



**GIRTON  
COLLEGE**  
CAMBRIDGE

# Impact Report

2022-23



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# Message from the Development Director



Dear friends,

From its foundation in 1869 as the UK's first residential institution for the higher education of women, Girton has been at the forefront of widening access to the Collegiate University for those who are academically excellent.

Our Visitor, Lady Hale, writes "It's a wonderful place to learn to think independently, to develop lifelong values and ethics and to prepare for the world of work. I know it was my time at Girton which brought me to where I am today".

This report details the significant difference that your gifts this year have made to the lives of our students today, in line with the key priorities in our current strategic plan.

These are:

**Outstanding inclusive education** – read about how Girton is one of a few Cambridge colleges involved in pilot projects to widen access to Cambridge for students facing high indices of deprivation including low family University attendance. Two projects featured in this report are the Foundation Year focused on Arts and Humanities applicants, and STEM SMART for students wishing to study

Physical or Biological Sciences or Engineering courses.

Financial hardship in the light of rising living and studying costs can be a major deterrent for students from low income families so the endowment of undergraduate bursaries, student support grants for those facing hardship, and postgraduate scholarships continue to be a funding priority.

**World-class Fellowship** – read about two new Fellowships funded by donations from generous alumni. Dr Michael Degani is the newly appointed Juliet Campbell Fellow in International Relations, and his inspiring anthropological research looks into infrastructure and energy in Africa and beyond.

Artist, composer and DJ Ain Bailey is the 2023 Cavendish Arts Science Fellow at Girton College, thanks to the generous support of Dr Una Ryan (PhD Zoology). This Fellowship enables exploratory encounters between art and science, and is a partnership between Girton College and the Cavendish laboratory for physics.

**Enrichment and opportunity** – read about how your donations have funded the splendid new Women's VIII, aiding

the resurgence of sport amongst students who have never rowed before. This year, Girton has also launched the Susan J. Smith Music Performance Fund to encourage all forms of music to flourish. To add to our students' study and career skills programme, we are looking to launch a prize to encourage entrepreneurial talent.

**Green Girton** which is focused on raising unrestricted funds for the College to improve and extend the estate, energy efficiency and other priority projects.

Finally I would like to thank all our alumni and supporters for your wonderful gifts that have enabled Girton to become financially sustainable, and to let you know that retirement beckons for me. I would like to thank so many of you for the warmth, sense of fun and commitment that have made my 7 years as Girton's Development Director such a pleasure, and to wish everyone well in the future.

**Deborah Easlick**  
Development Director and Fellow



## The Year in Numbers

**£1,638,684**  
raised from  
**1561** donors 

**103**  
donors gave to Girton  
for the first time

**50**  
non-alumni supporters  
made a gift

**6**  
full Undergraduate  
Bursaries have  
been permanently  
endowed

**15%**  
of contactable  
alumni made a gift

**163**   
Girtonians under  
35 made a gift  
to the College

Girton reached over  
**10,000**  
contactable  
alumni this year  
from **110** countries

**20**  
student support  
grants have been  
permanently endowed



Alumni and  
supporters from  
**35**  
countries donated

**1043**  
donors made  
regular gifts to Girton  
donating an average  
installment of £36.66

**63%**   
of new funds  
raised went towards  
student support

Over  
**£92,000**   
has been raised  
for postgraduate  
scholarships



# Appeals

## Giving Day 2022

On 10 and 11 October 2022 we ran our third Giving Day looking to raise funds for our student support and wellbeing initiatives. During these 36 hours our Girton community came together to not only celebrate what makes the College special but also to improve the opportunities offered to our current and future students. Over £95,000 was donated by more than 300 alumni and supporters.

By making a gift you helped support our students by widening access, offering bursaries and funding to

alleviate emergencies and hardship. Some gifts went to support our wellbeing initiatives which allow our students to thrive whilst they are here by taking part in activities like music, sport and poetry as well as offering advice and counselling as needed. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved online and in the College.



The Mistress and our mascots at the Giving Day hub



Our Telethon Callers for 2023

## Telethon 2023

Our annual Telethon ran from 21st March to 6th April 2023. A team of 15 student callers spoke to 520 Girtonians across 30 countries to reconnect, network and raise funds for our student support initiatives. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and supporters this Telethon raised over £180,000!

Gifts made as a part of the Telethon have funded 4 student support grants and an Emily Davies Bursary in perpetuity allowing Girton to help more

students in need. We are grateful to everyone who took part in this year's campaign.



# Student Support

If you are a talented student, with the potential and ability to tackle the rigours of a Cambridge degree then - in an ideal world - there should be no barriers to studying at Girton. For many such individuals, particularly those from low income backgrounds, however, the cost of a Cambridge education is prohibitive. Your support has been crucial in allowing Girton students to

continue to weather the storm first of COVID, and now the cost-of-living crisis. We are exceptionally grateful to you all.

In the last year 63% of new funds raised have been directed towards student support. Your contributions have permanently endowed 6 full Undergraduate Bursaries of £3,500 a year for students with a family income under £25,000 a year. In addition your

donations have permanently endowed 20 student support grants for those undergraduate or postgraduate students who find themselves in unexpected financial difficulties or facing other hardships. Over £92,000 has also been raised for postgraduate scholarships allowing even more talented students to study at Girton.

Thank you all for your support which is invaluable in ensuring Girton continues to offer a world-class learning experience.

**“Many thanks to those incredibly generous donors who have made my receipt of the Cambridge bursary possible, without whom I would not feel the financial security and freedom I do today. It is through means of the bursary that I am not only able to engage in my curricular /extracurricular activities, but also maintain a healthy social life, making my time at Girton (and Cambridge as a whole) more enjoyable.”**

Anon

## Unrestricted Permanent Endowment Capital

Over the last year the generosity of our alumni and supporters has helped to continue to grow Girton’s unrestricted permanent endowment capital. By continuing to raise money for our unrestricted permanent endowment capital, we aim to further secure the future of the College, with income that can be used flexibly as and when new challenges and opportunities arise.

**“I cannot express how grateful I am – the bursary has given me to opportunity to really enjoy Cambridge and get stuck into all the activities that happen throughout the year! Not having to worry about my financial situation means I can focus more on my degree and making sure that I get the best Cambridge experience.”**

Anon



## Girton College Boat Club

Following a successful ergathon and Boat Club appeal in 2022, the Girton College Boat Club (GCBC) were able to purchase a new Women’s VIII. Girton celebrated the naming of its new boat on Saturday 17 June 2023, ahead of the final day of racing at the May Bumps. With speeches from the Mistress, Dr Elisabeth Kendall, and the principal supporter, Peter Rutland, the boat was launched from the Girton boathouse onto the Cam to the delight



of an audience of alumni and students. It is named for Jim Rutland who was a long time coach and dedicated oarsman.



“This funding has been extremely important to my research and studies here at Girton College at the University of Cambridge. It has dramatically improved my life here and opened up many avenues and connections that I would never have imagined possible, and I will forever be grateful for receiving it. Receiving this funding enabled me to undertake research that I might not have been able to afford otherwise and was crucial for me to continue my PhD. Words cannot describe how grateful I am to be financially supported by this scholarship, especially considering the recent cost of living crisis in the UK which has made surviving very difficult.

The improved financial stability translated immediately to better focus and more time on my research in the lab as I worried less about my financial situation and did not have to spend as much time earning additional side income through demonstrations and supervisions – enabling more research to be undertaken. Furthermore, it granted me the financial ability to attend functions, conferences, and networking events at Girton College, UK, and Europe that I otherwise would not have been able to due to the costs incurred. For example, I had the opportunity to represent my consortium at two conferences last year in Germany and Italy respectively thanks to the funding. Likewise, I was financially able to attend functions at Girton College to network with the Mistress and Post-Doctoral Fellows during formal dinners, engaging in deep and enriching academic discourse with them. All of these enhanced my academic life at Girton College and broadened my horizon and worldview.”

Michael Hsu (2021, Physics)  
Holder of the Girton Singapore Scholarship Award 2022-23

# Access Initiatives

Our bursaries, scholarships, and hardship and wellbeing grants, help to ensure that any student who is accepted at Girton, whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level, can take part fully in all the opportunities and experiences a Girton (and Cambridge) education affords. But it still remains the case that a large number of talented young students don't apply to Girton, or Cambridge, or indeed to university at all. We believe that raising the aspirations of talented schoolchildren, so they know that university could be an option for them is crucial to ensuring a fair and equal society. Our access initiatives are not just aimed therefore at encouraging applications to Girton, but at encouraging access to higher education in general.

Thanks to your support Girton has been able to get involved in a range of access initiatives. This means that as well as being one of a small number of College's involved in both the University of Cambridge's Foundation Year and their STEM SMART ground-breaking pilot projects, which aim to tackle educational disadvantage at secondary school level, Girton is also involved in several other access initiatives involving working closely with schools in the West Midlands and the London Borough of Camden. We want to be able to do more however, and our admissions team has exciting plans for the future.

Our STEM SMART students



## Dr Stuart Davis, Fellow and Admissions Tutor, reports on these Access Initiatives which started this year.

The Cambridge Foundation Year Programme is a one-year, fully-funded residential programme for students who have faced educational disruption or disadvantage. Once on the programme, students complete an intensive year designed to prepare them for study at the undergraduate level. Each week, students have approximately three hours of lectures, three hours of supervisions, and six to nine hours of seminars. This is in addition to the time spent on independent study, completing readings and writing supervision assignments. Students also complete a series of assessed coursework essays and a short dissertation, in addition to an end-of-year exam.

Many of the students on the programme this year have been very active in their Colleges and beyond. Activities from our four Girton students include: becoming a member of the JCR committee, competing in College competitive sports, being active in national politics, and much more besides.

It has been delightful to watch the students develop and flourish over the last few months. Girton has been

a key supporter of the scheme since its inception, including being one of only two colleges represented on the Management Committee.

Girton is also one of the first colleges to participate in STEM SMART, a pilot Widening Participation initiative from the University of Cambridge, run in association with Isaac Physics. STEM SMART provides free complementary teaching and support to UK students at non-fee-paying schools who have either experienced educational disadvantage or belong to a group that is statistically less likely to progress to higher education. It was launched in autumn 2021 and was targeted at students who were considering applying to Engineering and Physical Sciences courses at top universities. From 2022 it was extended to cover Biological Sciences as well.

The programme starts in January in Year 12 and runs until exams begin in Year 13. Throughout this time students are set work each week via the Isaac Physics online platform which complements and supports their school studies. Students who have demonstrated active engagement in earlier phases can

participate in small group tutorials and attend a 4-day residential in Cambridge. In its final phase the focus is on helping them to secure the best possible grades in their public examinations and to meet their university offer.

In January 2022 the first cohort of 848 students with widening participation backgrounds started the course.. with 515 students progressing to Phase 2 and then 372 to Phase 3. Several Girton fellows and research students participated by giving small group supervisions, and Girton hosted 18 students during the residential. Donations to Girton have enabled us to be active supporters and participants in the programme.



This Year's Foundation Year students



"As a student in the foundation year, I have thoroughly enjoyed the different papers that have been on offer. I have been able to explore subjects such as art in the 'The human body and visual art' paper which I would not have been able to had I gone on to tripos directly. By having the option to take papers with a variety of subject content I have been able to develop interests that I will carry throughout my time at university and beyond. The foundation year has also allowed me to not only develop my academic skills in regard to writing essays but also feel more confident in navigating university as a whole. I would like to thank those who have helped fund the foundation year as well as the incredible teaching staff."

Saranka Maheswaran (2022, Foundation Year)



# Fellowships

Girton's Fellowship is at the heart of the College. These teaching and research Fellowships bring a breadth of world-class experience and enrichment to Girton's multi-disciplinary teams and strengthen our research-infused teaching. By investing in Fellowships, Girton is able to deliver on its educational purpose, ensure academic excellence and continue to provide a challenging,

transformational educational experience for every student. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our alumni we have been able to welcome Dr Michael Degani as the first holder of the Juliet Campbell Fellowship in International Relations and Ain Bailey as the second Cavendish Arts Science Fellow at Girton.



Michael Degani is an environmental anthropologist, focusing on infrastructure and energy in Africa and beyond. He received his PhD from Yale University and taught in the Department of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University before joining the University of Cambridge in 2023. He has conducted long-term research in Tanzania since 2009, supported by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner-Gren



"It is an incredible privilege to hold the named, Juliet Campbell Fellowship in International Relations, and a wonderful way to be welcomed into the rich legacy of Girton College. Throughout her life and distinguished service in the British Foreign Office, Juliet Campbell witnessed the 20th

Foundation, the Fulbright-Hayes Foundation, and American Council of Learned Societies. His first book, the City Electric: Infrastructure and Ingenuity in Postsocialist Tanzania, is an ethnography of the country's national power grid. Related work has appeared in Cultural Anthropology, American Ethnologist, Limn, and Critical Times. He is currently working on a study of religious sisterhoods and small hydropower in Tanzania's southern highlands.

century as it unfolded across the world, from Beirut to Jakarta, Brussels to the Hague. She exemplifies the values of diplomacy, cross-cultural encounter, and historical sensitivity that any good anthropologist aspires to, and that she would eventually bring to Girton as Mistress of the College. Her generous gift, along with those from other supporters, has allowed me to continue that tradition through my own research, and through supervision of students in the human, social, and political sciences—an honor for which I am deeply grateful."

**Dr Michael Degani**  
Juliet Campbell Fellow in International Relations

Ain Bailey is an artist, composer and DJ, based in London. Her practice explores sonic autobiographies and the constellation of sounds that form individual and community identities. Her compositions encompass field recordings and found sounds and are often inspired by reflections on silence and absence, feminist activism and architectural acoustics, particularly of urban spaces. She has developed numerous collaborations with performance, sonic and visual artists, creating multi-channel and

mixed media installations and soundtracks for moving images, live performance and dance.

"Time spent at Girton College has provided me with room to think, reflect, breathe and contemplate."



'Sonic Stories' evening where I was joined by The Mistress, Dr Elisabeth Kendall, and Dr Stuart Davis. It proved to be emotional and engaging. In fact, two of their contributions were included in a radio show I made for Montez Press Radio (available to listen to on my Soundcloud).

Above all else, the wondrous hospitality that has been afforded me has been the greatest gift during my time as the Cavendish Art Fellow at Girton. This ranges from wonderful living accommodation at Grange Cottage, the complementary food, and not forgetting the magnificent formal dinners, which have provided a real peek into Cambridge and Girton traditions. I may never wear a gown again!"

**Ain Bailey**  
Cavendish Arts Science Fellow



It was a privilege to spend seven years as Mistress of Girton. When I found myself in a position to give something back I wanted to contribute to its teaching and research, and in particular to its international dimension. It has been a thrill to meet the first Juliet Campbell Fellow and I am very grateful to all the generous people who have helped make my dream a reality.

The future is in the hands of the young. I wish energy, luck and success to present and future Girtonians as they navigate an increasingly complicated world."

**Juliet Campbell**  
Past Mistress

"As I grew up after the second world war, mostly overseas, Britain seemed a small island buffeted by world events. I went on to a career in the Diplomatic Service largely devoted to Britain's relationship with Europe. Brexit was to me very personal. I saw it as a disaster for Britain and Europe, but it happened. Now more than ever our country needs to understand and work with the wider world.



"My vision for this Fellowship was to provide the cues for artists to embrace the inspiration of science and scientists to grasp the magic of art—and to switch as comfortably between the disciplines as stick-insects switch their colours in a day/night cycle."

**Dr Una Ryan**  
PhD Zoology





### Get in Touch

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