



Master's Introduction

ROGER MOSEY

There are times when the stars align and it's possible to say "things are going well" – and this is one such year.

Selwyn's students turned in an excellent academic performance, based on the support they've had from their teachers and tutors. The college was top of the entire university for good honours – defined as firsts and 2:1s – and we were fifth in the overall academic league table. Just as significant, we were bottom of the university for the number of thirds and fails; and at Selwyn no undergraduate failed their exams. It is therefore a simple statement of fact that the best chance in the University of Cambridge of getting a good degree is at Selwyn.

Our financial performance was also very strong. As the bursar will explain later in this publication, the underlying deficits in our core operations remain and they are a concern for all Cambridge colleges. But we were fortunate in the past year to receive some very generous benefactions, particularly from legacies, and these have resulted in a surplus in the annual accounts.

Other indicators remain positive. Undergraduate applications in recent years have been at record levels. Our successful candidates record an average of 3.0 A* at A-Level, showing the absurdity of the arguments about dumbing down, and they are more diverse than ever before. Around 30% of our home students come from ethnic minorities, and we hit all the official targets for people from tougher socioeconomic backgrounds. Our postgraduate community continues to grow in ambition and achievement. And students still find time to make music, play sport, and volunteer in the community. We could not be more proud of them.

Since this is my last annual report as master, I also want to take a broader view of the college based on the time that I've spent here.

When I was interviewed by the fellows in 2013 – echoing the process that has been going on recently to find my successor – I had three strong instincts.

The first was that Selwyn was already an extraordinary place, though it didn't quite believe it. There was still a memory of being "new", a little out-of-town, poor and not consistently in the top ranks academically. Most of this wasn't true in 2013, but now almost nobody sees Selwyn through those prisms.

The second was that it would have been ludicrous for me to tell academics and the wider staff how to run the college. They are the experts. Rather, what I wanted to do was enable them to deliver what they themselves wanted: an ambitious, successful and efficient community.

Underpinning all that was a third thing: my own belief, reflecting the college's traditions, that Selwyn must be open to everyone irrespective of their background. I was the adopted son of shopkeepers in Bradford, with parents who had left school in their early teens – and I have faith in the power of education to transform lives.

So that is the context for the way I want you to judge us. To support our brilliant students, and thanks to people like you, we continue to add bursaries and scholarships and travel grants and prizes. But we have also built up our endowment, which is the guarantee of long-term financial stability. The endowment sat at £17m in 2003; £38m in 2013; and has peaked at more than £80m in the past year. Again, a substantial part of this comes from benefactions and legacies. The number of people in



Roger Mosey's final matriculation photograph as master was with the 2024 year group pictured here

our 1882 Society, who have pledged to support Selwyn in their will and are listed in these pages, has doubled in a decade.

Then we have transformed the estate: completing Ann's Court with the magnificent Bartlam library and Quarry Whitehouse auditorium, entirely funded by alumni and friends, as well as refurbishing the old library, the servery and the café bar, providing more student housing and starting the 'greening' of Selwyn with a range of environmental initiatives. We steered the college through a pandemic too.

We normally say it's invidious to single out names, but I'm going to. This would not have been possible without the college officers. The vice-master Janet O'Sullivan is a source of energy, wisdom and good humour. Mike Sewell as senior tutor is relentless in pursuit of academic standards, and knows more about admissions than anyone else in Cambridge. Jennifer Phillips continues in a distinguished tradition of recent bursars, and has the firmest grasp on the finances. Mike Nicholson as development director has helped raise many millions of pounds, and has broadened our network of alumni and friends in exciting ways. Most of all, we get on; and we are lucky to have an excellent college council and a judicious governing body, both of which include student members who play a full part.

So when I step down as master at the end of September, and as the excellent new head of house joins us, I feel I will be leaving the college in safe hands – and we can have every confidence in Selwyn's future. It is our alumni and friends who underpin that, and will expect us to maintain the highest standards.

But I've also been struck by some alumni saying that they're sorry I'll be leaving. It honestly doesn't feel like that. Leaving the Master's Lodge, certainly, and there will be pleasure in having a diary without the duller university meetings. But do any of us "leave" Selwyn? I say to students that Selwyn is for life, and that's the way it feels to me. Having enjoyed meeting thousands of Selwynites over the years, I hope to make appearances at future reunions and college events; I will still be a member of the 1882 Society and the Master's Circle; and most of all I do not want to lose the many friendships that have developed. So it will be "au revoir" rather than anything more final, and you can contact me at any time via rm725@cam.ac.uk. **

"I say to students that Selwyn is for life, and that's the way it feels to me."



Bursar's Report

JENNIFER PHILLIPS

INTRODUCTION

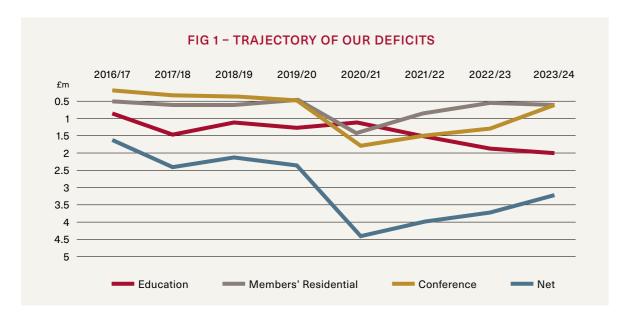
The year ending 30 June 2024 was an upbeat one in almost every respect. On a personal level, my journey through the academic seasons grows slightly easier with every year of experience gained. On an interpersonal level, I have been extremely pleased to see non-academic and academic staff teams delivering excellent results, especially where these have arisen through working together for the college. And on a financial level, we have been lucky enough to match a strong year of investment performance with a ground-breaking year for legacy income – together offering the college some sense of temporary respite from the ongoing cost pressures of the higher education sector.

So I write from an optimistic place, on the whole. Things are still challenging, but much of the momentum

is in the right direction. In this report, I will try and give some insight into that perspective. I continue to welcome questions or conversations at any time – do get in touch at bursar@sel.cam.ac.uk.

THE FINANCES

The published college accounts are designed to allow analysis of our performance across three main activities. Following those leads us to look in turn at 'education', then at 'members accommodation and catering' and finally at 'conferences'. Figure 1 makes it very clear that the deficits in these areas have respectively been growing, broadly level, and shrinking.



Source: statutory accounts. The impact of a building impairment in 2022/23 and 2023/24 has been added back to give a consistent representation.

We are an educational charity, and so a deficit in education is to be expected. However, as explained last year and by many bursars before me, the freeze in 'home' tuition fees has been worsening this position over time, with fees rising only £250 (to £9,250) since 2012. The college and university share undergraduate tuition fees 50:50. The recently announced increase to £9,535 from October 2025 is a long overdue acknowledgement of the intense pressure this has generated across the higher education sector.

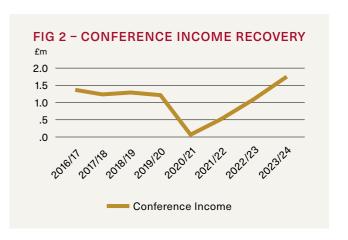
Academic income remained essentially unchanged from the previous year. Undergraduate 'home' fees, which account for just under half of our academic income, fell slightly due to annual fluctuations in offer-to-entry ratios and occasional periods of intermission. Overseas and postgraduate course fees provide crucial support and do increase with inflation, but natural variations in student numbers offset this growth over the year. Meanwhile, related education expenditure rose by 3.3%, or nearly £0.2m. This increase reflects academic wages gradually adjusting to inflation over recent years, as well as growth in scholarships and awards to improve access for those who might otherwise be unable to afford higher education. Cost pressures in this area show no signs of easing.

What *has* helped has been the generosity of donors in this area. The figures above are before the offsetting impact of teaching, learning, welfare and widening participation support. College Council appointed tthe first Sir David Harrison Fellow (Professor James Moultrie, engineering) in September 2024, a direct outcome of the well-supported campaign, and similar support has been refreshed in support of maths and astrophysics. Past endowments support economists, historians and lawyers. All this helps immensely in supporting the excellence of the small group supervision teaching model.

Accommodation, catering and conference income – collectively known as 'members' residential' – continued to rise in 2023/24, increasing by 18% to £6.4m. This can be broken down into two key areas.

First, members. Rents increased in line with the rising real living wage, which the college – and its students – continue to support. As we aim to provide accommodation on a cost-neutral basis, the 10% rise in rents was matched by an equivalent rise in costs, reflected in the flattening of the grey line on Figure 1.

The remaining deficit stems from the persistent cost of catering. A key challenge is providing healthy, balanced meals with sufficient variety at student-friendly prices and timings. Selwyn College brunch is famously popular

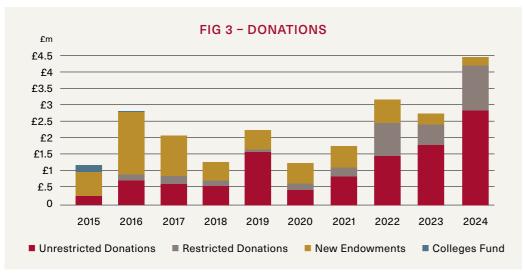


across Cambridge, and our students take great pride in it. However, the café/bar continues to operate at a loss, with insufficient trade to cover its costs. Striking the right balance is difficult – welcoming applicants, academics and alumni as warmly as we wish while offering catering 'at cost' requires careful management. The ongoing challenge for the bursar is to find the right balance between maintaining communal spaces that support student welfare and ensuring that, where possible, facilities at least break even.

The conference office's programme continues to provide vital support, with the strong post-pandemic recovery playing a crucial role. The conference team work hard to maximise the use of every available bedroom and meeting room, aiming to cover their allocated third of our annual accommodation and catering costs (thus creating a notional deficit). This also enables us to keep catering open year-round in support of our postgraduate community.

As anticipated last year, conference income in 2023/24 returned to near pre-pandemic levels. This is an especially impressive achievement given the significant cost inflation in the interim. Much of this comes from core activities such as academic and commercial conferences, international summer schools and a growing bed and breakfast offering. Occasionally, however, something a little more exciting takes place, such as the high-profile filming we hosted over the summer. After weeks of intensive preparation, the shoot itself lasted only a few hours, but fortunately, 'location' fees are based on disruption rather than filming time.

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Source: statutory accounts. The graph indicates the 10 year donations trend, excluding the 'capital grants for assets' that support building projects but consequently fluctuate significantly over time.

So in aggregate we are left with a £3.2m deficit from all these activities – nearly twice the shortfall in 2016/17 where my graph begins. How are we covering it? And how can I have started this report sounding so upbeat?

The answer is improved performance of our investment portfolio and its income generation, and in the donations that support that ongoing growth.

In December 2023 the management of most of our portfolio was delegated to external professionals at Cazenove Capital. This coincided with a significant market upturn, which the new managers were able to capitalise on. The invested funds, built on accumulated generosity since 1882, grew from £68.8m in June 2023 to £80.9m by June 2024.

Not all of this growth was due to market performance. Over the same twelve months, we were fortunate to receive several substantial legacies, along with ongoing generosity towards the Sir David Harrison Fund campaign. These donations added over £4m to the portfolio (Figure 3).

We continue to use total return accounting, which allows a percentage of the average portfolio value over the previous five years to be transferred. This provides a stabilising effect, as markets can rise and fall within any single year.

As shown in the investment portfolio graph (Figure 4), the significant growth in 2023/24 helps to offset four years of relative stagnation and offers a more optimistic outlook on what endowment income will enable us to achieve in the years ahead. Alongside changes to pension provisions following revaluations in 2023, these factors contributed to an £11m overall increase in the college's balance sheet net assets.

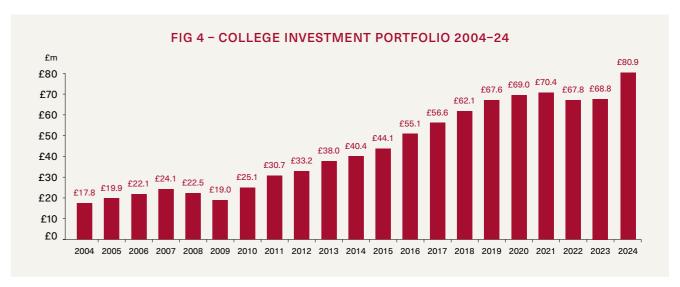
This strengthened financial position gives me confidence that, for now, the college is back on the front foot. We can continue educating over 600 students each year – and take pride in their success. Ranking first among colleges for good honours in 2024 is a statistic we are all happy to share.

BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintaining the estate is a responsibility we cannot afford to overlook. I am immensely fortunate to have joined a college where generous donations to major building projects, such as Ann's Court and the new library and auditorium, have kept our debt to just £6m. Every building requires ongoing care, and philanthropy helps ensure that we can focus resources on proactive maintenance rather than costly emergency repairs.

In 2023/24, building works continued, as the college undertook a major sustainability initiative with the installation of around 70 additional solar panels on the roof of the Cripps building. This project, generously funded by the Cripps Foundation, marked an important step in our long-term efforts to reduce the college's carbon footprint. Alongside this, essential upgrades were made to improve water pressure, addressing issues caused by the weakening local utility infrastructure – ensuring that incoming Freshers will not face the challenges of the past. While routine work continued on asbestos removal, plant rooms, fire equipment and IT servers, the solar panel project stood out as a significant investment in both sustainability and resilience.

Last year I highlighted the successful completion of the three hostels project and the positive feedback



Source: statutory accounts. Valuation as at 30 June

it received from residents. It is equally encouraging to report that energy consumption data confirms it has met our carbon reduction goals. In the 12 months to September 2024, kilowatt per hour usage fell by around 70% compared to pre-project levels. While exact calculations are complex given that one hostel was newly acquired, the Covid years disrupted patterns, and no two sets of student occupants are the same, we believe this is a fair estimate of the project's significant impact.

Looking ahead, 21–23 West Road will be our next major focus. We will be exploring creative ways to integrate these heritage buildings more effectively within Ann's Court. This promises to be an exciting project, and we look forward to sharing updates as it progresses.

OUTLOOK

The College Council continue to be acutely conscious of the financial position of the college. Efficiency is still prized, as is flexibility to increase income where we can do so without impacting our core purposes in education. A review of older funds has recently helped the College Council reassign funds more effectively in support of educational needs, and we remain careful to stay in line with collegiate university strategies for the effective provision of mental health support, whilst investing in the things we think help students the most – such as a strong tutorial system, and a thorough admissions process that tries to ensure those we admit can and will flourish here. Investment in those areas still feels right, and we are grateful to all those donors who support us, at every scale, in continuing to look after our students and deliver their education.



The Cripps Court roof with newly installed solar panels, as seen from above

"It is equally encouraging to report that energy consumption data confirms it has met our carbon reduction goals."

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The Future of Libraries

JESS GARDNER

University Librarian and fellow of Selwyn College

We're lucky to count amongst our fellowship the current University Librarian – Dr Jess Gardner. We asked her to reflect on the role of libraries in Cambridge today and how they were responding to the opportunities of Al and other innovations.

Libraries evolve and innovate in step with the great revolutionary shifts in information technology and how ideas are conveyed around the world.

As University Librarian, I'm so proud that at the University Library, we are custodians of knowledge spanning millennia – from clay tablets and medieval scrolls to printed books and, ever increasingly, digital formats. Across collegiate Cambridge today library spaces and servers are hosts to a vast collection of electronic data representing a deep digital landscape that is ever-expanding and has global reach.

Yet through time libraries have had an abiding purpose: we connect people to ideas and information that they turn into new knowledge, powering the great discoveries that have defined the University and its impact on the world. The information carriers evolve, but the place and value of libraries remain. They are cherished spaces and services at the heart of a life-changing Cambridge education and world-changing scholarship.

That's what makes my role such a privilege and a pleasure.

We are fortunate at this University to have such a rich ecosystem of libraries for students and researchers. If you want a quiet book-lined low-distraction space, the libraries of collegiate Cambridge will give you that. If you want access at your fingertips, and on the move, to

the latest medical information at the surgical bedside, we provide that too. If you are registered to access confidential or sensitive data for economics or financial or social research, we have a safe pod data service at the University Library so you can do that too. If you need information in alternative formats, because of a visual disability, we have an accessibility service for the libraries that will work with you. Or if you want to examine Newton's or Darwin's scientific papers, we have an open-access digital library that you can use anywhere in the world, free of charge.

Now, in its seventh century, the University Library service is adapting to artificial intelligence, an advance I find breathtaking. We're working with tutors, faculties and college libraries to explore how to strengthen information skills for students, teaching them how to navigate and appraise information to find sources they can trust in an age of AI and disinformation.

We have a grant from AI@Cam to work with the Department of Applied Mathematics and Physical and Theoretical Physics to develop a virtual space where arts and humanities students and researchers can experiment safely with AI tools using data generated by the University's libraries, archives, museums and heritage collections.

I am determined that new services at the University Library speak to this innovation. We are collaborating with scientists to analyse the DNA of parchment made from animal skins, shedding light on historic livestock populations. We are using multi-spectral imaging to uncover erased or censored ancient texts and applying 3D modelling to fragile artefacts – such as 3,000-year-old Chinese oracle bones. We're applying cutting-edge technology to get more out of our existing collections,



The new Bartlam library is provides students with a variety of spaces, whether for studying or reading for pleasure

encouraging new generations to ask new questions and discover new information.

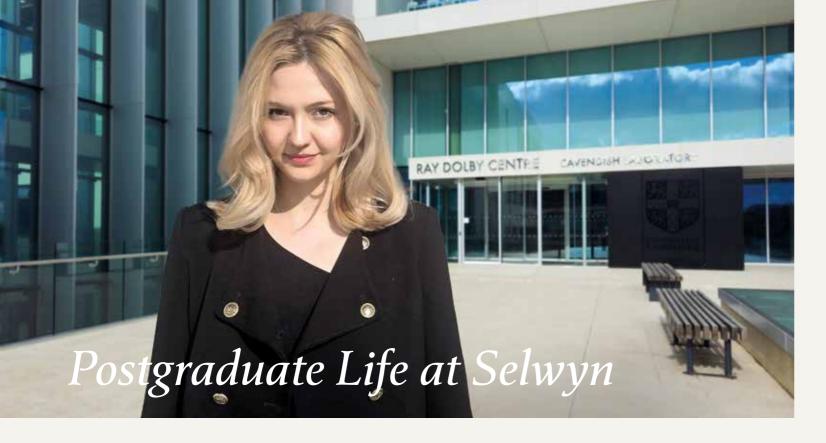
In collegiate Cambridge, at Selwyn and across the university, you see services constantly innovating and adapting to meet the changing needs of our students and researchers. Two decades ago, it was fashionable to talk about the death of the book, or the end of the library, as digital tools expanded. But – I'm happy to say as a serious book-lover – the truth has turned out to be very different. No matter how much information technology advances, the quiet, focused study spaces libraries provide are essential given the intensity of study at Cambridge. It's one of the many reasons college libraries – and the staff that run them – matter so much.

As one student once memorably told me: "being in the library is doing university". A quotation that makes me think, makes me smile, and is my north star for libraries at Cambridge. **

SONYA ADAMS

The Harvey Librarian

I am delighted to hold the title of the Harvey Librarian. It was in 2014 that Richard Harvey (SE 1962) first shared his plans to leave a legacy to Selwyn. He believed that those, like him, who had benefited from a free education should contribute something to support future generations of students. By securing the position of Librarian, Richard's legacy will help ensure that I, alongside my colleagues, can enable students to make the most of the resources and modern facilities provided by the new Bartlam library. No matter how it may evolve in the future, it will remain the scholarly heart of the college, offering access to essential material for our students within a comfortable, practical and inspiring study space.



KATE BAKHTIGALIYEVA SE 2024

Master's in Scientific Computing

Selwyn alumna and honorary fellow Sophie Wilson (SE 1976) recently established the Sophie Wilson MPhil scholarship in scientific computing. Kate Bakhtigaliyeva (SE 2024) is the first reciepient. We asked her to tell us about her time at Selwyn so far, and a bit about her work in scientific computing.

I was told that Selwyn was the friendliest college and my experiences have certainly lived up to the expectation. It began with 11 people at 1 Selwyn Gardens – engineers, historians and artists from across the globe, united by their affiliation to this single Cambridge college. Over just two terms, it has swiftly become friendship, laughter and cherished memories.

Our small group soon became a postgraduate community of over 250 as we celebrated our matriculation at the start of October. Since then, we have supported each other through the 5 AM rowing wakeups, the freezing rugby games and the late-night Bartlam library study sessions. We have toasted our successes together and we have been there for each other during hardship.

I was lucky enough to join this year's MPhil for Scientific Computing as the Sophie Wilson Scholar. Sophie Wilson is a groundbreaker in the computing community, continuously opening doors for women in the hard sciences and someone I can only hope to emulate. In November, when she visited Cambridge's Centre for Scientific Computing to give a talk on the initial days of designing the architecture for the Acorn Micro-Computer and the subsequent processes that defined ARM's efficient instruction set, I realised that although we love to talk about talent or genius and prodigies, Wilson was all about the hard work. 'Sheer stubbornness' rarely appears on any aspirational posters. It is in those moments, where one rubs shoulders with such pioneers, that the divine inspiration to put in the hours begins to emerge.

From its position on the periphery of Sidgwick Site, Selwyn is often typecast as a humanities-oriented college, but our technological competency thrives in equal measure too. My master's dissertation, for example, focuses on computational simulations, which are the backbone of modern physics and engineering. The accuracy of the simulations hinge on something deceptively simple: numerical precision. My research explores the trade-off between two types of floating-point arithmetic – specifically, single and double-precision calculations – on the accuracy of fluid dynamics simulations. While GPUs (Graphical Processing Units) are widely used to accelerate these simulations, they tend to perform significantly better with single-precision calculations, which comes at the cost of reduced accuracy and potential errors that compound over time. So, my research will examine how different factors, such as computer hardware

"From its position on the periphery of Sidgwick Site, Selwyn is often typecast as a humanities-oriented college, but our technological competency thrives in equal measure too."

architectures and programming techniques, influence the reliability of these systems.

This work will ultimately help scientists understand when they can trust a simulation – and when they should question it.

Sometimes the weltschmerz of postgrad life creeps up in between the prospectus promises, and it can be hard to tell whether the work we are doing is truly meaningful. But I feel that it is in those moments when I can connect with the people who made Cambridge the place it is today. Wilson did not aim for a eureka revelation: her work was rooted in persistent refinement. Similarly, at Selwyn, sustained effort is put in time and time again to create a supportive institutional environment and help nurture such experiences organically. All members of the college recognise how vital this is for our culture and our future.

The events organised by the master and fellows have been some of my favourite ones this year, from social calls over wine and cheese to more intellectual discussions in the Quarry Whitehouse auditorium, naturally mixed in with the light relief of the University Challenge playoffs. During the US and UK election cycles, for instance, the master held the floor on debates concerning political division and its implications across the world. We live in a very dynamic political landscape, coupled with a constant bombardment by unreliable journalism, where genuine discourse often degenerates into tweetlength tragedies. However, Selwyn is always keen to manage a mixture of opinions and garner productive tension with informative results.

Cambridge is an institutional sweet spot with a rare demographic of brilliant and creative young people. In a world where social capital is becoming scarcer, Selwyn's openness and friendliness are made to last. So, despite the stresses and the deadlines, you know that your friends will be waiting for you after a long day in the department, that the porters will kindly greet you as you collect your mail and that the catering staff will make sure you're taken care of. And I know that the college community will continue to support me long after I graduate. **



Kate, pictured alongside Professor Nikos Nikiforakis, Selwyn fellow and Director of Studies in Mathematics, and Sophie Wilson



DANIEL MORETON SE 2022

Modern and medieval languages tripos

Thanks to generous support from alumni, the college is able to offer students a multitude of options for travel funding. We spoke to Daniel, who has enriched his degree by using travel grants to spend his summers in Europe.

Being a student at Cambridge is a privilege – one that comes with its fair share of hard work but also a huge amount of support from friends, peers and college. As a current undergraduate on my year abroad as part of the modern and medieval languages tripos, I've been lucky enough to receive funding from Selwyn through the Gebauer Fund which promotes German-related activities, as well as from the Cambridge Bursary Scheme, both of which have played a huge role in my enhancing my experience.

As is the case with many languages students, I have an interest in discovering and navigating new cultures and environments, which perhaps makes it excusable to set aside the vocabulary and translations to engage deeper with my studies in a practical way. This is where financial support has really helped me. I began German from scratch in 2022, and it is clear that being able to travel to Germany twice with the resources from the Gebauer Fund was a game-changer that made a real difference in my language learning.

In my first year, I applied for the Gebauer Fund to attend a two-week intensive language course at the DID Deutsch-Institut in Berlin during the Easter vacation. The MMLL Faculty highly encouraged this trip for ab initio students and it was a great experience. Mornings were spent in structured lessons which reinforced and recapped what we had been learning during our first two terms at Cambridge, and outside of the classroom, we typically spent our afternoons exploring Berlin. Most notable visits were the Berliner Fernsehturm, the Museum Island, which hosted a range of museums, and Sanssouci Palace in the neighbouring city of Potsdam. More than anything I found it particularly rewarding to gain experience with speaking German, and although at this point I had not been learning German for very long, this experience greatly boosted my confidence.

As a result of this, I applied again in my second year for another language course with the DID Deutsch-Institut – this time in Munich. It was particularly helpful in getting me ready for my oral exam in the Easter Term, where the conveniently small class sizes encouraged lots of speaking practice. Besides the language element, I was particularly intrigued to see if there was an opportunity to apply what I had been learning in my scheduled German Linguistics paper; I noticed some of the regional phonetic Bavarian features of German. And of course, exploring the city, including the beautiful Englischer Garten, was a bonus.

In both instances, the Gebauer Fund took a huge chunk out of each trip's cost for travel, accommodation and the courses. Moreover, without this support I wouldn't have had the chance to experience Germany in such an immersive way while studying at Cambridge.

Beyond the academic funding, the Cambridge Bursary Scheme has also been an enormous help through my time here. It's given me the freedom to properly take part in student life at Selwyn and beyond. Events such as the Selwyn Snowball have given me some of my favourite Cambridge memories. More practically, this year the bursary has also made my year abroad much more manageable, covering some of my living costs

while working in France as an English Language Assistant, and even giving me the chance to travel a little bit around Europe (including to Hamburg in Germany), which deepened my appreciation of my subject area even further.

The financial support at Selwyn has made such a difference to my student experience. It has allowed me to bridge the gap from academic to practical immersion across my study of both French and German language and culture. Having access to these funds has opened up opportunities I likely wouldn't have been able to make the most of otherwise, contributing to my experience overall.

For any students currently studying or considering taking up their studies at Selwyn, I would greatly recommend looking into the various funds available which can be utilised for a wide range of activities. The resources help students make the most of their time here, and in my case, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to spend time in what has now become one of my favourite cities, Berlin.





Development and Alumni Relations Report

MIKE NICHOLSON

Development director and fellow

Cambridge University is an organisation that's particularly fond of compiling and using data for all sorts of academic and administrative purposes. You may for example have read in the master's introduction how well Selwyn students perform in their exams – or the success of our widening participation programme; results that are supported by the rigorous collection and analysis of data from across the University. On the development side, we recently noticed a new statistic revealing that Selwyn has the second highest participation rate amongst alumni in Cambridge colleges. This means that as a percentage of our total alumni, more individuals actively donate to Selwyn than nearly all the other colleges in Cambridge, with just under one in five of our alumni donating each year. This doesn't necessarily mean we receive more money in donations than other colleges - some of the older and larger colleges will almost always outstrip Selwyn in terms of total amounts raised - but it does indicate that Selwyn alumni enjoy and value their relationship with the college and are happy to demonstrate this by making regular gifts. And of course, we're also happy to recognise the contribution of our supporters, which you'll find towards the second half of this report.

One of the most important ways we keep in touch is through our events programme. More people than ever are now attending their year group reunions, concerts, receptions and other opportunities that we organise for you to enjoy and to get together. A recent highlight was a reception at the magnificent Fishmongers' Hall in London. More than 200 guests joined the master and fellows to hear about the college's recent achievements and its plans for the future. At the other end of the scale, there was only capacity for a handful of alumni to join us on a special site visit to see the

restoration in progress of the Great Hall at the historic Bart's Hospital, complete with its unique William Hogarth painted staircase. We're always on the lookout for opportunities to organise visits to unusual or hard to access locations up and down the country, so if any readers have any suggestions or ways they could help facilitate such visits, please let me know.

It was at the Fishmongers' Hall event that the master announced the news that the Sir David Harrison Fund had reached the milestone of raising £1m. More than 400 individuals helped us to achieve this result and who we're pleased to acknowledge later in this report (page 34-35). The fund is already being used to support the first Harrison Fellow - Professor James Moultrie, Director of Studies in Manufacturing Engineering. Many individuals have committed to supporting the fund over the longer term, and as the fund continues to be added to, we expect to be able to do more to support science, engineering and maths at Selwyn.

We're equally concerned to provide funds for students studying Arts and Humanities, which is why we were delighted to launch the Strudwick Fund that will provide support for students studying MML. A consequence of Brexit for UK students has been reduced access to the Erasmus education programme, which provides opportunities for young people across Europe to study

"Grants to students across disciplines are



A small group of alumni joined us for a private tour of the restoration of the Great Hall at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London

abroad. Having the flexibility to provide assistance to Selwyn students studying a range of languages is a tremendous help and we're very grateful to those alumni who have provided additional support for MML and other subjects too. Grants to students across disciplines are always carefully considered and priority given to those whose personal, financial circumstances are the most difficult.

The graduate community at Selwyn has grown significantly over the past two or three decades and now comprises getting on for half of our total student numbers. Providing support for them is an important part of what we do. Last year, I was able to report on the creation of some new MPhil scholarship opportunities - and this year I can share the college's commitment to finding more ways to create new, funded PhD scholarships across subjects. Graduate funding in the UK has fallen noticeably in recent years, and if top universities like Cambridge are to retain their status as world class centres of research, it's vital that the departments and the colleges are able to attract the most talented students. Opportunities currently exist to sponsor graduate research in general - or in specific

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subjects. I would be pleased to hear from anybody who would like to learn more about how you can help facilitate this important work.

Cambridge students are lucky to have access to a relatively wide range of bursaries, grants and scholarships, mostly provided by the generosity of alumni. But the students do also help themselves in different ways, and most recently the members of the college boat club got together to undertake a sponsored 24-hour Ergathon. The clue is in the name and the event took place on ergs - not on the water (see page 32). The aim was to raise at least £10,000 so the crews could refurbish and replace worn out equipment and hopefully buy an additional boat for use by the women crews, amongst who the sport is growing steadily in popularity. Our thanks to alumni and friends who were able to sponsor the students or who helped in other ways.

A big thank you is also due to the group of student callers who took part in December's Telephone Campaign in the fortnight before Christmas. Our students chatted to some 400 alumni and friends and in the course of these animated and mutually enjoyable conversations managed to raise more than £262,000 in new donations and pledges - one of our best results ever. The campaign saw support towards helping the college maintain its supervision system, providing more bursaries and hardship grants and boosting the Sir David Harrison Fund.

Another notable success was the endowment of the post of librarian – now named the Harvey Librarian in honour of alumnus Richard Harvey (SE 1962) and the generous legacy he left to Selwyn. Substantial legacies like Richard's are rare but the ability to fund, in perpetuity, key posts within the college is a wonderful way to ensure Selwyn will continue to thrive, whatever lies ahead. Alongside academic fellowships, we would like to be able to endow other posts such as the head gardener, director of music and the archivist – just some of the important positions that contribute so much to the daily life of Selwyn. More information on our 1882 Society can be found on page 30.

always carefully considered and priority given to those whose personal, financial circumstances are the most difficult."



6th year medical students recently gave a presentation on their elective experiences comprising a mixture of rich clinical practice, industry placements, research with publications and conference participation in the UK and internationally. These electives have been generously supported in recent years by grants from the Raymond C. Read, MD, PhD Fund and the Steinacher Fund amongst others

You will be aware by now that from October the college will be under the leadership of Suzanne Raine as master – and the college is looking forward to an exciting new chapter in its history. Roger Mosey, who retires at the end of September, has been an outstanding head of house in every way and has played a major role in supporting the work of the development team over the years, for which I'm personally most grateful. His open and collegiate style of leadership has been appreciated by alumni and others who, over the past 12 years, have responded with a generosity and warmth unmatched in the college's history. I know that he is looking forward to seeing many of you at forthcoming events over the summer and in September – and of course, after his retirement, he will continue to be part of Selwyn as an emeritus fellow.

Finally, I often say to my colleagues that Development is not about fundraising but goodwill. Nobody is required to support the college and nobody needs to attend our events. The fact that so many of you do, shows goodwill by the bucketful - and we are hugely grateful. Similarly, we are equally grateful for the goodwill of our colleagues around the college. Their professionalism and courtesy make Selwyn a pleasure to visit and a rewarding place in which to work. They provide the framework for so much that we do - and yet it's all too easy to sometimes take their efforts and achievements for granted. So, thank you to everyone who helps the college in all sorts of ways and I hope these few lines reassure you that at heart, Selwyn remains a strong and friendly community, secured by bonds of kindness, generosity and respect. *



What would the world be like without antibiotics? We hosted the UK's special envoy on antimicrobial resistance and master of Trinity College, Dame Sally Davies, to talk about her fight to increase awareness of the threat to healthcare and our food chain.



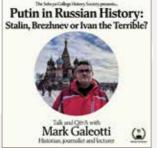
Sweden's then foreign minister Tobias Billström (SE 2001), visited Selwyn in April last year to deliver a powerful speech on why Sweden gave up two centuries of neutrality to join NATO, followed by questions from the audience in the Quarry Whitehouse auditorium.

Spotlight on events at the QWA

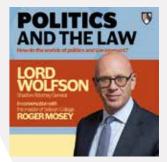
Since its opening in 2021, the Quarry Whitehouse auditorium has helped Selwyn enhance its profile in Cambridge, across the UK and internationally. We have achieved this by hosting a diverse and well-attended programme of events. The 150-seat auditorium is often filled with students, fellows, alumni and members of the public. Many more individuals from around the world connect with these events online, via our YouTube channel. Here are just a few highlights from our events over the past year.



All of these sessions, and many more, are available to watch on demand. Scan the QR code to visit the college YouTube channel.



This lecture, hosted by the Selwyn History Society has attracted a large audience online. Historian Mark Galeotti explored the presidency of Vladimir Putin and in particular how the Kremlin uses history to validate its actions today.



Shadow attorney general, Lord Wolfson of Tredegar (SE 1987), joined us for a fascinating session on the relationship between law and politics, organised in collaboration with the college Politics Society.



The director-general of the BBC, Tim Davie (SE 1986), returned to Selwyn earlier this year to answer some tough questions on the BBC and how it should be funded – including whether it should switch to a subscription model, and whether they are impartial on President Trump.

Our Supporters



Our 2024 undergraduates at their matriculation photograph

This section of the Annual Report records the names of those who have supported Selwyn over the past year, between 1 January 2024 and 31 January 2025. Your financial support continues to enrich every aspect of student life, and we remain deeply appreciative of our generous community.

We are incredibly grateful to those who have decided to support us by making a regular gift, which allows us to plan for the future by providing a steady, predictable income to the college.

Those who support at the Patron level and the Master's Circle level are recognised with their respective colours, those who have left us a legacy with the 1882 symbol, and supporters of over 10 years and more with a ¹⁰ symbol.

This list is further enriched by numerous alumni and friends who have chosen to stay anonymous.

Finally, the following pages present a lot of data. We try our very best to ensure its accuracy, but if you spot a mistake, please accept our apologies. Don't hesitate to let us know, and we'll be happy to rectify it in the future.



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Shona Winnard, who retired last year from her role as Alumni Events Manager, at her farewell party

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Some of the students who formed Selwyn's inaugural bridging course cohort. The purpose of the bridging course is to address potential disparities in opportunities before Cambridge. By introducing participants to life at Cambridge and its teaching and learning styles, the course aims to provide them with the best possible preparation for their time here

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Families gathered in the college gardens for picnics at the 'Singing in the gardens' college concert this summer

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Selwyn fellow Dr Deepak Venkateshvaran delivering a talk on the physics of tablas as part of the proceedings for Alumni Day 2024

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John Bamford, who has provided generous support for the college's outreach and widening participation programme, was recently admitted as a Fellow Benefactor. Pictured from left right: vice-master Professor Janet O'Sullivan, master Roger Mosey, John Bamford and praelector Professor Stewart Sage

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The choir continues to share their music with audiences near and far. Their annual tour for 2024 took them to Italy, with performances in Montepulciano, Orvieto and Scheggino. Closer to home, the Singing in the Gardens concert has become a beloved fixture of the summer calendar, alongside their London performance at St Bride's Fleet Street. Perhaps their most far-reaching performance, however, was a live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in April, complemented by the release of three CD recordings over the past year. A particular highlight of 2024 was the return of the Friends of the Choir community to college late last spring for a celebration of Sarah MacDonald's 25th anniversary as director of music. The occasion included a spectacular performance of a 40-part motet, conducted by Sarah and sung by an ensemble of 153 current and former choir members. The choir's wide-ranging activities continue to be made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Choir, for which we are deeply grateful. If you would like to become a Friend and support the choir's work, please scan the QR code below.

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The choir of 2024–25 pictured here after their first service

Friends of Selwyn Gardens

Over the past year, the gardens have continued to flourish with a series of thoughtful additions and enhancements. The New Zealand Garden by the Old Court steps is thriving and on Ann's Court, 8,000 daffodil, camassia and tulip bulbs – generously funded by donors – have been planted in the borders and beneath the Redwood Tree. Meanwhile, an extension to the winter border is currently underway. The garden between Old Library and Ann's Court has also undergone a transformation, with the creation of a new wildflower and bulb meadow to enhance biodiversity and provide a striking spring display. This too was made possible by donor support. A new hedge has been placed around the Fellows' Garden, offering both structure and shelter, while donations from individuals have allowed several new trees have taken root across the grounds: a flowering cherry on Grange Road, a sweet chestnut in the meadow, cherries along West Bye Lane and mountain ash in the winter garden. If you have enjoyed these gardens in the past or still do today, please consider becoming a Friend and helping them thrive for future generations. For more information, scan the QR code below. Alternatively, please contact Sam Davis at sjdd2@cam.ac.uk or by telephone on + 44 (0) 1223 767845.

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A panoramic view of our lower court garden

The 1882 Society

Recent changes in the budget mean that it's becoming ever more difficult to pass on assets to family and friends. The one gleam on the legacy horizon is that gifts to charities remain 100% free of inheritance tax – and are likely to remain so. Perhaps because of this, a growing number of alumni and friends are choosing to leave a legacy to Selwyn and, as you may have read, these have become an increasingly important source of support for the college in recent years. Our legacies manager, Sam Davis, is available to discuss how individual legacies might be used to support subjects or areas of college life close to your heart. We also like to recognise and get to know our legacy donors - before we receive anything from you! This is why we encourage you to let us know if the college features in your own plans. By becoming a member of the 1882 Society, you are affirming your support for the college and its mission - but also perpetuating the values you hold dear, and shaping the future. For further details or an informal discussion, contact Sam Davis by email at sjdd2@cam.ac.uk or by telephone at + 44 (o) 1223 767845.

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Our annual 1882 Society lunch at college hall in September



In February, the college hosted a drinks reception at Fishmongers' Hall for members of our 1882 Society and other donors

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Friends of Selwyn Boat Club

Notwithstanding the students' impressive efforts to help themselves with a sponsored 'Ergathon' in March, the Friends continued to invest in the Boat Club in various ways, from the acquisition and maintenance of boats to the provision of regular coaching and 'off-Cam' residential training opportunities. Students who are in receipt of a Cambridge Bursary are eligible for a reduced rate of club membership and generally the Friends do whatever is necessary to ensure that any student who wants to take part in rowing can do so. Last year's results were some of the best ever for both men and women and we're confidently looking forward to the May Bumps in June. Thank you to all those listed below for your support. And if you're interested in getting involved with the Friends, please contact the Chair, Brian Hornsby at brianjhornsby@gmail.com

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Two SCBC rowers training on ergometers on the balcony of the College boathouse

The Vickerstaff Sports Bursary Scheme

College life has always been about much more than academic study. More than ever, the importance of students leading a well balanced life is understood to be a foundation for good physical and mental health. The chance to try out new sports is one of the joys of student life at Cambridge and the Vickerstaff Sports Fund facilitates all sorts of opportunities, regardless of an individual's experience or ability. The link between activities and wellbeing is now widely acknowledged and sport is seen as one of the best ways that students can help navigate their way through the challenges and pressures of the Cambridge term. This year, our students additionally benefited from a generous legacy left by an alumnus who had never forgotten the pleasure and camaraderie of sport at Selwyn; to him and all of you listed below – thank you. New donations or further info can be made using the QR code or by visiting the Selwyn website.

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Selwyn student Safia Chaoui (SE 2022) pictured here in Cambridge colours at the women's Blues BUCS fixture against Oxford in January 2025

Sir David Harrison Fund

Established in 2023 in memory of Selwyn's former master, Sir David Harrison, this fund supports the teaching and learning of science, engineering and maths at the college. Towards the end of 2024 the fund passed the £1m mark and continues to grow. As a part of the college's permanent endowment, the fund will be available to use in different ways in the years ahead, reflecting the changing needs and priorities of a Cambridge college. Today it is principally supporting a key fellowship and teaching position in manufacturing engineering - Professor James Moultrie having the honour of being the college's first Harrison Fellow. We are delighted to have this opportunity to record our appreciation to the 400 individuals listed below who have supported this important new fund; thank you. For further information, please visit our website or scan the provided QR code.

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