



WADHAM  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# 7 reasons to be proud of Wadham

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Donor report 2020



# A year to be proud of Wadham

In this year like no other, we would like to thank all of our supporters – just as we usually do. But we'd also like to offer a few rays of light in this pandemic darkness. Hence the change from our conventional format to these "7 reasons to be proud of Wadham". We hope that you too will feel a warm glow as you read them...

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# With thanks

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**In a year of disruption, declining revenues and deserted quads, we owe you – the Wadham community – a greater debt of thanks than ever.** With your financial, practical and moral support, we weathered the storm of 2019-20 and look towards 2021. Thanks to you, we have been able to offer support for the additional students we accepted in 2020, well before the government U-turn on A level grades or the University policy to take all offer holders. Thanks to you, we were able to support all of our staff, even casual workers, through lockdown. Thanks to you, we will be able to complete our Back Quad development almost on time and give a warm Wadham welcome to its first residents.

Of course, we are also grateful to previous generations of donors for providing the rock of financial stability that is our endowment – albeit relatively modest by Oxford standards. Through careful management and new benefactions, we have managed to preserve vital investment, along with the annual income that it brings. The shortfall in rent and conference revenue, however, has been very significant this year and this will continue to place a burden on our finances for years to come.

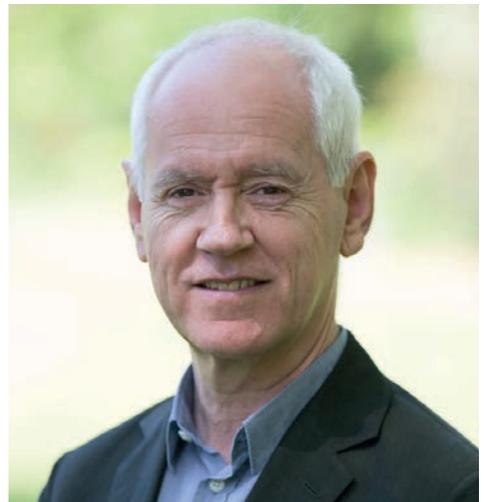
Yet you – our friends and alumni – rallied round, not only to support the College through difficult times but also to alleviate

financial hardship among those students and early-career academics most affected by Covid-19.

In some ways, indeed, the pandemic has made the global Wadham community stronger. Virtual events have enabled more alumni to attend and our website traffic has increased significantly. We would like to thank all who took part or who simply clicked on links to read more. Of course, we look forward to seeing you soon in person, but thank you for teaching us that there is more we can do remotely to strengthen our shared sense of belonging.

All in all, there is much to be thankful for and more reason than ever to make us proud of our College and proud of its people.

**Ken Macdonald QC**  
Warden



The list of donors for 2019-20 will be included in the Gazette

# With pride

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**As this strangest of years draws to a close, my mixed memories are suffused with a sense of enormous pride.** At the time of writing in November 2020, we have just completed our second annual Giving Day (postponed from May). Together, you, our alumni and friends, have contributed an astounding £183,000 to support the College, its students and its work – nearly double what we raised 18 months ago. I cannot thank you enough.

Our #WadhamProud Giving Day 2020 represents one of the crowning achievements of our Access to Excellence campaign. Although the target has now been extended to £45 million and the end date to 2022, it is time to take stock and take pride, not only in the total amount raised so far but also in the leadership we have shown. Oxford's much-publicised improvements in increasing the diversity of its intake are, we believe, partly due to the influence and example of Wadham.

Indeed, our own Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Ancient History Peter

Thonemann has been a major contributor to the latest University-wide developments, notably Opportunity Oxford, which supports offer-holders with indicators of disadvantage right up to the point where they become undergraduates.

The impact of the Access to Excellence programme to date is something we have been tracking and reporting on annually. The data in our latest Impact Report proves that our already inclusive community is becoming even more diverse and the impressive numbers of applicants and students we have been able to support with your help speak volumes. We are confident that this will only lead to greater excellence in the years to come.

This financial year, we received a fantastic £5.8m in funding and secured £2.9m in new cash and pledges – a truly humbling result in a year marked by the pandemic and the ensuing economic downturn. Of course, after the disruption of the second half of 2019-20, the time lag of fundraising activities is such that we will have to work extra hard in 2020-21 to meet our ambitious goals and shield the College's endowment from the significant impact of the pandemic.

For now, however, let's take pride and joy in our *7 reasons to be proud of Wadham* – and the 1,629 extra reasons to be proud of Wadham represented by our 1,629 donors of 2019-20. On behalf of everyone at Wadham, thank you to each and every one of you for standing by us.

**Julie Christiane Hage**  
Fellow and Development Director

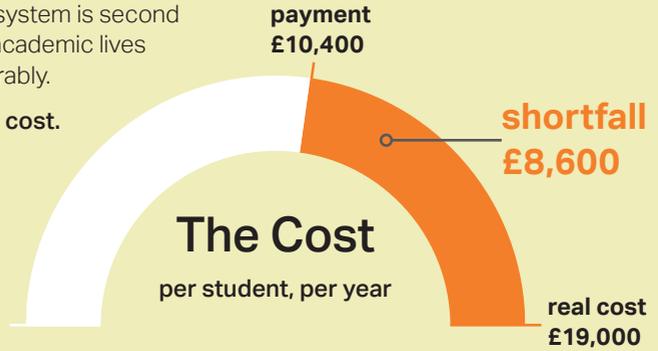


# The cost of an Oxford education

As you know, Oxford's tutorial system is second to none. It enriches students' academic lives and career prospects considerably.

**But, it continues to come at a cost.**

The annual cost of educating a Wadham undergraduate student exceeds tuition fees and charges, leaving the College with a major shortfall.



**1,629**  
donors in 2019-20

## The Endowment

The Endowment is invested and used to support activities according to donors' wishes. This helps cover part of the shortfall.



\*[www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/wadham-in-numbers](http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/alumni/wadham-in-numbers)

# Reasons to be proud #1:

## The virtual summer school

**Q:** How did an army of zombies, elite snipers and evil geniuses save a vital access event?

**A:** By teaming up with Wadhamites, who moved at lightning speed to re-engineer a summer school.

**In the lockdown spring of 2020, it looked as if all was lost for the annual alumni-funded UNIQ Engineering Summer School**

– due to be held at Wadham in July. The 50 accepted participants were all academically gifted sixth formers from less privileged postcodes and schools. Based on previous statistics, on average 20 of them would be expected to get offers from Oxford after attending so cancelling would be a huge blow for the University.

Fortunately, the Wadham community was on its toes. Within weeks, we had constructed a *virtual* summer school. Fellow Mark Thompson and engineering colleagues created online classes on mathematical modelling, bridge building, live coding and more. Former engineering



Virtual visit to Rebellion Studios in Oxford

students – Amanda East (1981), Erol Mustafa (1985), Pete Mason (1994) and Rebecca Grady (2009) – all stepped up via video to be quizzed on their Wadham experience and subsequent careers.

But the stars were undoubtedly the zombies, elite snipers and evil geniuses of Oxfordshire games company, Rebellion Developments. The students were introduced to them courtesy of co-founder, Chris Kingsley OBE (Chemistry, 1985),



**The ambassadors were incredibly helpful and engaging! The lectures were also a great way of getting a more detailed insight into the way engineering is approached at university. Being able to see where engineering can take you and the Rebellion games studio tour has convinced me to apply to Oxford.**

**653** students  
received virtual application  
support sessions

**138** students attended  
virtual interview workshops

## From outreach and access to on-course success

In 2019-20, despite the pandemic, Wadham managed to run 95 access events, working with over 3,600 pupils from 145 different schools. Around 60% of them had at least one official statistical indicator of disadvantage. In our link regions of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes and Luton, for example, donor funding enabled us, working with our partners Causeway Education, to provide 250 sixth-formers with online support for their UCAS applications.

From March 2020 we have refocused our Access work to the priorities of the pandemic, supporting students most likely to be experiencing educational disadvantage and in need of targeted support to help their progression to university.

We have prioritised programmes where students are engaged for longer periods, and in ways that support them with immediate next-steps.

We robustly evaluate all of our access activities, using external experts to analyse their success and produce an annual Impact Report (available on our website), using UCAS 'Strobe'. It demonstrates that pupils engaged in our access activities are "very significantly" more likely to apply to Oxbridge and to take up places at universities demanding high grades.

who led a whirlwind virtual tour of the vast multimedia studios, birthplace of some of the world's most successful computer games.

Meanwhile, Wadham has been similarly agile about other access activities during the pandemic. With the support of our donors, we have expanded our digital provision to enable more schools in our link areas and beyond to benefit from our programmes and materials. We are also exploring how online outreach, interviews and teaching have the potential to be more inclusive, especially for less extroverted students.

We are proud of our agility during the pandemic. But we are even prouder of the lessons we are learning for the future.

# Reasons to be proud #2:

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## The African scholars

**Meeting Dennis Mazingi is a humbling experience.** He's a paediatric surgeon, who spent 12 years training in Malawi and his native Zimbabwe. With his skills and his brain, he could go anywhere in the world. But thanks to an all-inclusive graduate scholarship, funded by the Beit Trust and Wadham alumni, he will be heading back home to save children's lives... via an MSc in international health and tropical medicine at Oxford.

"Surgery is an intimate art," says Dennis, "but in low-to-middle-income countries, where most health problems are really socio-economic problems, you need the wider public-health view to find solutions. It's particularly important now, as we're beginning to see the problems associated with prosperity alongside those associated with poverty."

His own particular passion is a project to reduce children's deaths from road traffic





**Several members of my class have been on the frontline of Covid in their own countries. I've learned so much from them.**

accidents. It's inspired by his experiences of trauma surgery and scheduled for rollout on his return to Zimbabwe.

Oxford, you'll be proud to know, leads the world in global health and, in some ways, the pandemic has proved a good time to be here. "Several members of my class have been on the frontline of Covid in their own countries. I've learned so much from them," says Dennis.

He also benefits from long discussions on public health with our other Beit Scholar. Rejoice Namale is doing a Masters in Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government. She is planning to use her

newfound expertise for impact back home in Malawi, where she founded an NGO called Youth Arise Network. "I'm so grateful for this opportunity," says Rejoice. "It will help me to take a leading role in civil society, using the resources at my disposal to reduce inequality. With the Masters in Public Policy in hand, not only do I have the ability to serve my country but serve a global village as we all face similar challenges only in different contexts. My studies at Oxford, by way of the Beit-Wadham-Blavatnik fully funded scholarship has made this possible"

Reason indeed to rejoice. But also another reason to be proud of Wadham.

## Multiply your money

Through the generosity of donors, Wadham has trebled graduate scholarship provision in recent years. Currently we offer more than 30 scholarships, representing over 20% of our graduate community. Thanks to your donations of all sizes, we have secured matched funding for graduate scholarships from University departments, increasing the impact of donations. For example, the Law Faculty offers £5,000 to top up every £10,000 scholarship donation, making it more cost effective to fund a talented graduate through their studies.

Thanks to a newly launched University scheme, you can also help ensure that we attract the best academic talent in perpetuity. The Graduate Endowment Matched Scholarship (GEMS) will match donations for endowed scholarships on a 2:1 basis.



# 30

**Graduate scholarships**

# 20%

**of Wadham graduates receive a scholarship**

# Reasons to be proud #3:

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## The ingenious ventilator

**1664:** In the small room above Wadham's main entrance, Robert Hooke, polymath and cofounder of the Royal Society, is conducting an experiment involving a stray dog and a pair of bellows. We will spare you the gruesome details. Suffice to say that Hooke has just created the world's first mechanical ventilator, a device that in future incarnations will go on to save thousands of lives.

**2020:** In the small room above Wadham's main entrance, professor of medicine Andrew Farmery is addressing 200 alumni – all safely shielded from a global pandemic in homes throughout the world. He is telling them about OxVent, an extraordinary, low-cost mechanical ventilator, which he developed with Wadham Fellows in engineering Mark Thompson and Alfonso Castrejón-Pita, and a multidisciplinary team from King's College London and Oxford in response to the crisis of Covid-19.

A few months later, OxVent wins a prestigious Innovation Award from the Institute of Engineering and Technology. Fortunately, it was not needed by UK hospitals. But it is now undergoing licensing for use in low and middle-income countries, both in the present Covid-19 crisis and as a low cost ventilator long after the pandemic is over.

OxVent is a powerful reminder of Wadham's proudest traditions: scientific discovery, societal contribution and a multidisciplinary collegiate system that depends on philanthropy for its survival. Please look out for OxVent's crowdfunding campaign, coming soon via Equity Spark.

Thank you to all who contributed to funding our research excellence in 2019-20. Thank you also to all who attended one of our 9 physical and 4 virtual alumni events. Like OxVent our e-gatherings are a pandemic innovation, born of necessity but with an exciting future. We look forward to seeing you in 2020-21 for further occasions that will make you proud to belong to Wadham.



**OxVent is a powerful reminder of Wadham's proudest traditions: scientific discovery, societal contribution and a multidisciplinary collegiate system that depends on philanthropy for its survival.**

## E is for engagement – and excellence in research

During the pandemic, our e-events have consistently achieved 200 to 300 registrants, and enabled alumni all over the world to engage with the world-leading research of Wadham's Fellows.

As part of the Access to Excellence campaign, your donations to Fellowships and graduate scholarships have played a vital part in helping Wadham to lead the world in research. They make all the difference in attracting the best minds: academic talent that would otherwise go to Oxford's global competitors. So far, over the course of the Access to Excellence programme, you have given £5.9 million to support Fellowships and £10 million for graduate scholarships – more numbers to be proud of. Our determination to safeguard Wadham's research excellence by raising funds for Fellowships and scholarship is undiminished – and we invite alumni and friends to help us, also in the years to come.

**£5.9 million**

given to support Fellowships

**£10 million**

given for graduate scholarships



# Reasons to be proud #4:

## The amazing transformation

### **Pictures tell the story of the Back Quad transformation far better than words.**

However, behind the elegant architecture and the headline gifts for the William Doo Undergraduate Centre and Dr Lee Shau Kee Building lie many other stories of amazing transformation...

"I can't tell you how kind I find it that you are naming that lovely student room after my father," writes Julian Anderson (Geology, 1957), son of the late Sir Kenneth Anderson (History, 1924). In fact, Wadham transformed Sir Kenneth's life in more ways than one, as he met his future wife in Front Quad.

"Wadham was enormously dear and precious to him," continues Julian. "One of the reasons was that as a young boy, his absolutely adored and brilliant elder brother died of meningitis in his younger teens. My father was acutely aware that, had this not happened, family funds would never have allowed two of them to go to university. Hence his endless passion for what Wadham gave to him."

Alongside the building, another parent is commemorated. A serene Japanese-style oasis, designed to nurture student wellbeing, is being created thanks to a gift from Heather Stevens (Experimental Psychology, 1976), who chose to name the new College landmark after her much-loved father, Bruce Naylor.

The garden is located within the former JCR Quad, which itself is undergoing a transformation into the "Webb Quad". In this case, the donation is from a wife, Veronica Webb, whose husband, John (1929–2019) arrived at Wadham in 1949, after National Service. He studied physics and went on to found his own highly successful firm of consulting engineers. But he never forgot the College that had transformed his fortunes. Throughout his life he remained committed to supporting Wadham with bursaries for talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We take great pride in remembering him – and so many others – through our beautiful new landmarks.



## Still time to make your mark!

We are grateful to all the alumni and friends who have helped us to secure over £16 million for the transformative “Back Quad” development, which includes Oxford’s first ever dedicated Access Centre.

Although students are already in residence as planned, the first access events and the official opening have had to be postponed because of the pandemic. The upside is that this gives us another year to hit the £18.2 million target!

Efforts to bring in the final £2 million have been severely hampered by the cancellation of face-to-face fundraising events, so there’s still a chance to inscribe your name – or someone else’s on this historic building. There are all kinds of ways to contribute – starting from £3,000 to appear on the donor board in the main atrium. Or why not follow the proud example of alumni who are naming a student room?



# £16 million

funds secured so far



# £2 million

remaining amount to raise

First images of the new Back Quad Buildings.

We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back to College as soon as we are able, and to introducing you to the new William Doo Undergraduate Centre and the Dr Lee Shau Kee Building

Additional images can be viewed on our website at: <https://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/news/2020/december/introducing-wadhams-back-quad-development>





# Reasons to be proud #5:

## The soaring standards

**When we launched our £40 million Access to Excellence Campaign back in 2016, we were clear about the double meaning of the title.** In the words of our Development Council Chair Warren East CBE (Engineering, 1980), our goal was not just to become fairer; it was to become *better*. Yes, we wanted to offer places to deserving students who were in some way disadvantaged and would not otherwise come to Oxford. But our philosophy was that they would genuinely raise our academic standards too. Wadham wanted access to *their* excellence, as much as we were offering them access to *Oxford's* excellence.

Was all that just idealistic thinking? Not if this year's degree results are anything to go by. Out of a cohort of 133, 73 were awarded Firsts. That number includes an astonishing 13 students of History (and joint schools). Performances in Oriental Studies and Maths were almost as stellar too. And Wadham consistently performs at the top tier of the Norrington Table.

However, we are proud of *all* our students, regardless of their marks. Making it through this disrupted and disconnected year is achievement enough in itself. We are also deeply proud of the wider Wadham community, whose continued support enabled us to accept 13 more first-years than planned this October – even before it became University policy to take all offer holders. Note that most of the students who “missed their offer” in the chaotic awarding of A level results match our Access to Excellence profile.

And the Campaign? That too has surpassed all expectations in a year when many activities were cancelled. In 2019–20 we hit the original target of £40 million... but we also raised it to £45 million by 2021/22. Already the total stands at £41.6 million.

We're not just proud of the big numbers, though. Every donation counts, no matter big or small. Some 22% of our alumni made a gift in 2019–20 – as many as in a “normal” year and a very high participation rate by Oxford standards. Based on total funds raised during our campaign period, Wadham is also in the top 5 out of 38 colleges. If there was a Norrington Table for giving you would put us near the top!

# 73 Firsts

awarded out of a cohort of 133

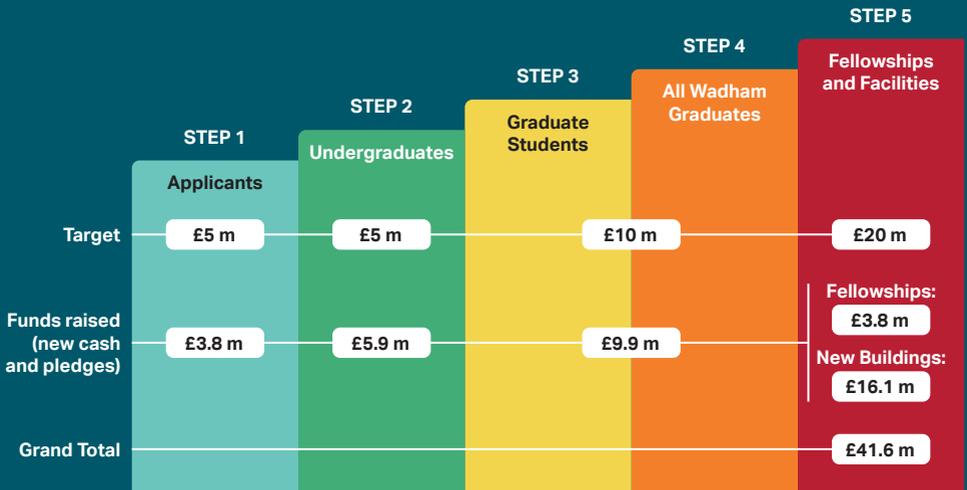




## Five steps to access and excellence: Campaign results so far

Our Access to Excellence programme aims to support young people from the moment they consider university, through their undergraduate and graduate studies, and as they go out into the world to make a positive impact on society.

Minimum target: £40 million by 2020  
 New target set in 2019: £45 million by 2021/22  
 Total raised to date: £41.6 million



# Reasons to be proud #6:

## The Nobel Prize

### Reasons to be proud of Wadham don't get any better than this.

An Emeritus Fellow of Mathematics, also renowned for his philosophy of human consciousness and infinitely beautiful tessellated tiling, wins a Nobel Prize... for physics.

The award, announced in October 2020, for Sir Roger Penrose's work on black holes is the crowning accolade of a long and illustrious career. It is also proof that Wadham's great polymath tradition, started by the founders of the Royal Society in the seventeenth century, lives on.

Like Sir Christopher Wren, Warden John Wilkins and Robert Hooke, Penrose's academic legacy is assured. So, of course, is Nobel's – through the bequest some 125 years ago of his eponymous prizes.

There is another legacy in this story, however. It dates back to early-twentieth-century Cambridge, where another polymath is at work. Walter William Rouse Ball, a former barrister, is not only a mathematics lecturer but a historian and populariser of his subject. He writes about mathematical puzzles and, like Penrose, tessellation patterns. More implausibly he is also an amateur magician of some note. But he is hardly famous.

When he dies in 1925, he bequeaths a considerable endowment to create two chairs in mathematics, at Oxford and Cambridge.

It will be 95 years before an Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at Oxford, our very own Sir Roger Penrose, wins a Nobel Prize. Not only will the Wadham



Alain Goriely

Sir Roger Penrose

community learn who Walter William was but the name Rouse Ball will finally achieve worldwide fame. Such is the long-term investment of leaving a legacy.



## The power of legacy

Around 20% of Wadham's philanthropic income comes from bequests, which on average, amounts to over £1m a year, over the past five years.

Everyone who informs College of the intention to leave a legacy to Wadham is invited to join the 1610 Society, which now has 407 members. Benefits of belonging include invitations to annual events, such as the Benefactors' Garden Party and the 1610 Society Dinner. Against all the odds, both of these went ahead in 2020 – in the form of live online concerts.

"When we were students we assumed the College had lots of money," says Colin Drummond OBE (Classics, 1969), 1610 Society President. "But Wadham's operating model is quite fragile. Government funding certainly isn't enough to pay for the tutorial system or the outreach that means so much to us all. A stable charitable income from bequests is vital for keeping our fragile institution and its values moving forward."

We are infinitely grateful to Colin, the 1610 Society Committee and the hundreds of alumni who are leaving a legacy to the College in their will. We hope 2021 will give us an opportunity to thank you in person.

# 407

**members of the  
1610 Society as of  
31 December 2020**

# £1 million+

**average annual income  
from bequests over  
past five years**

# 20%

**average income from  
legacies as part of overall  
fundraising income**

# Reasons to be proud #7:

## The circle of giving

**Back in March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had barely begun. Its effect on our community and the wider world was difficult to predict. We certainly did not anticipate that generosity, too, would prove infectious.**

It all started with the great foresight of one American donor. Deeply concerned about the impact of the pandemic on the lives and careers of Wadham's students and young academics, George Lanier made a gift of US\$200,000 for use at the College's discretion to help those who are suffering financial hardship during the Covid-19 crisis. His generosity is all the more remarkable, given that he is not an alumnus but a friend of the College. The funding enabled us to help students improve their home learning environments early in the lockdown and is continuing to support those whose families have been most adversely affected.

Two months later, during our June Covid-19 Appeal for students in need, George Lanier's generosity served as a beacon for others to follow. Though many alumni were themselves experiencing financial hardship, our plea for support raised more than last year's "normal" summer

appeal. Initially, 36 supporters gave a total of £8,000, but this soon inspired others to give larger amounts. We're proud to announce that alumni have donated another £60K.

In that strange summer of 2020, a similar glow of pride was cast by the generosity of our own students. At the time Wadham was eerily deserted – with no rent or conference revenue – but determined to do the right thing by our workforce. We decided to make up the 20% salary shortfall plus full pension contributions of some 90 furloughed non-academic staff. Spontaneously, the Student Union asked its members to rally round. Together they donated an extraordinary £20,000 to help us to help our employees – and completed the circle of giving.

We are grateful to all who gave – alumni, students, Fellows and friends – to support other members of our community. In a year when revenues plummeted (mainly due to the collapse of the College's conference business) we are also more thankful than ever for your gifts to College – especially your "unrestricted" giving to the Wadham Fund. But most of all we are proud – proud of what this virtuous circle of philanthropy tells us about Wadham.

**£60,000**

donated by alumni in June  
Covid-19 Appeal

**£20,000**

donated by students to support  
non-academic staff

## More circles of giving

As well as dedicated funding towards specific projects, generous alumni give unrestricted donations to the Wadham Fund, to support areas of College activity that require the most immediate help. These have funded our Access and Outreach work, hardship and bursary support for on-course students, and grants to students, subsidising living costs at Oxford.

In the past financial year, Wadham was able to give over £820,000 in financial support to students, thanks to a combination of alumni donations in 2019-20, and return from endowment made possible thanks to donations from previous generations.

**£80,000**

in Living Out grants

**£9,000**

in Freshers' book grants

**£202,000**

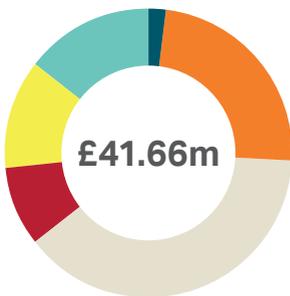
in bursaries and hardship support

**£23,000**

further in accommodation and vacation residence assistance

## Campaign Summary

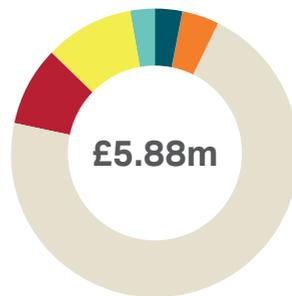
New funds raised from August 2012 to July 2020



Student Support	£864k
Graduate Scholarships	£9.9m
Buildings and Facilities	£16.1m
Access and Outreach	£3.8m
Wadham Fund	£5.0m
Academic Posts	£6.0m

## Financial Year 2019-2020

Distribution of cash received



Student Support	£185k
Graduate Scholarships	£244k
Buildings and Facilities	£4.19m
Access and Outreach	£516k
Wadham Fund	£585k
Academic Posts	£162k



This past year, in a way unlike any other, has really shown what a strong college community can do.



## With our thanks

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I applied to Wadham College because of the warmth and friendliness that I experienced at open day and, approaching half-way through my third year, I couldn't be prouder to be part of such a vibrant and welcoming community. This past year, in a way unlike any other, has really shown what a strong college community can do.

At the start of 2020, I had the privilege of giving students from two schools in my home county a tour around Wadham. It reminded me of how far I've come since I was in their position and how Wadham's outreach work has helped me to get to where I am now.

Several months (and a few world-changing events) later, I was humbled to see the outpouring of support and donations for Wadham's Giving Day. A few weeks after that, I again had the opportunity to answer questions from school pupils, this time in a live-streamed video session. Outreach work like this is more important than ever and is made possible by the generosity of alumni.

I'm proud to be part of a community that keeps going forward and keeps giving back. Thank you for being the force that keeps us moving.

**Madeleine Rose (English, 2018)**



I'm proud of Wadham as a college for taking equal access to Oxford so seriously. I can't wait to see school groups in the new Access Centre and am excited to see what we do with it – although extremely jealous of those few students whose bedrooms are in the building!

*Aaron Kai Shankar (Modern Languages, 2019), SU President*



The experience at Wadham fired up the pupils' brains. On the way home they had debates about political nihilism, educational meritocracy and climate change. They usually stare vacantly at rolling Snapchat stories. Thank you.

*Higher Education and Aspiration Officer, Hackney state school (before the lockdown)*



Wadham gave me a chance and the doors it opened were amazing! The Back Quad appeal was my chance to give back, to pay it forward and hopefully increase the size of someone else's world.

*Jojo Sanders (PPE, 1998), donor*



I am really glad that social mobility is so firmly on the agenda for Wadham. The fact that the Access Centre is being constructed in the Back Quad and the emphasis they have given in terms of the leadership they are providing at Oxford – these things are very important.

*Sir Michael Barber, Chair, Office for Students*



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**WADHAM  
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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