

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES | 2024-2025

DONOR REPORT



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The Donor List is included in the Gazette 2025



My warmest thanks

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Reporting on another year of extraordinary achievements across the Wadham community, I am grateful for this opportunity to thank you all very warmly for the role you play in sustaining this special place of learning and research.

Mathilde (p25) is one of the many students who benefit from donor support and, like her, I continue to be humbled by the gifts we receive from alumni who are committed to helping the next generations of students and scholars. Throughout this report you can read about the difference your donations make to our access programme, to the wellbeing of our undergraduate students, and to the pioneering research of our fellows.

Acquiring new knowledge whilst developing our understanding of the world based on deep engagement and critical thinking is one of the finest and most important learning experiences that Oxford's tutorial model can offer. Every day I see my colleagues nurture in our students this ability to think deeply about complex theoretical and practical challenges, from philosophical dilemmas to medical cures and from climate emergency to social justice. The students engage in this demanding and rewarding form of learning with incredible creativity, tenacity, and resourcefulness.

Yet this distinctive tutorial model – which has defined Oxford for centuries – requires considerable investment to sustain, and your support makes it possible. This year has been another extraordinary expression of donor generosity, with £9.8m received and 1,595 donors contributing to areas of greatest need. As you will see on the following pages, these gifts make a tangible difference.

We are working on ambitious plans to grow the endowment and bolster the financial foundation of the College for the decades ahead. Supported by our resourceful Development Council members and other benefactors, we are building a transformative

programme of philanthropy that will ensure brilliant students and fellows can continue to innovate and contribute with bold thinking and solutions.

On behalf of the students, staff, and Fellows at Wadham, thank you for supporting the brightest minds to thrive here. I hope many of you will be able to join us in Oxford or for one of our many national, international or on-line events, so we can thank you in person for lending your support to Wadham's mission.

Robert Hannigan
Warden

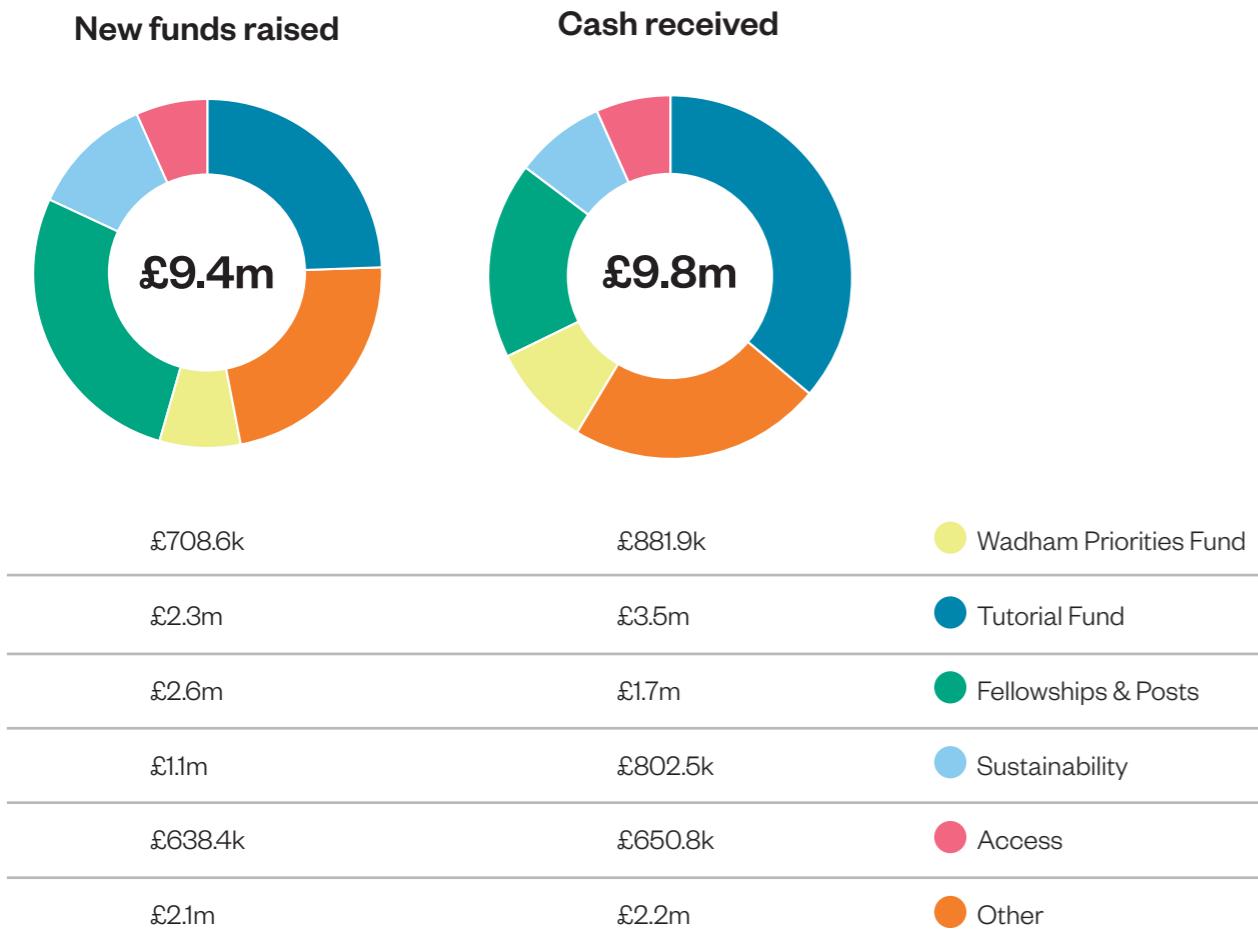
'I often reflect on the support I received to be here. It's amazing that there are people with the trust and vision to invest in education without expecting anything in return – so that the next generation can build a better world'

Mathilde Ritman (2023), DPhil Oxford Richards Scholar in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics

Your support in numbers 2024–25

- 19% of alumni made a gift
- £882k raised for the Wadham Priorities Fund to support 'greatest needs'
- 417 alumni have pledged a gift in their will as members of the 1610 Society
- £2.5m donated from 13 legacies
- 1,595 individuals gave a gift to Wadham
- 1,194 individuals gave a recurring gift to the College

Financial Year 2024–25



A year to remember

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Thank you for the vital role each of you has played in supporting the College this year. A record number of alumni chose to back Wadham's mission, and your financial support is already making a tangible difference. In direct and meaningful ways, your contributions are shaping the experiences of applicants, students, and Fellows across the College.

This has been a landmark year for philanthropy at Wadham. With £9.4m secured towards our core priorities, the generosity of alumni and friends is strengthening the College's financial well-being with immediate effect. From those making their very first gift to our loyal 1610 Society members who have included Wadham in their wills, every contribution reflects a shared commitment to the values that make this place so special.

Your support for Wadham's pioneering pre-application Access programmes, as well as on-course support, continues to transform lives. Nearly 3,000 school pupils engaged with our Access programme in 2024/2025, with 35% of Access summer school participants receiving offers from Oxford, and hundreds more supported and inspired to achieve their best. Students like Izzy and Mathilde are thriving on course thanks to bursaries and scholarships, and fellows are advancing work across all disciplines, including climate science, medical research, and the humanities thanks to your gifts of all sizes.

As we develop ambitious plans to secure the College's financial foundation and reduce the structural deficit, we are especially grateful to alumni who are already making transformative donations to support the tutorial system through gifts to the endowment, and to help endow our fellowships. Thanks to

exceptional alumni generosity this year, we have endowed two new fellowships – one in Computer Science and another in the History of Contemporary Art – vital research areas that will enable Wadham to contribute to Oxford's pioneering work.

The Wadham Priorities Fund received over £891,000 from 1,397 donors this year – a remarkable expression of trust in the College to direct support where it is most needed. Whether supporting tutorials, welfare provision, or our ambitious sustainability strategy, these unrestricted gifts give us the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and opportunities, while protecting the College's endowment for the longer term.

One of the great joys of working in the Development Office is the many expressions of encouragement we receive from alumni around the world. Hundreds of emails accompany your donations each month, often sharing moving (and witty) stories of how your Wadham education changed your life. We know that many of you give back despite challenging personal circumstances, and we never take this generosity for granted.

Thank you for your friendship and continued commitment to Wadham's mission.

Julie Christiane Hage
Fellow and Development Director



Wadham Priorities Fund 7

2024–25 was another wonderful year for regular giving at Wadham. Amongst all Oxford colleges, Wadhamites are some of the most engaged and most generous, with 1,595 of you making a gift last academic year. Thank you.

The Wadham Priorities Fund, allocated to areas of greatest need, continued to receive strong support from our alumni and friends around the world, with over £880,000 given by 1,397 donors. This was underpinned by two major campaigns – the December Telephone Campaign and our sixth annual Giving Day.

The Telephone Campaign had a festive feel, as students were calling through 9th and 10th Weeks in the run-up to Christmas. Ten callers, fuelled by hot chocolate and mince pies, had conversations with 198 alumni from across the decades and around the globe, picking up career advice and comparing notes with alumni from years gone by about where the “party staircase” could be found. This merriment also translated into incredible generosity, with 109 choosing to make a gift, and the campaign projected

to provide £111,000 of essential support to Wadham’s educational mission over the next five years.

May saw the return of Giving Day, bringing together students, staff, alumni and friends for 36 hours of focused fundraising. With your support, some 379 alumni and friends raised £137,563 to fund bursaries, research, and the tutorial teaching that ensures every student has the opportunity to thrive. The College was also a hub of activity, with a pub quiz, student bake sale, auction, and a bouquet sale from Wadham’s very own gardens.

We are deeply thankful to our donor community, without whom none of this would be possible. Every gift, of every size, helps ensure Wadham can continue its educational mission.



Widening access

Wadham continues to strengthen and develop our access work to enable the brightest students from under-represented backgrounds to aspire to an Oxford education – and to thrive whilst here.

Throughout 2024-25 it was inspiring to see 1,700 pupils come through our doors as part of our Access programme, giving them an insight into student and academic life in Oxford. Beyond the College walls, we reached another 5,000 pupils through our outreach work with teachers and schools in our link regions, and participated in 170 events. We welcomed over 600 students for another impactful Building Bridges collaboration; and 46 Year 12 pupils attended our 5-day residential summer school to gain a unique taste of what it's like to be an undergraduate student at the University of Oxford – a third of whom subsequently received offers to study at Oxford.

All of this was made possible through our ongoing partnerships with other organisations and institutions – and thanks to the generous support of alumni donations. Your belief in the value and importance of Wadham's Access programme inspires and enables us to continue to develop this work, as the following pages show. Since its inception, our access work has

included robust, critical evaluations each year to guide and refine its evolution. This has included engagement with pupils, teachers, educational experts, partners, policy makers and – fundamentally – those access students who have gone on to attain a place at Wadham.

We are working to develop our Access programme to ensure that all students are able to excel once here: this involves improving our on-course support to encompass personal growth, confidence and the ability to thrive academically, socially and personally at Wadham and in life after Oxford.





Being brilliant, raising sights

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With your support, younger pupils at our partner secondary schools in Luton are getting their first taste of academic learning – and raising their sights for the future.

"We can't choose where our girls end up," says Oliver Smith, assistant headteacher at Challney High School for Girls, Luton, "but we can inspire them to push themselves as high as they can go. And that drive to excel starts with the Brilliant Club – and all with Wadham's support."

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Wadham has established a long-term partnership with the Brilliant Club to help less advantaged young people aspire to the most competitive universities.

Most recently, we've worked together on the Scholars Programme, where small groups of pupils are paired with a PhD tutor from a nearby university for a series of in-depth, university-style tutorials on a specific topic.

The idea is to inspire a love of learning, provide practical experience of higher education, and help develop the skills to thrive at university and beyond.

Seizing the chance

"The Scholars Programme is a really exciting chance to inspire pupils at a younger age," says Oliver.

"As so much information about university goes to pupils in Years 10 and 11, we seized the chance to involve our girls in Year 7."

This year, the girls' learning focused on post-war British Prime Ministers. After six tutorials, they completed a final, 2,000-word dissertation – a serious undertaking for a pupil in Year 7. "It's marked to GCSE standard, with university-style grades," adds Oliver. "The aim is to stretch pupils and help them feel comfortable in an academic environment."

Recognising achievement

Pupils who complete the course are invited to a graduation event at a university. "Two years ago we came to Wadham," says Oliver, "and last year we went to Warwick. It's a chance for pupils to feel recognised for their achievement – and to find out what university life is all about."

The impact is profound. As well as improving their writing and research skills, the girls are broadening their horizons. "Often, our pupils don't leave the county – if they go to university it might be in Bedford or somewhere close by," says Oliver.

"But this experience shows them the amazing opportunity they have to go to the very best universities. It gives them the confidence to say: 'This is what I want for my future.'"

Oliver has seen how the programme raises the bar for the whole school, too: "I get pupils coming up to me asking: 'Sir, what can I do to get on to a programme like this?' It inspires everyone to be more ambitious for themselves."

Thanks to alumni donations, this year we enabled 199 pupils across 11 schools in Luton to raise their sights through the Scholars Programme.

"Without your generosity we wouldn't be able to offer this," says Oliver. "Or we would have to stop doing something equally impactful. But your support means we can continue to help these brilliant pupils kick on for their future."

‘This is a chance for young people to develop problem solving habits that they can apply to all kinds of challenges’



Knowing your strengths

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How do you think and learn? That's the question at the heart of the Meta Method, a new programme helping young people develop the self-awareness they need to thrive.

“We’re constantly talking to headteachers – and universities – about what’s holding some students back from getting places,” opens Jayne Taylor, CEO of the Elephant Group, a national charity whose mission is supporting more state school students into top universities. “And what always comes back is pupils’ inability to think independently and manage their own learning.”

In response, Jayne and her team developed the Meta Method programme, to help pupils develop their metacognition. “What we mean by that is their awareness of their thinking and learning,” says Jayne. “That means learning to know yourself, know what you’re being asked to do, and know your strategies for doing it – and then applying it all to high-level study and revision.”

Blazing a trail

Thanks to your donations, the Meta Method is now an essential component of the Wadham Project, our outreach programme for hundreds of Year 10 and 11 pupils in over 30 state schools across Bedfordshire. “Wadham has been a trailblazer,” adds Jayne. “The team saw the potential in the pilot, and recognised that this was addressing a challenge identified by schools themselves. They had real foresight.”

The online content, developed for Wadham, equips pupils to think deeply about how they learn and reflect on what works for them. They include core sessions on areas such as study skills, revision, teamwork and goal setting. Pupils also learn to plan, monitor and evaluate their work as they go along.

“What’s so special is we’re not just broadcasting information,” says Jayne. “We’re helping pupils develop a sticky skill they can keep working on. You would never learn to ride a bike by reading a book about riding bikes. You have to get on the bike. This is all about the work pupils do themselves to understand their strengths and their strategies.”

Giving control

And it works. “By helping students understand their thinking and learning, it gives them a feeling of control over what can be a really stressful time,” says Jayne. They’re also growing in confidence – and passing on these newly-learning techniques to their peers, multiplying the impact. The numbers back this up, too – 100% of the teachers involved saw increased learner confidence in revision and study techniques, and said they wanted to repeat the programme with other year groups.

“We know that, post COVID, students have been less confident in their learning and their ability to face really tricky moments in their life,” says Jayne. “So this is a chance for young people to develop problem solving habits that they can apply to all kinds of challenges. And that will support their success not only at GCSE but also at sixth form and throughout their educational journey.”

14 Formative coincidences

For Izzy Carey-Young, Wadham's access programmes helped her feel welcome at Oxford, giving her the confidence to apply and succeed.

"It's actually a bit silly to admit, but I really wanted to get rejected," says Izzy, currently enjoying her third year of her Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies degree at Wadham. That fleeting hope was based on wanting to accommodate a year abroad at the time, and dreading catered refectory meals.

So much about Izzy's journey to (and time at) Wadham is tied to the College's widening access programme. Having attended a sixth form state school in Essex, she applied to several summer school programmes, gaining a place on UNIQ's Asian and Middle Eastern Studies week-long course giving her a first taste of Wadham;

weeks later she participated in Wadham's Classics summer school programme. She loved both experiences and these influenced her application: "I was very much one-track minded because I did enjoy Wadham when I stayed, so I was very lucky."

Feeling integrated

Wadham's student ambassadors were exceptional, she says – fun, helpful and kind – which helped to demystify Oxford. They made sure she felt able to ask any questions without feeling self-conscious: "They really helped me feel so integrated."

The application and interview advice she received from the

Classics summer school "made a huge difference" says Izzy, helping her craft her application and giving her the confidence needed to do well at interview.

Wadham's Tutor for Access, Dr Hugh Munro and his team of student ambassadors played a key part in Izzy's journey to Wadham – and it is because of these experiences that she has been a student ambassador since her first year, and intends to remain so through to the end of her fourth year: "I had such a formative experience that it feels silly to not pass it on." Izzy says the ambassador feedback she's had from pupils whose shoes she was once in "just warms your heart".

'Wadham student ambassadors were exceptional - fun, helpful, and kind - which helped to demistify Oxford'





Undergraduate support

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UK undergraduates today will graduate with average student debts of £53k. We want to ensure that all talented students, whatever their financial background, can thrive at Wadham – and alumni support is pivotal to making that possible.

An undergraduate education in England for home students is among the most expensive in the world. For students from middle and low income backgrounds, dependent on Maintenance Loans and whatever family support is available, Oxford is the one of the most expensive cities in the UK for students, second only to London.

Alumni will recall the mental and intellectual dedication demanded by the tutorial system to excel, and for students facing financial pressures who need to take on part-time work, this puts them at a disadvantage to their peers.

We believe that every student should be able to focus on making the most of the educational experiences available to them. Alumni support is fundamental to this ambition, providing vital bursaries, welfare support, and subsidies.



New paths of thinking

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Camilla Pierrepont (Oriental Studies, Chinese, 2000), Executive Director at Taylor Maritime, reflects on her Wadham journey and what's inspired her to support the College.

From her first interactions with anything Wadham related – in this case, a prospectus, followed by an open day – Camilla Pierrepont says Wadham defied her initial expectations. Raised in Hong Kong and schooled in the UK, Camilla imagined Oxford would be an intimidating place. “I found it friendly and welcoming,” she says. “I wasn’t sure I would fit in but within an hour of being at the open day, I quickly realised: yeah, I really want to be here.”

A unique educational model

Those early impressions were reinforced throughout her degree, with the tutorial system transforming her experience of education – so much so that she is happy to generously support the system today with an annual gift to the College endowment for the benefit of current and future students.

“It’s an expensive model, but I gained so much from this type of educational experience,

growing intellectually and as an individual,” says Camilla. “The dynamic of the tutorial model is intensive, and it forced me to think in a different way; more flexibly and more robustly. You present your point of view and get used to being challenged; having to navigate new paths of thinking, which you might not otherwise.”

Camilla is particularly grateful to her tutors, Dr Tao Tao Liu and Dr Faure. “You never knew where the conversation was going to go. I was pretty linear and predictable. They showed me a different world of thinking that was broader, more inspired, and yet still very analytical.”

Uniquely Wadham

Reflecting on her undergraduate days, Camilla says it was the entire college experience that had a lasting impact on her. “The College attracts an amazing group of people. It ought to be intimidating but the environment at

Wadham does a lot to offset that.” Today, she continues to feel Wadham’s community warmth. Having attended her Gaudy a few months ago, she reflects: “One thing that came out of my conversations with other alumni was how friendly and welcoming the College remains. It supports relationships with alumni in a way that feels comfortable and sincere, which makes everybody very willing to help and be involved.”

Learning and 20 living compassion

Wadham's welfare team comprises Sarah O'Brien as Student Welfare Lead and two part-time Welfare Advisors: Tamina Oliver and, profiled here, The Revd Dr Jane Baun, Wadham's Chaplain

"Wadham is legendary for its welfare support," says Jane. "We're known for having a very responsive welfare team. The three of us have complementary strengths, which is helpful to students because we all have different styles of doing things and can offer a flexible response."

And what's her style? "A student once said to me: 'Jane, you're like the cool mum friend.' I love that. They can tell me things knowing I won't judge them or be shocked. And I have the sofa, the cosy office, the dog [the College 'cat', Maggie Mae], and 25 different kinds of tea."

Jane is known at Wadham for organising activities which promote self-cultivation and build resilience: weekly Qigong (an ancient mindfulness exercise) meetings, which include an appreciation of Wadham's astonishing variety of trees, termly full moon tree walks with poetry and hot chocolate, and much more.

A space to embrace

Jane has helped implement some important welfare initiatives, including a multifaith prayer and meditation space. "It's now a reality," she says, "accepted as an amenity that the modern college provides, like the music room or gym, which supports students and staff to express the fullness of who they are."

Another welfare need Jane noticed is the isolation felt by many international graduate students. To better support them, she holds dedicated 'postgraduate tea' gatherings each week.

"These students parachute into Oxford from the four corners of the Earth with all this hope, idealism, and sky-high expectations, and then they come down to earth, so there's bound to be disillusionment," she says. "Add to that getting used to a new language, food, culture, weather. These gatherings offer them a safe haven where they can meet others feeling the same way, let their defenses down, compare notes, build community,

and support one another." Underpinning her dual role as Chaplain and welfare advisor is something fundamental that comes naturally to Jane.

"It's about compassion: helping them to learn compassion for themselves, for others and for the Earth; to be attentive to blessings, and to develop a moral sense of how interrelated and interdependent we are."

"Welfare is all about helping people realise their truest self, connect with their innermost hopes and desires, and see how that connects them with others," she adds. "A lot of it is addressing the modern plague of loneliness – the teas, walks, talks, choir, Evensong – it's that social glue. Oxford promotes individualism and competition, and at Wadham we're trying to model a different, more humane and holistic, approach."



Graduate support

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Graduate students are integral to Wadham's research culture, advancing new ideas and enriching the academic life of the College. For many, however, the financial barrier to postgraduate study is significant. Scholarships funded by our alumni and friends make a profound difference, enabling outstanding candidates from around the world to pursue advanced study at Oxford.

McCALL MacBAIN
GRADUATE CENTRE

This year, our graduates continued to produce work with wide-reaching impact – from climate science to public policy, engineering, the humanities and beyond. Their contributions strengthen the College's intellectual community and demonstrate just how transformative philanthropic support can be.

Your generosity allows these talented researchers to focus fully on their studies, participate actively in College life, and push the boundaries of knowledge.

Head in the clouds



Mathilde Ritman, DPhil in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics, is harnessing her passion for atmospheric science to better understand climate change – through the generosity of the late David Richards, Foundation Fellow, and his family.

I got hooked on atmospheric science during my undergraduate degree in Melbourne. It's the best discipline because it's messy and chaotic – you can never model or observe every process at once, but you can find a way to understand it. Climate research matters because it affects everyone, everywhere.

My passion brought me to Oxford, where my supervisor specialises in cloud-climate interactions. I won a prestigious Australian scholarship for my DPhil fees, but I was still worried about living costs – until Wadham offered me the Oxford Richards Scholarship. That gave me three years of full funding to live and research in this amazing academic environment.

Thanks to this support, I'm working with the best of the best on some of the world's most important challenges. In my DPhil, I'm exploring how tropical clouds will respond to warming caused by climate change. If cloud coverage reduces, how will that affect the amount of radiation retained in the atmosphere? And will that accelerate or slow down temperature change?

I've embraced College life as a DPhil Events rep for the MCR, senior scholar and study advisor, helping undergraduates to plan for different challenges and have fun, too. This matters so much to me, as I know it takes effort and intention to build communities where everyone can thrive.

In my research this year, I've been in Colorado working with a new NASA satellite mission observing clouds and storms from space. I'm also collaborating with the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, to analyse real – rather than modelled – clouds.

Feeling welcome

Arriving from Australia was a whirlwind, but everyone at Wadham was so welcoming. It's such a lively and active community. Meeting so many passionate people outside my discipline was fantastic – I remember being blown away by all these subjects I'd barely heard of! There are no cultural expectations, either – I felt valued and free to be myself. Everyone's as excited to hear about your work as you are to hear about theirs.

I've embraced College life as a DPhil Events rep for the MCR, senior scholar and study advisor, helping undergraduates to plan for different challenges and have fun, too. This matters so much to me, as I know it takes effort and intention to build communities where everyone can thrive.

Trust and vision

On my morning commute through Oxford, I often reflect on the support I received to be here. It's amazing that there are people with the trust and vision to invest in education without expecting anything in return – so that the next generation can build a better world. There's an understanding that if you support good people to learn great things, they'll do great things with it.

I've seen what a massive impact this support can have on someone's career. It's a really unique privilege and an experience that I'll carry with me into the future. Thanks to Wadham's donors, my whole world has been expanded by the people I've met and the opportunities I've had.

26 Fellowships

Wadham's academic life is sustained by its Fellows, whose teaching and research underpin the rigour and originality of the tutorial system. With fewer than half of Fellowship posts currently endowed, securing long-term philanthropic support for these roles remains one of the College's central priorities.

This year has seen meaningful progress. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, new Fellowships in Computer Science and the History of Contemporary Art have been established, strengthening the College's academic foundations across both the sciences and the humanities. These gifts have enabled Wadham to invest in subject areas that are shaping the future of research and teaching at Oxford, and to put them on a permanent footing.

Together, these developments reflect growing confidence among alumni and friends in the importance of building a resilient endowment. Your support is helping to ensure that exceptional scholars can continue to teach and research at Wadham — and that students benefit from the close, challenging and intellectually ambitious engagement that defines their education.



28 A new chapter for contemporary art at Wadham

A new endowed Fellowship brings contemporary art to the heart of Wadham, enhancing teaching, research, and interdisciplinary work across the humanities.

Oxford is home to one of the most distinguished History of Art communities in the world, drawing on exceptional museum collections, research expertise, and a globally recognised department. Within this landscape, contemporary art has become an increasingly important area of inquiry, connecting visual culture with the political, social, and technological forces shaping the modern world.

Thanks to the generosity of Wadham alumni, the College has now endowed a new Fellowship in the History of Contemporary Art, establishing a long-term presence for the subject within the College. The philanthropic vision of our donors has enabled the College to create a permanent academic role that will enrich both teaching and research for years to come.

The newly appointed Fellow, Dr Marko Ilić, brings an international perspective to the field, with research focused on artistic movements in Central and Eastern Europe and their relationship to wider cultural and political change. His work introduces students to new global contexts and contributes to Oxford's growing strength in the study of contemporary visual culture.

Marko says: "At a time of growing political polarisation, art history is more relevant than ever – providing pathways for more inclusive and equitable futures. I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to the expansion and flourishing of the discipline as the first History of Art Fellow at Wadham. It's a privilege to build on the long-standing contributions of Jane Garnett, who has been a driving force in the college's intellectual life and community, and whose legacy serves as a vital example of what inspiring teaching can do and should strive to achieve."



▲ Dr Marko Ilić

For Wadham, this Fellowship represents a strategic expansion of our humanities portfolio. It deepens the College's engagement with Oxford's world-class museums and collections, creates new interdisciplinary opportunities, and strengthens the community of scholars exploring the art and ideas shaping the present moment.

As the College continues to build its academic foundations for the future, further endowed posts in the humanities remain a priority, including in Modern History. Each new Fellowship helps ensure that Wadham remains a home for ambitious, outward-looking scholarship across the arts and humanities.

29 A new foundation for Computing

Wadham has secured its first endowed Computer Science Fellowship through a unique partnership with the University and an exceptionally generous donation. This commitment re-establishes the subject at the College and strengthens its role in an increasingly influential field.

Computer Science sits at the centre of many of today's most consequential questions – from AI and cybersecurity to data ethics, quantum technologies and global communications. Oxford's Department of Computer Science, consistently ranked among the very best in the world, is expanding rapidly to meet this growing demand. As the discipline continues to develop and grow, Wadham has taken a major step to ensure the College plays a full part in shaping its future.

A time-limited partnership with the University has created a rare opportunity for colleges to endow new Computer Science Fellowships. Thanks to the exceptional generosity of one donor, Wadham has now secured its first permanent Fellowship in Computer Science, establishing the subject in the College on a long-term footing and enabling us to participate more fully in one of Oxford's exceptional academic communities.

For Wadham, this commitment represents a strategic investment in a discipline that is transforming every area of society and scholarship. It also strengthens the College's long-standing commitment to intellectual openness: Computer Science is a field that naturally intersects with philosophy, mathematics, engineering, the social sciences and the humanities. As Warden Robert Hannigan notes, it is "one of the essential disciplines of our time...and its impact will only deepen in the coming decades."

With one Fellowship endowed, Wadham is now positioned to reintroduce the subject to its teaching and research community in a meaningful and sustainable way.

A second Fellowship remains to be funded. Securing it would complete a pair of posts that firmly embeds the discipline in the College and ensures that future generations of students can engage with one of the most influential fields of the 21st century.

'Computer Science is one of the essential disciplines of our time... and its impact will only deepen in the coming decades'

Robert Hannigan, Warden

30 Sustainability

In response to the climate and nature crises, Wadham has developed a rigorous Sustainability Strategy aligned with the University of Oxford's net zero ambitions.

Led by the expertise of our Fellows and colleagues, it sets a clear course to achieve carbon net zero and meaningful biodiversity gain by 2035. Wadham can already demonstrate positive impact as this strategy is put into action. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, we can turn shared values and ambition into lasting, practical change.



32 Advancing sustainability

With donor support, we are conducting world-leading research and transforming our own community into a living model of sustainability.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the defining challenges of this century, and at Wadham we are determined to play our part. Our ambition is to become the first historic Oxford college to achieve carbon net zero and at least 20% biodiversity gain by 2035, setting a new standard for sustainable heritage within the University's wider net zero strategy.

To turn this vision into reality, this year we launched a comprehensive College-wide Sustainability Strategy, covering energy, biodiversity, water, food, supply chains, and investment.

Thanks to the generosity of donor Heather Stevens (Experimental Psychology, 1976), we appointed Oxford's first-ever Director of Sustainability, Frances Lloyd, to lead this ambitious work alongside our Wadham Fellows. Frances is working in close partnership with Professor Joe Bull, Wadham Professor in Climate Change Biology, who has made significant contributions to the wider University of Oxford Sustainability Strategy, and Professor Nathalie Seddon, Senior Research Fellow at Wadham and Founding Director of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NbSI) in the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford.

Momentum is building, thanks to further generous donations from alumni. This year, we secured £1.3m in gifts towards an ambitious £10m target for the first phase of the Sustainability Strategy. This work will transform the College's buildings and sites into a carbon-neutral, nature-positive campus while preserving their beauty and heritage.

Our immediate focus is on major infrastructure projects, as the most urgent and impactful examples of sustainable transformation in heritage buildings. Work to refurbish and upgrade the Library and

Library Court is advancing at pace, with plans for delivery in 2027-28. The Library is currently the College's single largest carbon emitting building; this work will enable us to dramatically reduce emissions and at the same time improve the experience of every student who passes through its doors.

In parallel with this work, Wadham is helping to shape global responses to climate change and biodiversity loss through research and education. Generous support from John Howie (Biology, 1990) established the College's Climate Change Summer School and provided foundational support for NbSI, helping to establish it as a leading global centre for practical climate-nature solutions.

Further momentum has come from the Families for Nature Foundation, whose support has established a Wadham Fellowship to lead a new programme on global climate-biodiversity synergies. Together, these partnerships show how donor support enables Wadham to combine operational transformation with research leadership that delivers impact well beyond the College.

'Our goal is to be an exemplar: to show how a historic Oxford college can take bold, evidence-led action on climate and biodiversity while preserving its heritage.'

Robert Hannigan, Warden



Fuelling the future of rowing

35



What inspired the Rod Andrews Coaching Fund?

The campaign snowballed from a simple observation: the Wadham College Boat Club (WCBC) didn't have dedicated funding to hire coaches. Although it may not have the glamour of new boats or shiny equipment, coaching is the backbone of any successful rowing programme.

A team of coaches gives stability to the club, shaping successive generations of students, and none more so than Rod Andrews who has been with WCBC for over 40 years. But without funding this has relied on the goodwill and volunteering of coaches – a model which was not sustainable.

At Summer Eights I was struck by how strongly the students value their coaches. I mentioned to the Development Office that it seemed time to properly support coaching, and from that conversation came the Rod Andrews Coaching Fund.

Partnering with the Development Office

The campaign found its structure through development efforts, which helped weave alumni stories into a compelling narrative. These stories reminded everyone just how vital coaching is, not just for winning blades, but for building a community.

The Development Office also provided the technical mechanisms to contact alumni and make it easy to give. Whether it's a quick donation in the moment or a larger commitment, the process is

seamless, and is transforming emotional drive into real-world impact. To date, the Fund has raised nearly £125k, about five years of coaching.

More than just rowing

For many, rowing at Wadham was their first experience with the sport. Thanks to inclusive coaching and a welcoming culture, WCBC has reached students from all backgrounds. Its impact goes beyond the river too, improving mental and physical health, and building lifelong friendships.

Looking ahead

The Rod Andrews Coaching Fund is about preserving the past and securing the future. It's about ensuring that coaching is valued, funded, and sustainable. It's about the people, the memories, and the shared love of rowing – which give any silverware its true shine.



In addition to our Wilkins Circle, our Nicholas and Dorothy Circles membership recognises donors who have given more than £1,000 or £5,000 respectively in a given financial year.

We are extremely grateful to all alumni who have made a commitment at this level, and we are delighted that their generosity is now acknowledged with an invitation to the annual 1610 Dinner in Hall (usually held in September).

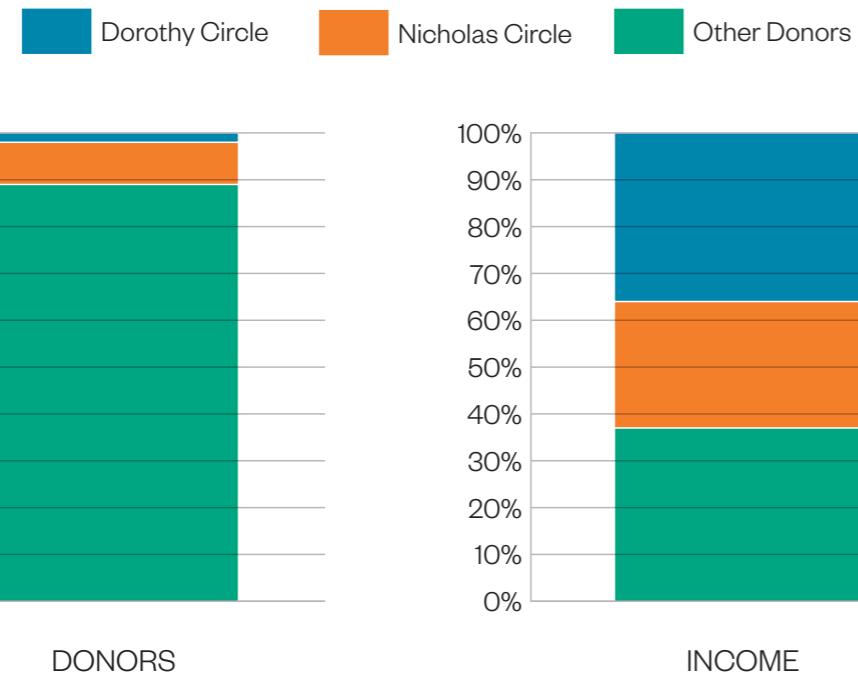
We have also introduced a donor board in the Cloisters, which is refreshed each year with the names of all current members after the end of our financial reporting period (August 1 – July 31).

Taken together, the Nicholas and Dorothy members make a significant and critical

contribution to the College's annual income. The 150 Nicholas members give a combined total of more than £250k, while the 37 Dorothy members contributed more than £375k last year.

The Circles have seen sustained growth since they were first introduced and it is a key priority for us to develop membership even further in the years ahead.

Please contact the Development Office if you would like to know more about becoming a member.



Note: The donations included in the graphs are <£25k.

Leaving a legacy – the 1610 Society

Since its foundation in 1610, Wadham College has been shaped by the generosity and foresight of those who believed in its future. Today, that tradition is continued by members of the 1610 Society – alumni and friends who have chosen to include Wadham in their wills.

This is a flourishing and committed community. With over 417 members, the 1610 Society reflects a shared belief in Wadham's values, its people and its long-term vision. Members are united not by the size of their future gift, but by a desire to see the College continue to thrive for generations to come.

As President of the 1610 Society, Colin Drummond (Classics, 1969) explains: "We make donations and leave legacies to Wadham because we love the College and all it stands for, and we want it to survive, grow and fulfil its mission."

Legacies play a vital role in supporting Wadham's future. In the past year alone, they contributed £2.5m, helping to strengthen the College's financial foundations and enabling long-term planning. This kind of support ensures that Wadham can sustain what makes it distinctive – from its tutorial system to its commitment to access – while continuing to evolve in a changing world.

Friends and alumni who inform the College of their intention to leave a legacy are invited to join the 1610 Society. Membership includes invitations to events such as the Benefactors' Garden Party and the 1610 Society and Giving Circles Dinner, offering opportunities to remain closely connected to College life.

By joining the 1610 Society, members become part of a tradition that stretches back more than four centuries – and helps secure Wadham's future well beyond the present day.



▲ Colin Drummond, President of the 1610 Society, with his wife, Georgina, enjoying the Fellows' Garden following a recent Benefactors' Garden Party.



To learn more about joining the 1610 Society, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/legacy>

38 A final word of thanks

Finalist Arthur Bellamy (English, 2023) reflects on his serendipitous journey to, and time at, Wadham – where he has benefitted from, and supported, the College's access programme.

I became Wadham-curious during my A-levels, when I began to wonder whether there was a link between the Oxford college and those streets with 'Wadham' in their names near where I lived. As it turned out, Dorothy Wadham grew up just down the road from me in Essex. I looked up Wadham College and it seemed like fate: a friendly community where academic excellence was celebrated; an institution with an extensive history of widening access to higher education, which continues to put its money where its mouth is in running access programmes for students like me.

Neither of my parents went to university, and my sixth form college discouraged me from applying; when I received my offer to study English at Wadham I was delighted, but anxious that I would struggle among people who hadn't had the same life experiences as me. I'm delighted to report that I have, indeed, met people from all sorts of backgrounds, and have never been made to feel like I don't belong. The College has been a wonderful home away from home, and I've got thoroughly stuck into all manner of activities, from drama to competitive quiz, and from volunteering with Wadham SU to leading access and outreach work myself.

A highlight of my time at Wadham so far has been the telethon campaign I worked on in December 2024. I had the chance to talk to many alumni with such wonderfully varied lives, with such colourful memories of their times at Wadham,

and to thank generous donors personally for their role in shaping the college that has formed me and so many other students over the years.

I hope all Wadhamites, present and future, will continue to benefit from this community and its generosity for generations to come.



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