A heartfelt thank you

Donor Report
1 August 2017 – 31 July 2018

St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford
We are so thankful to all of our kind and generous donors at St Hugh’s. I am regularly amazed by your dedication and commitment to ensuring the best for our students. It is such a pleasure to be part of a community like ours, that inspires, supports, and helps to drive the important work we do. The last financial year was no exception, raising over £3.7 million from nearly 1,000 donors.

We have received a tremendous amount of support for our students including Ken Randall’s generous gift to establish our first full-time, dedicated Outreach Officer. We are also so thankful to Stephen and the late Caroline Lynas (Forest Sciences & Agriculture, 1973) for their generous gift to support Undergraduate Bursaries in memory of Caroline. We were honoured to be given a beautiful Art Deco diamond brooch for auction at Bonhams in April 2018. With bids from around the world, this spectacular brooch raised over £160,000, which will support new projects at St Hugh’s.

In 2017/18 we were notified of two very generous legacies, Dr Margaret Belcher (English Language & Literature, 1958) and Mrs Jeanette Cockshoot (English Language & Literature, 1944). Dr Belcher’s gift has established, and permanently endowed, a Visiting Fellowship in Victorian Studies. The College is working as Executor for Mrs Cockshoot’s estate, and her very generous legacy will have a tremendous impact for our Music students and the musical life of the College.

With the generous support and foresight of Trevor and Dominica Yang, we were able to offer the groundbreaking exhibition ‘Shen Fuzong: the first Chinese visitor to Oxford’ in the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building. The portrait, generously loaned to us from the Royal Collection, was displayed alongside fascinating exhibits from leading collections and archives including the British Library, the Bodleian Libraries, the Ashmolean Museum, Trinity College, Oxford, and Christ Church College, Oxford. The exhibition was a tremendous success, offering a new and unique view on Shen Fuzong as well as east-west relations, and we hope that all of our alumni, donors, and friends had the opportunity to visit the exhibition.

This year we recognised once again the outstanding philanthropic support of a number of the College’s most generous donors. In May 2018, we were delighted to bestow an Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellowship on Zhujun and Joey Chen at a special ceremony in Hong Kong. We are again so overwhelmed by all of your generosity and continued support of the College. Join me in celebrating our donors and the impact your generous gifts can and do have across our community.

Thank you again for your support,

The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini
DBE QC FRSE
**Student Support**

Donors generously supported students through an array of bursaries, scholarships, awards, and hardship grants to undergraduate and graduate students. In 2018, we awarded 32 hardship grants, 27 travel grants, supported three students on their year abroad, as well as 42 research travel requests. We awarded over £70,000 in College prizes, supported over £80,000 in vacation residence requests, and in total, provided over £135,000 in support to undergraduates, graduates, and associate senior members.

**Outreach**

It is with Ken Randall’s generous support that the College was able to appoint our first full-time Outreach Officer, Elena Sorochina. Appointed over the summer, Lena is an experienced outreach officer who has already welcomed over 250 students and their teachers to St Hugh’s, offering them the opportunity to learn about the application process, get a taste of Oxford, and to meet current undergraduate students. While many of these visits were from schools with whom we have ongoing collaborations, we were also delighted to build new links with schools in Kent, our Oxford outreach area.

We have maintained and expanded our existing collaborations with Oxford University’s outreach programmes, including the UNIQ Summer Schools and departmental initiatives. St Hugh’s is also broadening the scope of its work with external partners such as Universify, The Brilliant Club, and Target Oxbridge; all working to encourage applications from students whose backgrounds are historically under-represented at Oxford.

In addition, the College is currently developing a pilot programme of events and activities, which would offer sustained support to Year Ten students and their teachers in target schools. We are also considering a post-offer support programme for those students who may be at risk of not meeting their offer due to socio-economic disadvantage.

This important work would not be possible without the significant gift by Ken Randall in establishing this position, and the generous contributions from our donors to support Lena’s work.

**Collegio Ghislieri Student Exchange Programme**

We are very grateful to Dr Gianetta Corley (Modern Languages, 1958) and to her sister, Mrs Elizabeth Randall, for their generous donation to the Collegio Ghislieri Student Exchange Programme. This grant supports 3rd year Modern Language students at St Hugh’s who have applied to Collegio Ghislieri in Pavia, Italy, to spend their penultimate academic year immersed in their studied language.

**Teaching & Research**

The tutorial system is an essential part of education at St Hugh’s and Oxford. So many alumni have shared with us their transformational experiences, learning from inspiring tutors who are leaders in their fields. To ensure that future generations of our students also have this opportunity, we are looking to endow our Fellowships, as well as support more postgraduate students in their research work.

Thank you to everyone who has invested in research and teaching at St Hugh’s.

**The Buildings**

Surrounded by Victorian and Edwardian buildings as well as more modern additions, in some of the largest college grounds, our ‘island-site’ college is a tranquil and restful place to work and live. In order to ensure this continues, we invest in a rolling programme of improvement works to ensure our students, Fellows, and staff can live and work in a stimulating and innovative space fit for current technological demands.

The College has been working hard to help identify the capital investment and refurbishment projects that will have the most significant impact for our students and Fellows with a particular focus on our students’ mental health and wellbeing. For example, we are working to replace all bedroom curtains with blackout curtains to provide a more conducive sleep environment and reduce draughts. We have also made a significant investment in providing better quality beds, more appropriate lighting in study rooms as well as bedrooms, and renewing our sports facilities.

St Hugh’s can guarantee all undergraduates accommodation for every year of their studies. We are one of the few Colleges which can do this and we want to able to continue to do so.

In 2017/18, we undertook £247,000 of capital investment work with a particular focus on improving the living space for our students, including work on Wolfson’s kitchens and pipework, 10 and 11 Canterbury Road basements, re-decoration of Kenyon’s bedrooms, and work on Maplethorpe’s windows.

**The Library**

The Library has had a very busy year continuing to develop its collection and improving services provided to our students and Fellows. In particular, the Library has undertaken an ambitious new project to re-organise the stack rooms. This involves a complete inventory of the stack collection as well as cataloguing and classifying to a new standard. Once complete, this project will result in a significant improvement for the Library’s collection, management, and circulation of books.

The Library has received an increasing demand for physical books from students and Fellows. We are fortunate enough, and very proud, to have one of the largest collections of books of all the Oxford colleges, and while e-journals have rapidly become a common resource for students (substituting most of the printed versions), e-books have not been able to do the same. Thank you to all of our donors who are supportive of the Library and to all who have helped to expand our collection and purchase relevant books and additional resources in various subject areas including, this year, English Literature, Classics, and Mathematics.
The Funds

The past year was a very challenging year for the Gardens Team going from one extreme to the other: heavy snow and then one of the driest summers on record. Extra funding allowed us to purchase some much-needed watering equipment, which meant that we were able to save all of our large trees and shrubs from the summer drought, and return our lawns quickly to emerald green once the rains returned.

St Hugh’s is often described as a mini arboretum due to our wonderful, mature collection of rare and unusual trees. Unfortunately, some of these large trees are coming to an end of their natural life and when necessary they will need to be felled. We have been working closely with the city’s tree preservation officer in monitoring these magnificent trees, and planting more rare and unusual specimens to complement our exciting stock.

Thank you to all of our donors who have supported our buildings and gardens. We are delighted to offer such a tranquil and restful place to live and work.

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1 August 2017 – 31 July 2018

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The Appeals

Direct Mail Campaign & Telethon
We are so pleased to report that responses to the Direct Mail Campaign and Telethon yet again broke all previous records for the College, both in amount and number of gifts received. The 2017/18 Direct Mail Campaign raised over £56,000 while the Telethon raised over £172,000. These campaigns are vital in supporting the Discretionary Fund, which remains our area of greatest need. When a specific support fund is unable to fully cover a project, position, or award, the Discretionary Fund is instrumental in ensuring that the College’s priorities are met. This Fund allows us to not only respond to critical events, but also to embrace unexpected opportunities.

Legacies
Support from legacies continues to be crucial to the future of the College. In 2017/18, we received over £1.8 million through legacy gifts. These gifts are crucial in supporting the College’s priorities. For example, the late Dr Margaret Belcher (English Language & Literature, 1958), renowned Pugin expert, left a substantial gift to the College to establish a Visiting Fellowship in Victorian Studies. This is a tremendously exciting development for our academic community, which will have a profound impact on the College and our students.

Transformative legacies such as Margaret’s have proven to be key to the development of St Hugh’s since its foundation, rooted in a legacy left by Elizabeth Wordsworth’s father. Our alumni will know well the impact of Clara Mordan’s legacy left to the College in 1915, and the further legacy left to St Hugh’s by her partner, Mary Gray Allen, on Clara’s instructions. Legacies are crucial to our continuing development in all areas – helping us to support everything from new accommodation facilities, buildings, and teaching fellowships to bursaries, prizes and scholarships.

1886 Society
Thank you so very much to those of you who have left a gift to St Hugh’s College in your will. Those who notify us of their pledge are recognised as members of the 1886 Society. The Society is a group of over 230 generous and committed supporters who receive invitations to attend special events, communications on leaving a legacy, and recognition at the Donors’ Dinner (February) and the Donors’ Tea (May).

If you have made a verbal pledge, we would be so grateful if you could complete the pledge form on our website so that we may recognise you formally with membership of the 1886 Society. If you are considering leaving a legacy, the Development Team will be delighted to provide further information.

Leavers Appeals
Every year we invite finalists (and their parents) to make a small donation in support of the Library as they leave College and move on to their new careers. Thank you to everyone who helped raise over £700 this year.

Finance & Investment Report

Income and Expenditure
St Hugh’s income increased in 2017/18 to £15.0m, an increase of 23.7% from the previous year. Income, excluding legacies and donations, has increased by 18% to £10.998m and reflects the typical composition of income. Our conference & accommodation income continued to grow and achieved a high of £2.1m.

The College’s expenditure has increased to £11.875m, up 18% from last year. There were a number of inflationary pressures driving the increase including pensions, national insurance, and the living wage. Despite this the College has managed costs carefully to ensure continued sustainability.

Status of Endowment & Investments
St Hugh’s College’s investments increased to £43m over the year with a total return of 10.2%. The return is well over the benchmark performance, the College currently takes 3.77% from investments based on a 5-year rolling average of endowment valuation.

The College’s investments are placed with two investment managers: £37.5m with Blackrock and the balance of funds are with Oxford University Endowment Management. Both funds achieved similar levels of return in the year ending 31 July 2018. In September 2017, a £50m Private Placement issue was completed, the funds were invested with a new fund manager: Sarasin & Partners. The funds will be used to support future College investment. For the year ending 31 July 2018, the funds performed well ensuring the investment income earned was in excess of the interest payable.

2017-18 Income

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Thank you to the many alumni, students, donors, friends, and neighbours who support the College in so many ways throughout the year. A special thank you to those who gave their time and expertise to help guide the work of the Development Team in 2017/2018.

**Development Board**
Dame Elish Angiolini, Principal  
Mr Benny Chan  
Mr George Davies  
Dame Helen Ghosh  
Mrs Jacky Lambert (Chair)  
Prof Adrian Moore  
Mrs Wendy Outhwaite  
Ms Ursula Owen  
Mr Ben Parker  
Mr Tim Prager

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Ms Vicki Stott, Bursar  
Ms Sarah Carthew, Director of Development  
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Prof Jennifer Green  
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Ms Chelsea Nguyen  
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**Development Team**
Ms Sarah Carthew, Director of Development & Fellow  
Mr Tom Williams, Deputy Director of Development  
Ms Sam Knipe, Database Manager & Prospect Research  
Miss Hannah Manito, Development Officer  
Ms Meghan Mitchell, Regular Giving & Trusts Manager  
Mrs Catharine Rainsberry, Alumni Relations Manager