filmmaker Yvonne Rainer.

She is supervising students on the English Tripos, contributing to the teaching of the modules Tragedy, Contemporary and Lyric, and supervising dissertations on dance and writing.



**Dr Elsa Noterman.** Elsa

researches collective struggles over access to land and housing, and how these contestations reveal entanglements of settler colonial and racial capitalist logics in the reproduction of U. S. city spaces. Recently, she has looked at the use of “vacant” land and buildings in the city of Philadelphia and how this reinforces and destabilises normative notions of urban and development and property.



## The Rokos Postdoctoral Research Associates

The Queens’ PDRA scheme was generously endowed last year by **Mr Chris Rokos (Fellow Benefactor)**. The scheme provides research allowances and SCR membership to people at the beginning of their academic careers and is now supported in perpetuity.

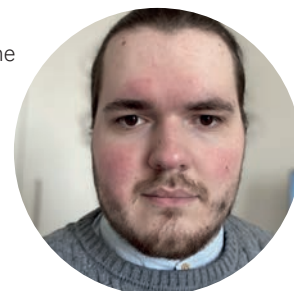
There are currently twelve PDRAs at Queens’, with positions offered across scientific and artistic disciplines and normally held for two years.

Our newest PDRAs are:

**Dr Sabine Cadeau.** Postdoctoral Fellow in the University Legacies of Enslavement Inquiry. Sabine researches the financial dimensions of the Atlantic slave complex in the early modern era.



**Dr Jonas Latz.** Research associate in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics. Jonas joins us from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, where he received a doctorate in Mathematics. He studies inverse problems, the fitting of mathematical models to observational data. This can be used in weather forecasting, training machine learning models and in the reconstruction of medical images from scans.



**Dr Nghia Q. Nguyen.** Senior Research Associate in Ultrasonic Imaging in the Machine Intelligence Group, Department of Engineering. Nghia researches the development of new signal processing algorithms to enhance the quality of medical ultrasonic images.

**Dr Seraina Ruprecht.** Fellowship of the Swiss National Science Foundation and Visiting Scholar at the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge. Seraina’s research focusses on questions related to social networks, religious conflicts and identities, and gender studies in Classical Athens and the Later Roman Empire.





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# Dr Eduardo Machicado Murillo

Rokos PDRA

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## Background

Lic. (BA) in Anthropological Archaeology,  
Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia

Worked as a Field Archaeologist with the German  
Archaeological Institute (DAI-KAAK) and the  
University of California, Berkeley in expeditions  
from the Titicaca Basin to the Amazon Forest

MPhil in Archaeological Research, Queens'

PhD as a Gates Scholar at Queens'

Now a Geoarchaeologist for the Cambridge  
Archaeological Unit & Rokos PDRA

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## The road to Cambridge

I studied for my undergraduate degree at a public university in Bolivia. As part of the long tradition of "anti-imperialist" education, the programme centred on developing professionals with a strong vocation for social and political work. By the end of my second year, I got my first job as a field archaeologist, for a project sponsored by the German Institute of Archaeology (DAI) in the Bolivian Amazon. This early experience opened many new opportunities to work for the University of California Berkeley, the University of McGill and National Geographic.

When I was 25, an opportunity arose to do archival research on a 1932 expedition to Lake Titicaca. I moved to America for five years, working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Pennsylvania, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Having accrued all this experience, a Professor from Berkeley encouraged me to apply to Cambridge for postgraduate study. I received a scholarship and moved to the UK in 2010. Following my streak of good luck, the Archaeology Department noticed my work and generously recommended me for a Gates Scholarship. I became the first Bolivian scholar to receive the scholarship in 2011. Today I am happy that two more have joined the ranks!

## The years in Queens'

Coming to Queens' was a bit of a fluke. As an international student, I really had no reference point when choosing a college; the whole system was very alien to me. The first year was rather difficult – I expected the UK to be just like America, but they were so different!

I moved to a small room in Owlstone Croft (B Block), and over the next four years, it slowly became my "home away from home." I made the best of friends here, and I felt connected to people in a way I have not experienced before.

Academic work in the rest of the world is generally a toxically competitive, over-specialised pursuit. When I joined the MCR, there were only two other archaeologists. Although this was disorienting initially, I realised this is probably part of the genius of Cambridge. It encourages us to come out of that "career-oriented" bubble. Making what we do accessible and exciting to other people has a significant effect on our work quality. This reconnects what I believe is the spirit of academia: a community of knowledge.

## The Rokos PDRA programme

After finishing my PhD, I went back to Bolivia to teach for my former University, then return to the Queens' community, even without a formal position. Because of my previous involvement, I managed to be part of the MCR and come to College (until the porters found out and cancelled my card!). However, it was not hard to notice that this was more an exception than a rule.

The truth is that Postdoctoral/Early Career researchers can find themselves in a nebulous state. In a saturated market, early career researchers are easily discouraged by an uncertain future. This is also fraught with many mental issues, ranging from a sense of isolation to increased stress. Credit for articulating these problems and turning them into a formal programme should go to people like Dr Kelly, who positively influenced me and many others while doing our postgraduate study. At its core, the Rokos-PDRA programme provides a community to deal with these problems. At the same time, it bridges the gap between the MCR and SCR.

## My scientific research

The scope of my research has dramatically widened from my years in Bolivia and America. I started doing Anthropological Archaeology working on religious beliefs and two-thousand-year-old tombs and skeletons in the Titicaca Basin. I then moved to the archaeology of Amazonia in Eastern Bolivia and the discovery of mysterious earthen structures in the jungle (you can watch some of it on YouTube!). Today, I have inherited a lot of the work that was started by my supervisor in the Fens. This project is a



mix of Quaternary science and archaeology. It engages with resilience issues and the "inevitability" of climate change. Did you know, for example, that 7000 years ago, the Fens looked more like northern Canada? Or that this "featureless" landscape is actually the result of the ocean coming as close as 15 km from Cambridge only 2000 years ago?

## The road ahead

My time in Cambridge is slowly coming to an end. I would like to go back to Bolivia, taking everything, I have learned and all the experience I have, and see what I can do over there. The research community back there is so small! And politics are at the forefront of everything. It is a difficult place, but it is ultimately home.

I have to say that there is a lot I have learned from my time in Cambridge. In America, there is a pathologic obsession with individual prowess and "leadership". Queens' reminded me that in the pursuit of knowledge we are certainly not alone. I have worked hard, but, if anything, my experience is an excellent example of "building on the shoulders of giants". My great grandparents, Jorge and Teodoro, were both classic 19th century explorers. My grandfather Flavio, a renowned industrialist and patron of the arts; his cousin, the Bolivian historian Humberto Vasquez Machicado. My father is about to publish his fourth book on Latin American politics during the cold war. My sister, an economic historian.

There is nothing I would like more than to take Queens' with me back to Bolivia. I sympathise quite a lot with the pains and woes of Andrew Docket as, with my family, we set upon creating a charity, a college away from Cambridge, with my grandfather's estate. Maybe one day, if my luck remains, the College crest will be carved in a rather unusual place, 3750 metres above sea level, in the middle of the Andes. I'll make sure everyone is invited!



# Tackling 'badness' on the internet

Professor Alastair Beresford

## Background

BA & PhD, Computer Science, University of Cambridge

Recipient of a Pilkington Prize from the University in recognition of excellence in teaching

*Robin Walker Fellow* and Joint Director of Studies in Computer Science at Queens', and Deputy Head of the Department of Computer Science & Technology

Co-Director of the Centre for Mobile, Wearable Systems and Augmented Intelligence

Co-Investigator at the Cambridge Cybercrime Centre

Co-directs the development of the Isaac Learning Platform, with **Professor Andrew Rice**

## What's your specialism?

I look at Computer Security, improving our understanding of whether people's mobile phones, wristwatches, home automation systems or industrial control systems are secure against attackers. Connected with this is the idea of privacy, and the complicated question of what it means to have privacy while you use computing devices connected to the Internet.

## Why should Computer Scientists, and others, choose Queens'?

We have a great sense of community among Computer Scientists at Queens'.

This relies on having a good cohort size of six-to-eight students per year – not too big that no one knows each other, and not too small either. We are also really lucky to have four Fellows in Computer Science, including myself, **Professor Andrew Rice (Hassabis Fellow)**, **Professor Neil Lawrence (DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning)**, and **Dr Ramsey Faragher** as a Bye-Fellow.

Each Fellow has a particular research speciality, which means students have a range of people



to teach different subject specialties. Also, if students are undertaking a third- or fourth-year project, one of us is usually aligned reasonably closely with their chosen interests and can offer sage words of advice.

We get the students together every week for a meeting. Students give presentations, ask questions, get to know one another and build up a sense of community, with Andrew, Neil, Ramsey or myself there as well to cheerlead! It's incredible to see the quality of discussion that arises as well as the interest and passion from the students.

The idea of the weekly meeting started with **Dr Robin Walker** and continues to this day, and while we have been holding these talks remotely during the pandemic, they remain a really good way to catch-up with one another and work together as a community.

## The Robin Walker effect: a tough act to follow

Robin has left very big shoes to fill – he has done so much for Queens' in so many different ways. At least in the Computer Science slice of what he achieved, I will do my best to keep up with him!

It is clear that Robin was really celebrated – indeed revered – by alumni; they have decided to donate to support my Fellowship due to his care, attention, teaching and encouragement – that is wonderful to see.

It's also amazing to know that this Fellowship will be there forever and will carry on supporting teaching for Computer Science at Queens' for many, many years to come.

## Breaking down barriers

There is a stereotype around Computer Science, that it's a male or a 'boys' thing, for geeky people who sit in their bedrooms and don't like to talk to others. We need to work hard to counter that potential barrier with applicants.

There are fewer female Computer Sciences undergraduates than male at the University level, across the UK and across much of the globe. This isn't something that can be addressed overnight; it needs projects like Isaac Computer Science reaching back into schools and persuading students from an early age about the benefits of studying Computer Science, both because it's a subject that's innately interesting, and also because there are good career opportunities upon graduation.

At Queens', we tend to have a reasonably good number of female students, compared to the University and national average, but it is still not 50:50 and we are constantly striving to do better.

## Outside work

I have two small children that I love spending time with. At the moment, my wife and I are home-schooling for a lot of the time, but there's still time for play.

I really enjoy making stuff; I enjoy woodworking, metalworking and I've got some old motorbikes that I like to look after and ride. I make all sorts of things, from motorbike parts to wardrobes and other bits of furniture, and from catapults to bows and arrows with my children.



Alastair's 1938 Rudge Ulster

# In focus

## The Cambridge Cybercrime Centre

Around half of all crime, by both volume and monetary value, is online. Compared to the resources we invest in physical crime, we are currently under-resourced in tackling this threat.

This is partly because cybercrime is newer, but I suppose it is also a reflection of the fact that, at least at the moment, some of the most serious crimes such as murder are not possible wholly online.

I am co-investigator at the Cambridge Cybercrime Centre. We collect data about 'badness' on the internet, and one of our aims is to understand what the cybercrime landscape looks like. In order to try and do this "at scale" part of our mission is to share data with other researchers in the UK and beyond.

## Isaac Computer Science

Professor Andrew Rice and I have always been keen on teaching innovation. We sensed an opportunity to support and help students and schoolteachers in subjects where traditionally they have struggled to hire specialist graduates to teach, such as Physics, Maths and Computer Science.

In 2013, Andrew Rice and I teamed up with Professor Mark Warner and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright to set up **IsaacPhysics.org**, an online platform with lots of activities and questions in Physics and Maths to support student learning through problem solving. In 2018, Andrew and I expanded this to create **IsaacComputerScience.org** by partnering with Raspberry Pi, a charity and computing education spin-out from our Department.

The benefits for students are numerous, but one I think is especially important is immediate feedback. The student answers questions on the site and is immediately told whether they have got the answer right or not. If they haven't, there is graduated scaffolded feedback: a series of clues and hints giving more information with the aim of nudging the learner to the correct answer. These might set out the important principles or provide diagrams, and the last one is usually a video of a scientist working through the question, but not all the way to the answer. The idea is to help the student become unstuck and get to the right answer themselves.

The platform is also an important support tool for teachers. The major boon is of course that we mark all the work for them! Teachers are under huge amounts of pressure, particularly at the moment, so we hope that this is something they can use alongside traditional methods to alleviate that pressure somewhat.

There is also an outreach element to Isaac as well, because of course students at schools where they don't have access to a specialist teacher will be most in need of the additional help. The platform is paid for by

One example that we are interested in is booter and stresser services. These are services that you can pay for online that will send so much traffic to another computer of your choice that it prevents this computer from communicating on the Internet.

People using these range from computer gamers wanting to take another player offline to win a game, or people looking for more direct financial reward by extorting money out of a small company by threatening to take them offline unless they pay a ransom.

We look at the technical mechanics of illegal activities like these, but we also work with criminologists and social scientists in the team who look at the broader picture: how people get involved in this world; the pathways into this crime; how one might come up with policy and legal mechanisms to try and reduce the prevalence of it; and so on.

the Department for Education, so it is free at the point of use, for anyone in the world, although of course our focus is on the English education system and most of our users are in the UK.

Overall the project has been hugely successful: we have had over 350,000 school children and 10,000 teachers register with at least one of our platforms since launch. The students have been busy too, submitting over 70 million question attempts to date.





# College Highlights

## A new Senior Tutor & Admissions Tutor



**Dr Andrew Thompson** has been appointed as the new Senior Tutor of Queens'. Dr Thompson read History at Queens' and became a Fellow in 2002, more recently leading our outreach work as Admissions Tutor.

Dr Thompson said: "I am both grateful and honoured for the trust that my colleagues have shown in asking me to become the next Senior Tutor of Queens'. I have benefitted hugely, both intellectually and personally, through my association with the College as first a student and now as a Fellow. We have all had to face considerable difficulties over the past 12 months. I am proud of the way in which the College has responded to support those within our community most in need. I look forward to working with students, staff and Fellows as we look beyond the immediate crisis to decide what sort of place Queens' should be over the next few years. I want our College to continue to be open, outward-looking and sustainable as we think about new ways to make these values a reality in 2021 and beyond."

The College expresses its gratitude to **Professor Martin Dixon**, Acting Senior Tutor since last year, and to **Dr James Kelly**, Fellow in English

and Senior Tutor from 2009 to 2020. Both Professor Dixon and Dr Kelly continue to hold Fellowships at the College.

**Dr Jane Garrison** has been appointed as the new Admissions Tutor. Dr Garrison has made important contributions to Queens', including through her teaching, as our Financial Tutor and Harassment & Assault Officer, and through her participation in Senior Officers and Tutorial meetings.



Dr Garrison said: "I am delighted to have been asked to become the new Admissions Tutor for Queens', though somewhat daunted by the knowledge that I will be following in Andrew's excellent record of widening access. I am someone who has personally benefitted from the life-changing experience that a Cambridge education can bring. As such, I am deeply committed to ensuring that we continue to attract the most talented applicants we can, irrespective of their background. As the Admissions Team continues to reach out across the diverse sectors of society, we look forward to welcoming new students into the stimulating environment that the College has to offer."

## Expanding our intellectual society: two new Professorial Fellows

**Professor Lucia Reisch** has been appointed *El-Erian Professor of Behavioural Economics & Policy* at the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) in the University of Cambridge. She will lead the newly funded El-Erian Institute, which aims to help transform approaches to economic research, exerting a significant influence on the formation and implementation of economic policy. The Professorship will be situated in POLIS and the Professor will also become a Fellow at Queens'.

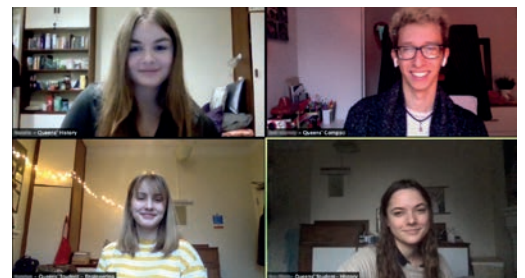


**Professor Mauro F. Guillén** has been appointed the next **Director of Cambridge Judge Business School** and will take up a Professorial Fellowship at Queens'. Professor Guillén has taught at the Wharton School since 1996 and was the Anthony L. Davis Director of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies from 2007-2019. His current research deals with the internationalization of the firm, and with the impact of globalization on patterns of organization and on the diffusion of innovations and crises.

## Candidates 'zoom' in to view...

The undergraduate admissions interviews last December were held entirely online.

- More than 900 applications
- Around 700 were interviewed
- A team of more than 100 interviewers, mainly Fellows
- ... And 23 current students, running test calls and solving technical problems



**The student helpers' zoom call. It was open all day for candidates to drop in to ask questions or for a chat.**

## Awards for our Fellows and students

This year's *Prizes for Outstanding Contributions to College Education* have been awarded to **Dr Paul Bambrough (Medicine)**, pictured, and **Dr Graham Denyer Willis (Geography)**.



Additionally, four Queens' students received *Outstanding Student Contribution to Education* awards from the University:

- **Abigail Smith (Geography)**, Winner, Inclusive Practice
- **Akhila Kadgathur Jayaram (PhD candidate, Physics)**, Winner, Inclusive Practice
- **Ellie Payne (Linguistics)**, Winner, Peer Support
- **Sanjan Das (Engineering)**, Highly Commended, Innovative Practice

Abigail Smith: "Since arriving at Queens' Abi has stepped right into making the College and the University a better place for current and future students. Abi's exceptional patience, kindness and dedication to improve the learning experience has both fostered and forced very clear changes within the University of Cambridge."

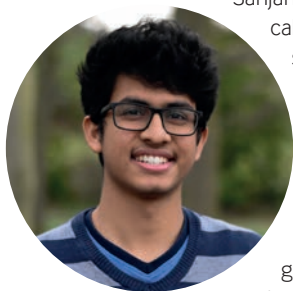


Akhila Kadgathur Jayaram: "As a co-president of *Cavendish Inspiring Womxn* over the past two years, Akhila's ideas and vitality have helped the organisation to better support students and staff. Akhila was instrumental in leading a mentorship programme that has helped to support womxn in physics from undergraduates through to early-career researchers."

Ellie Payne: "Navigating intermission (taking time out from a degree) can be really tricky at the best of times, and it was an issue we within the Disabled Students' Campaign were aware of but did not have adequate support for. Ellie has been running Intermission Socials for students thinking about, applying for or returning from intermission, as well as running an online group."



Sanjan Das: "Sanjan pioneered a programme called MEDx at the University of Cambridge, supported by the Cambridge MedTech Foundation. This programme educated students on medical technology, an underrepresented field in the University, via a series of free talks that involved speakers from different backgrounds, from entrepreneurs to clinician-researchers, giving students a wide perspective on what the medical technology field involves."



## Fellows' awards

**Dr Ella McPherson**, *Anthony L. Lyster Fellow in Sociology*, has won a CUP Prize for Cambridge's Digital Verification Corps (DVC) which she runs with a group of students and is a project to discover and verify digital evidence for Amnesty International. The students are trained in open source investigation skills to evaluate online evidence of human rights abuses and support Amnesty and other human rights groups in their work.



**Professor Marie Edmonds**, *Ron Oxburgh Fellow in Earth Sciences* and Vice President of Queens', has been awarded The Bigsby Medal from The Geological Society and The Joanne Simpson Medal for Mid-Career Scientists from the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in their 2020 Honours.

**Dr Chris Smith**, Fellow Commoner, virologist and part of the *Naked Scientist* podcast, has received the Contribution to Education award from the Royal College of Pathologists. Since Covid-19 began, Chris has been a frequent presence on television and radio, speaking to millions. He has contributed clear, reassuring messages and advice about the pandemic and the effect it is having on people's lives.



## A new JCR Committee

**Jacob Turner (2019, English)** has been elected as the new JCR President, following **Tomos Wood (2017, Engineering)**:

"It's a real honour to be elected JCR President and to continue what Tomos and last year's committee achieved. We've all had a difficult and unconventional year, and with the help of the newly elected JCR committee I can't wait to play a part in getting us back to something that resembles normality! Like everyone else, I'm really missing Queens' and its community and hopefully we can be back coordinating events and working in person again soon."







*The 1st Queens Women's Eight 1980, left to right: Diana McLaren; Nichola Davis; Georgia Kaufmann; Amma Kyei-Mensah; Liz Bertoya; Louise Dolman; Sonia Stein and Rachel Arnold*

# 40 years of women at Queens'

From our first female JCR President, **Dr Nichola Davis**...

**To say I was underprepared** on my first day arriving at Queens' is an understatement!

We had all read about the College Stag Event in the national paper but to be honest I had not given it much thought – perhaps as a naïve school leaver from an all-girls Catholic school I should have.

The first few days were tremendous fun and very carefully put together. All the new undergraduates were kept busy and supported, and in my subject (Medicine) there were mentor students arranged for us.

Sure, there was the odd comment, but in hindsight all the College staff from the Porters to the Catering team were incredibly welcoming and keen for the female undergraduates to settle in well. There was also a very close bond between us first-year girls: it went without saying that we all looked after one another.



*The Scorpions*



*Nichola at her graduation*

We rapidly formed a female sports/arts/social team for the College in every area – I have never played so much sport in my life! A personal highlight was taking part in the first women's eight and four, and (what felt like) the whole of Queens' turning up to see how we went at the Bumps.

It was a no-brainer that the all-male JCR Committee could benefit from a female representative now the College was co-ed. From what I recall, I was the only woman who agreed to stand; the saying, 'If not me, who?' springs to mind!

Joining the JCR Committee, first as a Second Year Rep and then as President, seemed the natural thing to do to promote equality and the male students were as supportive as the female. I do recall that my lovely opposition candidate at the elections for Second Year Rep said that he had voted for me because he agreed that we needed a female representative. Once elected, I and the Committee concentrated on making feminist gains to influence previously male dominated areas of the College.

Once I became JCR President, I don't think my gender made any difference. It was a very steep learning curve and developed a larger political agenda than I was initially expecting: I had to grow up fast and I learned a great deal, especially about myself, standing me in good stead for various life challenges ahead.

**My memories of Queens' are some of the fondest in my life. I am sure every Queens' cohort is special in their own way and I certainly believe that I was very privileged to walk alongside the women and men who made up the matriculation year of 1980.**



1980 Reminiscences,  
from (perhaps) the first  
female student to walk  
into the Porters' Lodge...

## Dr Kate Younger

**On my first day**, I bounded into the Porters' Lodge and announced that I had come to join the College. The Porter looked me up and down and said in a very disapproving voice: "Have you, Miss? We'll see about that..."

As a postgraduate student, I was up earlier than the undergraduates; I arrived in September, when my PhD in Biological Sciences at the Dunn Nutrition Unit began. I was very innocent and didn't realise that Queens' had only just started to accept women; in the prospectus all it said was that Queens' accepts women, and I had been recommended to apply here by a friend.

So that was quite an amusing introduction to the College! Afterwards I wandered over to the MCR common room, which was a very friendly spot and somewhere I gravitated towards throughout my three years.



*Kate and Anthony in 1981*

Not living in the College itself, I didn't spend huge amounts of time there. Almost the only College rooms I saw the interior of were **Dr Andy Cosh's** when we sat down for our termly tutor meetings. I dined in College on Sunday evenings in term – as a member of the Chapel choir I got a free dinner! – and for the occasional formal on High Table. This was always a rather daunting exercise, although there wasn't any kind of snootiness; the Fellows I talked to were always very interested in what I was doing, and very encouraging.

The main reason I came in to College was to sing in the choir, which I loved. It was a great group of people and I always found the singing very uplifting; it stops you thinking about anything else, because you have to concentrate. So even though your work might not be going so well, or you have hundreds of other things to think about, when you're singing in choir it takes your mind off everything else.

Choir rehearsals held another attraction for me, in the form of a charming tenor from St Catharine's College, **Anthony Harvey**. We first met in MagSoc, where he sang from one side of the Chapel and I, a soprano, sang

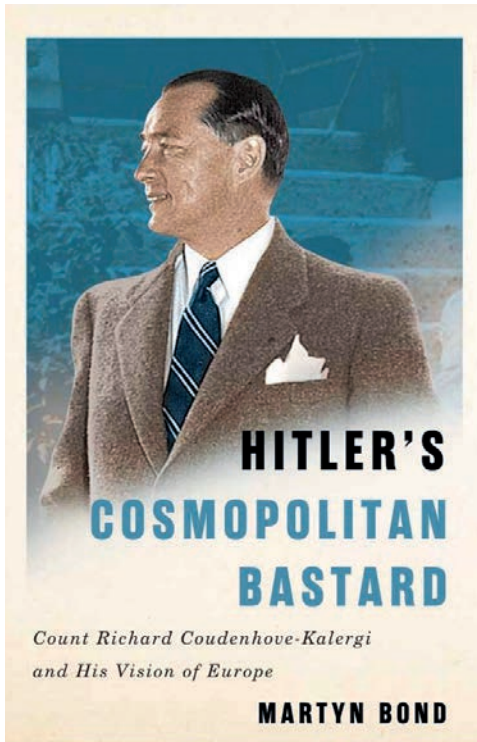
from the other. We became good friends and suffice to say that the Chapel choir sang at our wedding two years later!

Anthony had grown up in Cambridge, a sort of town and gown person, if you will. Shortly before we were engaged, my parents were coming up, and they hadn't really got to know him at all. So I was trying to think how I was going to impress them with this man and realised that Anthony should take us punting; he has been punting from his cradle! So off we went, and he was brilliant of course, and the rest is history.

It has been lovely to stay in touch with the Queens' community. I attended a 30th anniversary reunion dinner in 2010 and the 40th anniversary Zoom call last term; I didn't know many of the undergraduates in my year, but it was extremely interesting to come on these calls and hear about the amazing things everyone is doing. **I have gone down the academic route and many others are excelling in a wide range of fields – it is a wonderful cohort to be part of.**



# Hot off the press



## *Hitler's Cosmopolitan Bastard*

**Dr Martyn Bond (1961)**

In *Mein Kampf* Hitler described Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi as a 'cosmopolitan bastard' because Pan-Europa, the political movement he set up in the 1920s, rivalled the Nazis. Hitler damned his mixed race and his illegitimate origins, the son of an Austro-Hungarian diplomat and his geisha consort who married to secure an inheritance in Bohemia. The Count's political movement attracted Europe's artistic and intellectual elite. They flocked to his Congresses – Freud and Einstein among them – equally enthralled by his famous Jewish wife, Ida Roland, Vienna's answer to Sarah Bernhardt. He was the model for Viktor Laszlo in *Casablanca*, high on the Gestapo wanted list since he knew leading anti-Nazis across the whole continent. The Americans spirited him away from Lisbon in 1940, while MI5 blocked his visa application in London. Later he nudged Truman and Marshall to favour European federation, lobbied for a Council of Europe, advised Churchill, brokered Franco-German reconciliation and finished on De Gaulle's payroll.

## *The Dressmaker of Paris*

**Dr Georgia Kaufmann (1980)**

"I need to tell you a story, ma chère. My story."

Rosa Kusstatscher has built a global fashion empire upon her ability to find the perfect outfit for any occasion. But tonight, as she prepares for the most important meeting of her life, her usual certainty eludes her.



What brought her to this moment? As she struggles to select her dress and choose the right shade of lipstick, Rosa begins to tell her incredible story. The story of a poor country girl from a village high in the mountains of Italy. Of Nazi occupation and fleeing in the night. Of hope and heartbreak in Switzerland; glamour and love in Paris. Of ambition and devastation in Rio de Janeiro; success and self-discovery in New York.

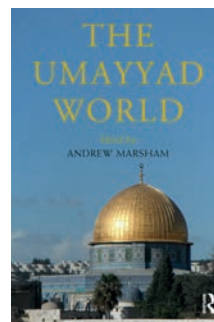
A life spent running, she sees now. But she will run no longer.

## *The Umayyad World*

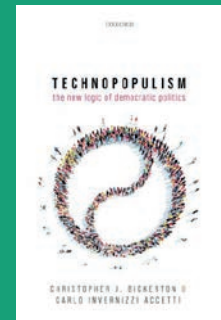
Edited by **Dr Andrew Marsham (Fellow)**

*The Umayyad World* encompasses the archaeology, history, art, and architecture of the Umayyad era (644–750 CE).

This era was formative both for world history and for the history of Islam. Subjects covered in detail in this collection include regions conquered in Umayyad times, ethnic and religious identity among the conquerors, political thought and culture, administration and the law, art and architecture, the history of religion, pilgrimage and the Qur'an, and violence and rebellion. Close attention is paid to new methods of analysis and interpretation, including source critical studies of the historiography and interdisciplinary approaches combining literary sources and material evidence.



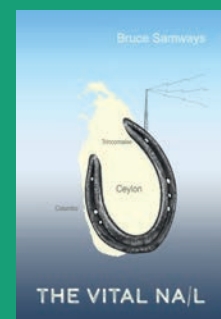
## More published books



*Technopopulism: The New Logic of Democratic Politics*  
**Dr Chris Bickerton (Fellow)**

*Treating the Brain: An Odyssey*  
**Professor Barry Blackwell (1954)**

*Engaging with Chaucer: Practice, Authority Reading & Hungry Heart Roaming: An Odyssey of Sorts*  
**Dr Charles Moseley (1959)**

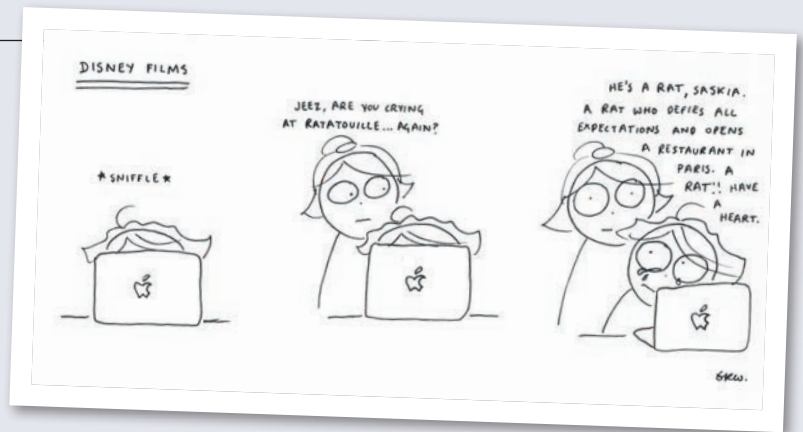


*The Vital Nail*  
**Bruce Samways (m. 1937), posthumous**

*The Giant's Almanac*  
**Dr Andrew Zurcher (Fellow)**



Saskia & Emma in their room



One of Emma's cartoons, featuring Saskia

# My room (mate)

Emma Wood and Saskia Baylis (2014) – Fisher, X10.

### First impressions...

Saskia: I remember arriving in Cambridge and knowing there were seven other English students at Queens', and ticking them off one by one as I met them!

### Choosing rooms

Emma: When it came to choose rooms for second year, it felt natural that Saskia and I would share.

As mine was the bigger, front room, we used it as a living room. Whenever people came by, we would socialise in there. I was quite proud of my interior decoration skills, so I did like it when people would come and tell me how nice it was. We would quickly close the door between rooms so they didn't catch sight of Saskia's room, which was always extremely messy!

### Extra-curricular

Saskia: I did a lot of theatre from second year onwards, stage managing and producing shows at the ADC theatre. I knew that this was something I wanted a career in and I now work for a West End theatre.

Emma: Meanwhile, I did a lot of drawing. I started a cartoon strip called *The Little Cartoonist*, which were vignettes of humorous things that happened to me, including a few that featured our shared room. I also drew posters for shows at the ADC, including for the first show Saskia ever produced, *A Winter's Tale*.

Second year sparked what I really love about drawing: it's a passion I hope to pursue through my life. I am currently doing a Master's in Children's Book Illustration at The Cambridge School of Art.

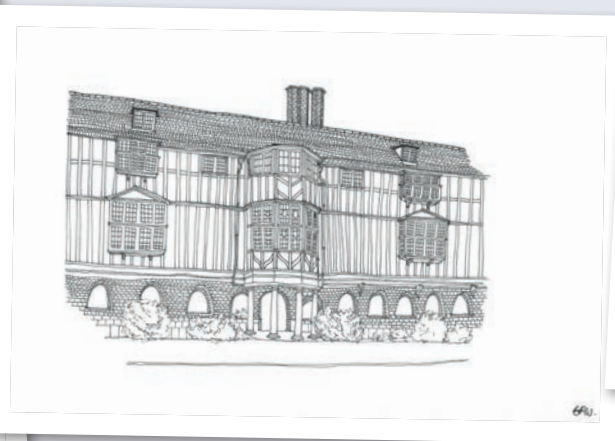
### Beyond Queens'...

Emma: I applied to teach English abroad over the summer between second and third year. I couldn't face going back home and working in Tesco as I had the previous summer. So, I went as far away from Tesco as possible, and got a job teaching English in Japan!

Saskia: Meanwhile, I went up to the Edinburgh Fringe. I went all three summers, and in third year was lucky enough to go with the Footlights and follow up our Fringe run with a tour around America as their stage manager. I'm not an actor, but I still was able to have these amazing opportunities just because I was good at being organised and remembering some props!



The Winter's Tale poster



The President's Lodge, by Emma



Senate House finale



The impact of your donations at Queens'

Read more on all these initiatives and other fundraising projects from Queens' in *Floreat Domus*.

# Making a difference...

## Completed Fellowships

### *The Shvidler Fellowship in Natural Sciences*

has been established through a munificent benefaction from **Mr Eugene Shvidler**, a friend of the College. This is the first endowed College Fellowship in Natural Sciences and the inaugural holder will direct studies across the science disciplines, as well as teaching their own specialism. Supervisions in Natural Sciences have been under great pressure and so this Fellowship addresses the greatest teaching need in College. Mr Shvidler has been elected to a Fellow Benefactorship as an expression of the Governing Body's gratitude.




*The Shvidler Fellowship* joins *The John Eatwell Fellowship* as the only other fully-endowed College teaching post at Queens'. A further 20 University Teaching Officer Fellowships have been endowed through the generosity of our benefactors. This is a vital part of our efforts to attract and retain world class academics now and in the years to come. The inaugural Shvidler Fellow will hopefully be appointed for the Michaelmas Term.

We were delighted to welcome some of the donors to the recently-completed **The Robin Walker Fellowship** to a celebratory online call, along with Dr Walker himself and a number of other Computer Science Fellows at Queens'.

His former students recounted tales from their interviews and supervisions, as well as Dr Walker remembering how he ensured that one of them, who was asleep in their room, made it to their Computer Science exam which had just started.


Robin, as the "father of Computer Science" at Queens', has seen many changes over time including the upsurge in applications and the rising numbers of female students reading the subject.



### Endowment

Building up our endowment is of vital importance in enabling Queens' to be prepared for any and all challenges. Donors who give £10,000 towards the endowment are given the opportunity to place a name plaque above their former College room.

Recent room plaques have been set outside the rooms of **Risto Paju (1988)** and **Dr Demis Hassabis (1994 & Hon Fellow)**. Tamara Boston (middle) is the current occupant of X11.



## Ongoing fundraising campaigns

We have a number of projects that we continue to work on, including:

- **The Stuart Bridge Fellowship in Law.** With the warm support of Stuart's widow **Professor Beverley Glover** and their family, the Governing Body has proposed to endow a Fellowship in honour of our late friend and colleague, to sit alongside those of Sir Arthur Armitage and Sir Derek Bowett. **£400,000 of the £600,000 required to endow this Fellowship has already been pledged.**

Stuart was fiercely proud of his Leeds background. From there, he stormed the cloisters of Queens' College in his modest, understated way: Entrance Exhibition, Foundation Scholarship, Joshua King Prize, and the top First in the University Law Tripos in 1980. He played 1st XI football, captained the 2nd XI and remained a committed Leeds United fan through thick and thin.

He went on to become variously a Fellow, Director of Studies, Tutor and Admissions Tutor of Queens'. He was also a barrister, a Law Commissioner and a Circuit Judge. He also sat in the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal. People have said of him: "he was loved, not just respected and adored" and that "he was the perfect Judge, without any sense of judgitus".

- **Professor Lisa Hall CBE**

will retire at the end of the next academical year after many years as a Fellow and some time as Vice President. Fundraising has begun for **The Lisa Hall Postgraduate Scholarship** in honour particularly of her work with the graduate community, with an inaugural donation received from **Dr Jan Onno Reiners (1994)**.

This scholarship, once endowed, will provide a full fees and maintenance grant for a PhD student. **£500,000 of the £1million needed for this scholarship has been pledged.**



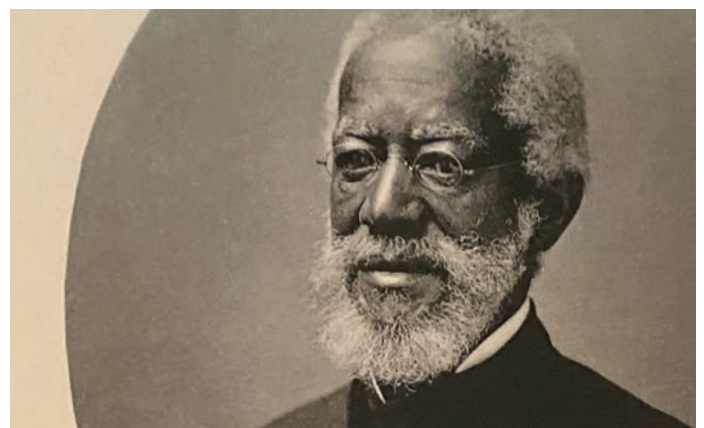
- The Earth Sciences Fund, providing funds to Queens' Earth Scientists to help them with academic-related extras, such as participating in additional research projects and book and equipment costs. **£45,000 to complete this Fund.**
- The Henry St John Hart Fund, commemorating Henry Hart's immense contribution to Queens' and endowing a subject fund to support our Theology students. **£42,000 to complete this Fund.**
- Queens' Women, this project, led by the President, will commission new portraits to will pay tribute to the women who have broken new ground at Queens' and celebrate the diverse and accomplished membership of the College. **An alumnus has pledged to match all donations to this project. £28,000 has been pledged so far.**

For further details about any of these projects, please contact [development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk).

## Scholarships

**The Alexander Crummell Scholarships** have been established as an exciting opportunity for UK-based students who would not otherwise have the means to consider continuing on to Master's and PhD level study. This new cluster of postgraduate scholarships will provide funding to cover full fees and living expenses as well as mentoring and support for students in science subjects.

Read more about this, and all the postgraduate funding opportunities we provide, in *Floreat Domus*. It is a key priority for Queens' to encourage those from access backgrounds to go on to postgraduate study by removing barriers which currently prevent them from doing so.





## Student Support

The ongoing generosity of alumni, Fellows and friends of Queens' has now provided more than £290,000 for **The COVID-19 Student Support Fund**, including recent principal gifts towards the fund from **Richard Waddington (1988)** and **Michael Davidson (1974)**. Read more about this Fund in the enclosed *Floreat Domus* magazine, including testimonies from student recipients and a full list of donors.

**The Streetly Fund in Natural Sciences** has been established with a gift of £150,000 from the Streetly family and **Mike Streetly (1983)**. This Fund will support the academic activities of Natural Sciences students at Queens', including academic-related travel; books, equipment and dissertation expenses; research projects; and attendance at conferences, lectures and academic society events. The Fund is to be fully endowed at £200,000 and is open for donations to help us reach this target.



**G. John Streetly**

The gift is given in memory of **G. John Streetly (1949)**, who came to Queens' from a "non-traditional" background in Trinidad as the Barbados Island Scholar. He won a Boxing Blue in 1951 as well as swimming and coxing for the College and was a member of the University Air Squadron. He was a member of The Night Climbers and CU Mountaineering Club, climbing with **George Band (1949)** of Everest renown.

**The Geography Fund** has been completed with a principal benefaction from **Philip Cox (1970)**. It will provide an annual allowance for the Director of Studies, **Dr Graham Denyer Willis**, to allocate to support the academic activities of Geography students at Queens'. In 2015, Dr Denyer Willis became the College's first ever Fellow in Geography and in 2018 his position was endowed in perpetuity as **The Chris Rokos Fellow in Geography**. In 2018, the College also appointed **Dr Rachael Turton** as a Teaching Associate in Geography. This Fund builds on this momentum and secures the subject's growth into the future.

**The Taylor Prize for MML & History** and **The Taylor Travel Bursary** have been endowed through the generosity of **Nigel Taylor (1979)**. The Prize will be awarded on academic merit, while the Travel Bursary will help MML students with academic related travel costs, including assistance with the year abroad undertaken as part of the MML Tripos and to support vacation travel to countries relevant to students' studies.



**Dr Graham Denyer Willis**



**Dr Rachael Turton**

# Where are they now?

## Following the careers of former JCR and MCR Presidents, post-Queens'...

### Jo Owen (1977)

#### Background

BA, History at Queens'

JCR President 1979-80

First job at Procter & Gamble: The best nappy salesperson in Birmingham

Master's in Business Administration at London Business School

Founder of many not-for-profit start-ups, including Teach First, the UK's largest graduate recruiter which turns recent graduates into teachers and leaders in schools in challenging areas

Author of many bestselling books and four time winner of the Chartered Institute of Management Gold Medal

#### Halcyon Days

I think it is probably an overstatement to say I read History at Queens'; I read Football, Drama and College Union, followed in fourth place by History.

In my first year my tutor was **Jonathan Riley-Smith**. I think it was after my second essay over the second glass of sherry, when he peered at me and said: "You're not at risk of getting a First, are you?"

After that, we came to an arrangement: I would not embarrass him academically, and he would let me do other things as well.

#### Playing football with the Queens' President

I was on the College 1<sup>st</sup> XI. I made the judicious decision to stay in goal as figured I was more likely to get into the first team. I was the classic dodgy goalkeeper and was eternally grateful that I had some very good players in front of me, including the current President, **Mohamed El-Erian**. Mohamed simply did not let anyone past; on a couple of occasions he may have made some tackles which were actually legal!



### The Bats

I also did a huge amount with the Bats. I started by trying to act and realised I really should not inflict myself on any audience, anywhere. So I became a technical director and later treasurer of the society, and produced quite a few shows myself. They were all slightly hairy and we were always desperately trying to make ends meet, as the Bats was not subsidised.

This was actually a fantastic discipline and I learned a huge amount about the art of the hustle and making things happen, which was immensely useful many years later, when I started being entrepreneurial.

### Post-Queens': careering

Career is both a noun and a verb. Some people go off and have a career. For me, it has been a verb; I career from highs to lows and back again. I think what Queens' gave me was the confidence to experiment, try new things, hustle and most importantly to dive right in and enjoy it. Those are invaluable lessons, and not ones you learn in the corporate world – quite the opposite.

So I started my career equipped with a mindset which made me remarkably poorly suited to the corporate world, but very well suited to the entrepreneurial world, which I ended up pursuing probably more by accident than design.

After my first job, I took my Masters in Business Administration at the London Business School and then went through a few things, including building a business in Japan without speaking Japanese, becoming a partner at Accenture, getting sued for \$12 billion and starting up a banking idea that was immediately bought out.

### Making one's own luck...

After that, I was kicking my heels in San Francisco. One afternoon, I heard a radio interview about a project in San Francisco that took great graduates to teach in the inner city, called *Teach for America*.

I felt that someone should do something more with this idea. I phoned the company to ask for the CEO, who told me that McKinsey had interviewed her for a project they were working on in London.

Next, I phoned McKinsey. We sat down together in their offices and *Teach First* was born.

That experience showed me that you don't need to be a genius or come up with new ideas; brilliant ideas are being presented to us the whole time, if we just look and listen. I have spoken with a lot of entrepreneurs and very few of them have deliberately designed their success. You could say they have been lucky, but in practice I find we always make our own luck.

### Future leaders & waiting for the revolution

Right from day one, we were clear that with *Teach First* we were not just creating great teachers for the classroom; we were creating leaders for the future, within schools, the education system and society more broadly.

When I was recruiting for *Teach First* on campus for the very first year, 'creating future leaders' was the proposition I put to soon-to-be graduates. I told them that we are starting a revolution, but it will take twenty years, as that is how long it will take for these people to work their way into real leadership positions. That was about seventeen years ago, so I've only got three years to wait now until the revolution really starts.

### Tips for aspiring entrepreneurs...

I think it can be a little patronising to offer generic advice. I will say one thing I have discovered, and whether that is useful or not is another matter.

When I was starting the banking idea, before *Teach First*, I worked out that it would cost a billion pounds to get it going. I checked my bank account, and I was more than a billion pounds short.

So, I went to the CEO of a bank. We sat down to discuss my idea and after a while he asked how much it was going to cost. As casually as I could, I said: "Oh, about a billion pounds." He didn't bat an eyelid. "Good," he said, "if you'd asked for any less, you wouldn't have been serious."

Being ambitious really helps, because that is how you can make a real difference and be taken seriously. You will fail sometimes, but then you can learn, and turn that into success. Go for it!





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