

*"St Anne's stands out as a college
that is down to earth, modern,
informal and open to the world.
It attracts students of all sorts of
different cultures and
backgrounds. It is committed to
furthering intellectual
emancipation."*



St Anne's College, Oxford
a brief history



Elizabeth Howe memorial window.

Stained glass © 1997 Mari Girling
Photograph © 1997 Stuart Franklin

"Academic dress was a thrilling novelty, worn with the utmost pride by the 'undergraduette', with shyness by the woman don, who had lived long enough under the old regime to feel self-conscious under the change"

Academic Dress, R.F. Butler and M.H. Prichard (ed.), *The Society of Oxford Home-Students* vol. II (1921-1947), 1949

"I am really rather horrified to find that the new library is attracting people so much that even on fine sunny afternoons it is full of young women industriously reading"

Grace Hadow, Principal, 1929-1940

"It is peculiarly a body which is constantly and consciously changing and moving"

Kirstie Morrison, Founding Fellow of St Anne's College

"I don't know of any other place where women students are so nicely chaperoned and motherly taken interest in, as our association of Home-Students by you; it struck me as giving a ladylike aspect to the whole organization, besides giving it a very safe feeling for the foreigner"

A Dutch student writing to Bertha Johnson in 1910

"I imagine that a stimulating but feverish life would be the result of trying to combine the varied interests and responsibilities of the Dramatic Society, the Sing Song Club, the Girl Guides, the Shakespeare Society, the Labour Club, and the SCM; to say nothing of the Boat, Swimming, and Hockey Clubs, the League of Nations' Union, and the WEA. After all, one must get in a few lectures, and write an occasional essay, or one's tutor doesn't like it. One wonders sometimes if there is any time to think, but doubtless that is left to the Long Vacation..."

'Bobbed Hair and Cigarettes': Oxford in the 1920s, *The Ship*, 1922

Principals of St Anne's



Bertha Johnson
Principal of the Association for the Education of Women, 1894-1921
Principal of the Society of Home-Students, 1910-1921



Christine Burrows
Principal of the Society of Home-Students, 1921-1929



Grace Hadow
Principal of the Society of Home-Students, 1929-1940



Eleanor Plumer
Principal of the Society of Home-Students, 1940-1942
Principal of St Anne's Society, 1942-1952,
Principal of St Anne's College, 1952-1953

St Anne's College, Oxford



St Anne's stands out as a college that is down to earth, modern, informal and open to the world. It attracts students of all sorts of different cultures and backgrounds. It is committed to furthering intellectual emancipation.

It began in 1879, extending a university education to women who could not otherwise have afforded it. It became a full college of the University in 1952 and has taken both men and women since 1979. It is now one of Oxford's largest colleges for both graduates and undergraduates.

We promote academic excellence through the research, publications and collaborations of our Fellows. We pass on that learning to our postgraduates and undergraduates. We are proud of the many achievements of our lively student community, past and present.



Mary Ogilvie
Principal of St Anne's
College, 1953-1966



Nancy Trenaman
Principal of St Anne's
College, 1966-1984



Claire Palley
Principal of St Anne's
College, 1984-1991



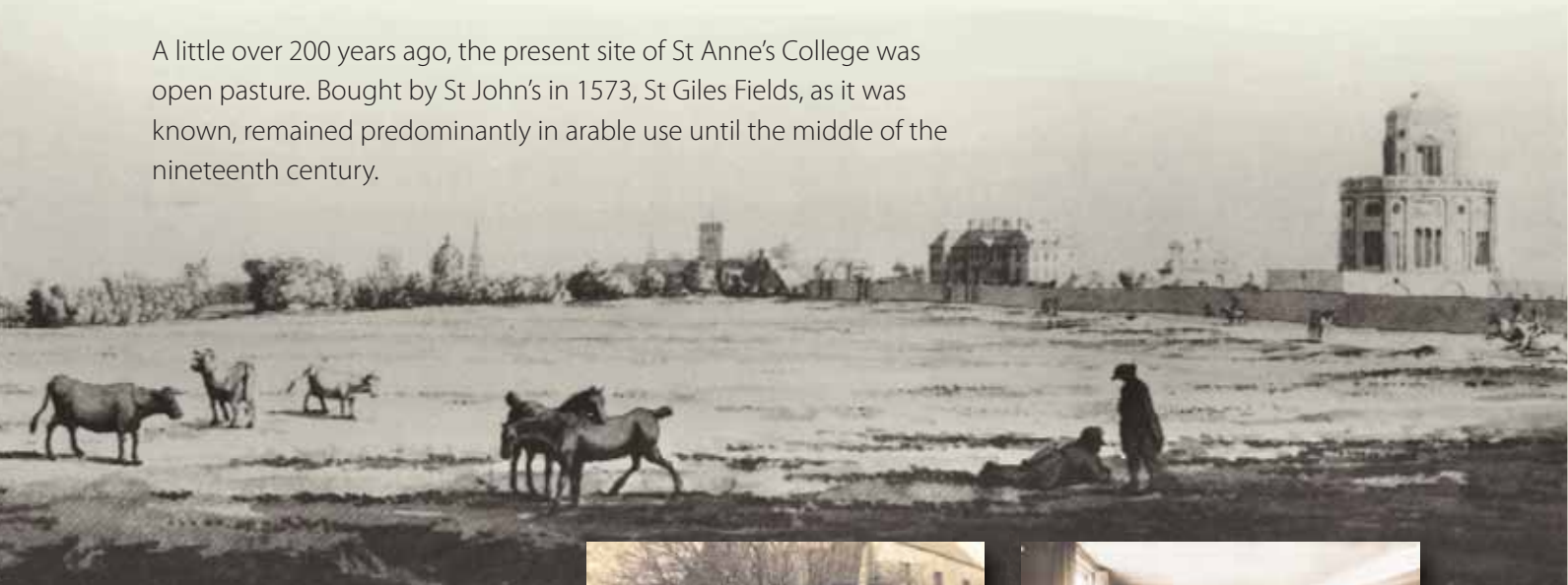
Ruth Deech
Principal of St Anne's
College, 1991-2004



Tim Gardam
Principal of St Anne's
College, 2004-

Early years...

A little over 200 years ago, the present site of St Anne's College was open pasture. Bought by St John's in 1573, St Giles Fields, as it was known, remained predominantly in arable use until the middle of the nineteenth century.



The Site of St Anne's College in 1871
pencil drawing by Samuel Grimm
(Courtesy of the British Library)



Miss R.F Butler (left) with Anna Amrose in 1910



Home Student Room in Ship Street, 1914

1890

1900

1910

In **1878** the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford was founded. Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville opened their doors as the first halls of residence in **1879** but the largest proportion of women students in Oxford – the so called Home-Students – still lived in private houses. Their tutorials and lectures were arranged for them by the Association.

In **1910** the University formally recognised the women's societies and the Society for Home-Students, as St Anne's was then known, acquired its first premises in the form of a small common room in Ship Street. It is usually assumed this is where the St Anne's symbol of the ship originated.

It was only in **1912** however that the Home-Students acquired their own tutors: Miss Paxton, Tutor for German, Miss R.F. Butler and Mother Mary Andrew, both historians, and Miss Lee who taught English literature.

"In spite of the compulsory wearing of gowns the pervading atmosphere was pleasantly informal and – on looking back forty years – pleasantly safe... There was great hilarity among us when a wolf escaped from a zoo near Oxford and it was rumoured that members of one of the women's colleges were advised to carry umbrellas when they went out"

St Anne's in the 1930s, E.I. Banks (George, 1935), *The Ship*, 1975

In **1920** the Principals of the women's colleges, including Bertha Johnson, became the first women to receive degrees from the University.



The first degree day for women in Michaelmas Term, 1920.

Academically the following decade was a time of diversification for the Home-Students. In **1920** Jane Kirkaldy was appointed as the first tutor in Natural Science and in **1927** three Home-Students were among the first group of female students to be awarded medical degrees.



Banbury Road houses. The site of numbers 31 and 33 is now occupied by the Wolfson and Rayne Buildings.

By the **1930s** the Society had grown to nearly 200 students but was still lacking a central college site. It was Mrs Amy Hartland, a Canadian, who took the first steps to rectify this with a major benefaction to fund a college site for the Home-Students. Mrs Hartland was the first to suggest the present site of St Anne's noticing that both 35 Banbury Road and 56 Woodstock Road were for sale. Some of the money put into trust for the Society was used to buy these houses but Mrs Hartland was determined that a new building should be built on the site.



Hartland House

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect of the New Bodleian Library, was invited to design the building which, because of the vagaries of funding, would be completed in stages. Work on the first section of Hartland House was begun in **1937** and the library was in full use by January **1938**.

1920

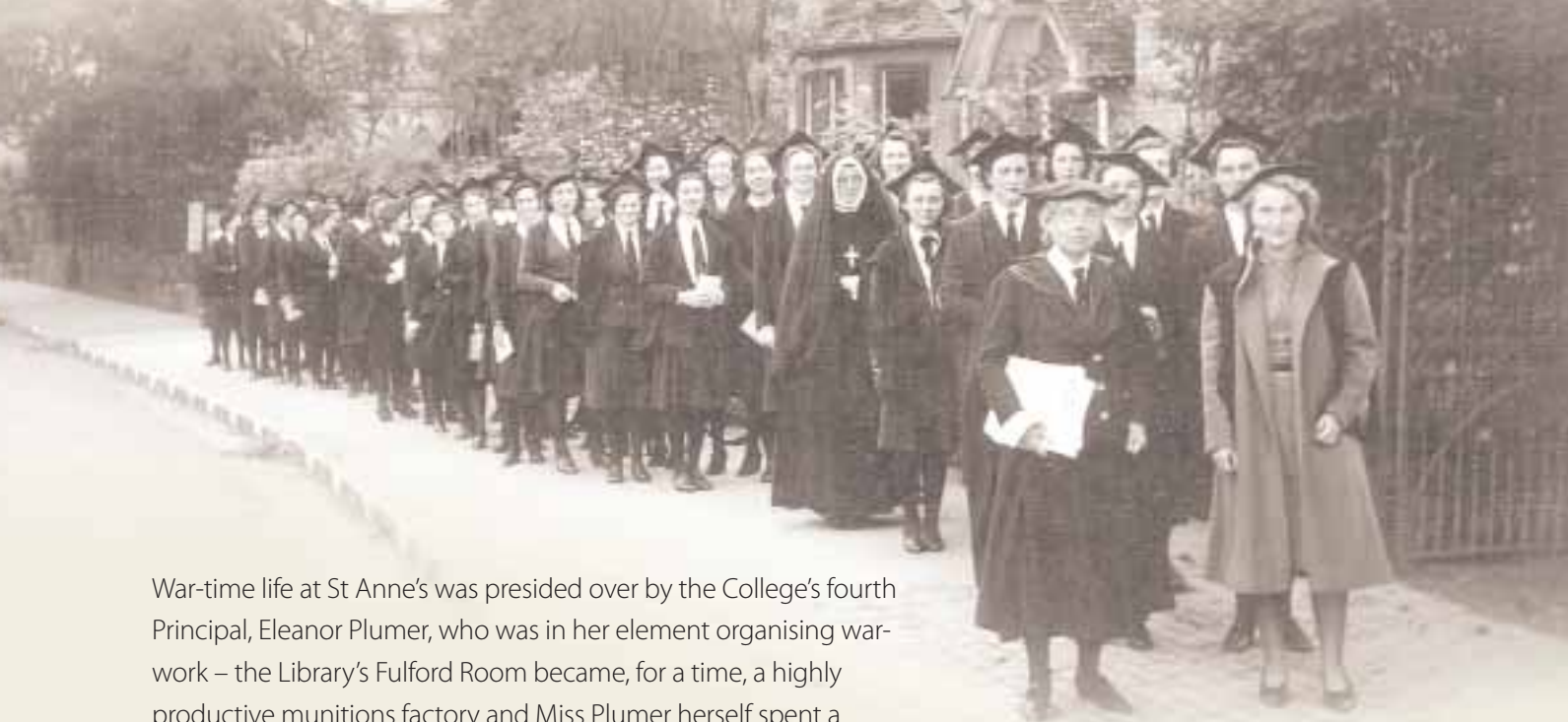
Socially, too, the **1920s** were a time of great change for the Home-Students – rowing was popular as was drama, though mixed acting was not permitted. The first Home-Student ball took place in the Town Hall in **1921** and from **1924** dances were held in the JCR.

1930

'Prunella' by Home-Students' Dramatic Society, 1922



1939-1964



War-time life at St Anne's was presided over by the College's fourth Principal, Eleanor Plumer, who was in her element organising war-work – the Library's Fulford Room became, for a time, a highly productive munitions factory and Miss Plumer herself spent a long vacation working as a factory hand at Cowley.

Students on the way to Matriculation led by Miss Butler in October 1941

1940

1950

1960

By this time the idea of the Home-Student was under threat and led to Miss Plumer suggesting that the Society should run hostels of its own. From **1945** several houses were acquired.

In **1942** the Society for Home-Students was renamed St Anne's Society. St Anne's coat of arms was given by Miss Plumer. It was that of her father, Field Marshall Earl Plumer of Paschendale.

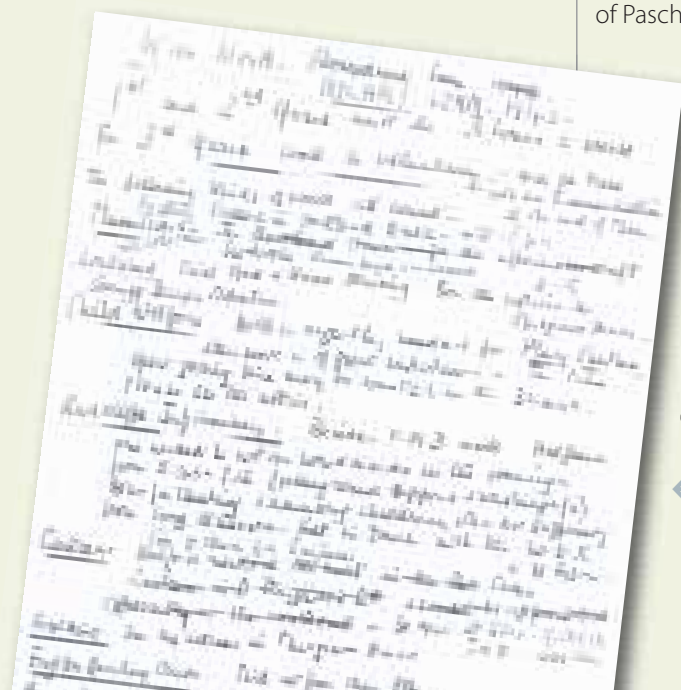
While the male population of the University fluctuated the female population went on much as before though many women shortened their courses to the 'war-time degree' with former Home-Students making notable contributions to the war effort.



Hartland House second phase, 1952

In **1945** Mrs Hartland died leaving the whole of her estate to the Society. This bequest completely changed the position of St Anne's within the University and led to the extension of Hartland House in **1952**.

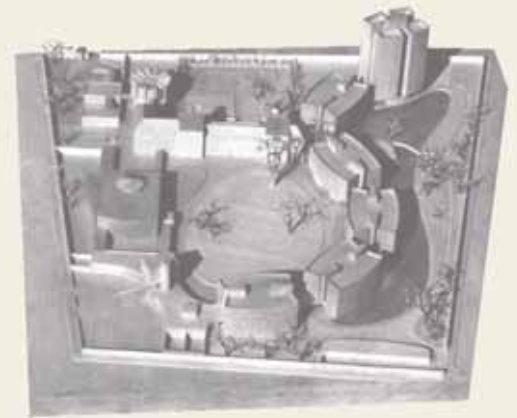
← War-work options in Hilary Term 1945



In **1952** Miss Plumer oversaw the Society's transition to college status and the election of nine tutors to fellowships.

St Anne's students outside Hartland House, 1958 ↓

The original architect's model showing the scale of the proposed 1960's college expansion →



In **1956**, at a time when the University was encouraging the construction of residential establishments for students, Lady Ogilvie, who succeeded Miss Plumer as Principal, pressed St Anne's case for a 'common table' to replace the many and scattered dining rooms available to students.

The College expanded rapidly during Lady Ogilvie's time as Principal – student numbers increased to nearly 300 and the fellowship almost doubled in size to 18.

In **1961** a major building plan was announced to provide increased college accommodation and was to have included a 700ft lake, an eleven storey accommodation block and a circular library extension.



An undergraduate room in the Wolfson building

The Wolfson and Rayne buildings were the first part of this plan to be completed in **1964** and **1968** but College was forced to shelve further stages of the development following this phase because of lack of funding.



The Dining Hall almost completed in 1958



The Wolfson building, 1964



The Queen's visit, 4th November, 1960

The Dining Hall was completed in **1959** and the first formal occasion of St Anne's as a 'full' college of Oxford was celebrated there in Hilary **1960**.

"There was one woman to ten men in the Oxford of the early 1950s — or thereabouts. This did not seem odd to us; rather we were appreciative of our own good luck. Feminism was barely sniffing the air, as yet, but we were astute enough to see that there was something amiss with the University Appointments Board's advice to women that it would be a good idea to do a shorthand and typing course after they went down; the men weren't told that... Women couldn't join the Union; college rules for women were draconian compared with those for men, as though we were some potentially unstable element that must be kept under tight control. A world away from the egalitarian campus of today."

St Anne's in the 1950s, Penelope Lively (1951), *The Ship*, 2002

1965-present

The 1970s and 1980s were a period of change and expansion for St Anne's. The student protest movement of the late 1960s, in which St Anne's students had played a full part, had brought increased freedoms. One of the chief symbols of this was the introduction of an all-night porter. The abolition of closed hours, when guests were not allowed in college, lifted the last remaining restrictions on undergraduate life.

Matriculation in 1979



1970

1980

1990

During the **1960s** and **1970s** the number of students at St Anne's increased to 389, the University's cap on female student numbers having been lifted in **1957**.



St Anne's students in the 1960s



Dr Martin Speight, Reader in Entomology and Tutor in Biological Sciences, became the College's first male Fellow in **1978**.

In **1979** the College accepted its first male undergraduate students who made up one third of the student body that year.

"Then, as now, St Anne's had a reputation for taking students from schools outside the Oxbridge tradition. Many of us were the first in our families to go to Oxford or indeed to university at all."

St Anne's in the 1970s, Ellie Naughtie (1972), writing in *The Ship*, 1994

During the **1980s** the College expanded its range of academic disciplines, with the addition of Engineering, Materials, Earth Sciences and Oriental Studies. By **1985**, 50 per cent of St Anne's undergraduates were men.

During the **1990s**, with Ruth Deech as Principal, St Anne's raised its academic aspirations further. Professorial fellows added to its Governing Body and the College expanded its number of postgraduate students. The years between **1992** and **1998** were also characterised by the completion of three major building projects including Robert Saunders House, a new facility for postgraduates.



The three building projects completed during the 1990s: (from top) Robert Saunders House, The Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre, and Trenaman House

"Our year was only the second that St Anne's had taken men but despite that the intake was evenly split male and female. There were a number of men who hadn't quite got used to being away from home... there was at least one bloke who still couldn't find the laundry in the third term."

St Anne's in the 1980s, Benny Linford (Roberts, 1980), and Alan Cubbon (1980), *The Ship*, 1994



Matriculation in 1989, by which time 50% of the College intake was male.

In **2002** the College gained planning permission for the most ambitious building project in its history. Completed in **2005** the 113 study-bedrooms enabled St Anne's to house almost all undergraduates on site through their three or four year courses.



The Ruth Deech Building: from building site in 2002 to completion in 2005

In **2004** St Anne's elected its first male Principal, Tim Gardam, formerly Head of BBC Current Affairs Programmes and Director of Television at Channel Four.

2000

Fellows of St Anne's



Peter Ady
FOUNDING FELLOW



Annie Barnes
FOUNDING FELLOW



**Dorothy
Bednarowska**
FOUNDING FELLOW



Elizabeth Fry
FOUNDING FELLOW



Elaine Griffiths
FOUNDING FELLOW



Jennifer Hart
FOUNDING FELLOW



Kirstie Morrison
FOUNDING FELLOW



Iris Murdoch
FOUNDING FELLOW



Marjorie Reeves
FOUNDING FELLOW



Annie Rogers
FOUNDING FELLOW



Gillian Beer FBA
HONORARY FELLOW



Peter Donnelly FRS
FELLOW



Mary Douglas FBA
HONORARY FELLOW



Terry Lyons FRS
FELLOW



"Our students who are making acquaintance with the library for the first time are all enthusiastic about it, and while opinions are still hotly divided about the beavers, everyone is in love with the charming little hart looking out through the trees, and there are no two opinions about the library itself"

Grace Hadow writing to Sir Giles Gilbert Scott

"What of war-time in Oxford? It certainly is a very strange place... We are a pleasant jumble of civil servants, of officials and clerks from London offices of various kinds, and of academic Oxford"

Grace Hadow in a letter to *The Ship* in 1939

"For the whole time that I was at St Anne's I lived at home in Charlbury Road. In those days my parents were supposed to report me to College if I arrived back late in the evenings. I do not remember that they ever did."

Anne Spokes Symonds (Spokes, 1944)

"I had attended a single-sex county grammar school, and have never really got over my astonishment at being accepted by Miss Plumer to read Law at St Anne's. I recall standing in Radcliffe Square and thinking, 'This is Oxford, and I actually belong here!'"

Dilys Glynne (1948)

"the architects have been asked to incorporate all the requirements of the female undergraduate, right down to the picture postcards, preferably not stuck up with sellotape or drawing pins, as every room will have a picture rail"

Janice Elliott (1950), *The Sunday Times*, 30th April, 1961

"Most universities teach you what to think; Oxford is one of the few which show you how to think, and encourages you to develop thought processes."

June Knowles (Watkins, 1946)

"St Anne's gave me three fantastic years living and studying in a unique environment, and left me with life-long friendships. A reunion at College for rowers of my era some twenty years after going down underlined how special this friendly and relaxed environment is, and how fortunate I was to enjoy such an exceptional preparation for the wider world."

Andrew Daymond (1981)

"St Anne's gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when I was 18, and changed my life absolutely. It gave me choices my parents never had open to them, and I will always be grateful to my tutors for having faith in me."

Richard Jarman (1989)

Left: Members of Home Student Clubs, 1899, with Mrs Johnson and Mrs T.H. Green in bonnets.

Alumnae & Fellows of St Anne's

Maria Aitken (1963), actress, writer and director, whose credits include *A Fish Called Wanda* and *The 39 Steps*.

Mary Archer (Weeden, 1962), scientist, academic specialising in the conversion of solar energy to chemical fuels or electric power.

Karen Armstrong (1967), writer, whose books on religion include *Through the Narrow Gate* and *The Spiral Staircase*.

Jackie Ashley (1974), journalist and broadcaster, former political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Juliet Barker (Bateson, 1977), biographer and historian, author of works on the Brontës, Wordsworth, and the Battle of Agincourt.

Mollie Batten (1947), welfare worker and educationalist.

Kathleen Baxter (Young, 1920), advocate of women's rights.

Wendy Beckett (1950), art historian, author of books including *Sister Wendy's Odyssey* and *Sister Wendy's Grand Tour*.

Gillian Beer (Thomas, 1954), academic, literary critic, President of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 1994-2001, Fellow of the British Academy.

Mark Bostridge (1979), biographer and critic, author of *Vera Brittain: A Life and Lives For Sale*, an anthology of biographers' tales.

Tina Brown (1971), journalist and author, editor of *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker* magazines.

Frances Cairncross (1962), journalist, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, since 2004.

Michelle Clayman (1972), investment banker, Founder and Chief Executive of New Amsterdam Partners in New York.

Sarah Cockburn (1960) [pseud. Sarah Caudwell], barrister and novelist.

Edwina Currie (Cohen, 1965), broadcaster and former politician, Conservative Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire (1983-97).



Mary Archer



Karen Armstrong



Tina Brown



Edwina Currie



Helen Fielding

Mike Danson (1982) founder of Datamonitor, one of the world's leading providers of online database and analysis services.

Michael [Maud] Dillon (1934), transsexual and Buddhist monk.

Simon Donaldson, Honorary Fellow, winner of the Fields Medal in 1986.

Peter Donnelly, (1996) Director, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Professor of Statistical Science, Fellow of the Royal Society.

Mary Douglas (Tew, 1940), anthropologist, known for her writings on human culture and symbolism, Fellow of the British Academy.

U.A. Fanthorpe (1949), poet, the first woman in 315 years to be nominated for the post of Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

Helen Fielding (1976), writer, author of *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*.

Hadley Freeman (1996), journalist, *The Guardian's* deputy fashion editor and a contributing editor to *Vogue*.

Julian Gallant (1984), musician, has performed all over the world and is Chief Conductor of the Russian Chamber Orchestra of London.

Zoë Heller (1984), journalist and author, her novel *Notes on a Scandal* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Charles Inge (1980), advertising executive, Creative Director of Clemmow Hornby Inge.

Elizabeth Jennings (1944), poet, whose collections include *A Way of Looking* and *The Mind Has Mountains*.

Martha Kearney (1976), broadcaster and journalist, the presenter of BBC Radio 4's flagship current affairs programme, *The World At One*.

Penelope Lively (Low, 1951), writer, whose fiction includes the Booker Prize-winning *Moon Tiger*.

Ann Lonsdale (Menzies, 1958), academic and university administrator, President of New Hall, Cambridge since 1996.

Terence Lyons, (2000) Director, Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences, Wallis Professor of Mathematics, Fellow of the Royal Society.

Naomi Mitchison (Haldane, 1914), writer and social activist.

Barbara Monroe (Jones, 1970), Chief Executive of St Christopher's Hospice in London.

Elizabeth Monroe (1923), journalist and scholar of the Middle East.

Sharmila Nebhrajani (1985), television executive, Chief Operating Officer of the BBC's New Media business since 2002.

Jill Paton Walsh (Bliss, 1955), writer, whose children's books include the Whitbread Prize-winning *The Emperor's Winding Sheet*.

Melanie Phillips (1970), journalist and author, has written a regular column for the *Daily Mail* since 2001.

Libby Purves (1968), journalist and broadcaster, the first female presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Today* Programme.

Simon Rattle (1980), musician, elected principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in 1999. He was knighted in 1994.

Gillian Reynolds (Morton, 1954), journalist and broadcaster, who has worked as Radio Critic for *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Jacky Rowland (1983), journalist, former BBC Foreign Affairs correspondent, best known for her coverage of the Balkans.

Cicely Saunders, (1938), founder of St Christopher's, the world's first purpose-built hospice, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

Harriet Spicer (1969), publisher, co-founder of Virago Press and former Chair of the National Lottery Commission.

Mrs Staples-Browne (1927), Makereti of the Arawa tribe of the Maori. Known to New Zealanders as Maggie Papakura.



Martha Kearney



Melanie Phillips



Libby Purves



George Weidenfeld



Mrs Staples-Browne

Mary Tuck (McDermott, 1946), social scientist and civil servant.

Victor Ubogu (1987), sportsman, a prop for the England rugby union team, 1992-99.

Jenny Uglow (Crowther, 1966), historian, editor and critic, winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for biography.

Helen Weir (Luing, 1980), banker, Group Finance Officer of Lloyds TSB.

Ivy Williams, first woman barrister in England.

George Weidenfeld, Honorary Fellow, creator of the Weidenfeld Professor of Comparative Literature at St Anne's.

Diana Wynne Jones (1953), writer, whose award-winning children's books have twice been runner-up for the Carnegie Medal.

Development and admissions

St Anne's has always set its outward face towards the world. It has always been driven by its sense of connecting the ideals of the University to those who have not previously had the chance to encounter them – originally it was women, then women too poor to come to Oxford otherwise, and latterly a confident, tolerant, diverse and multicultural community of women and men. We are able to remain true to these values and attract students from all backgrounds, regardless of their financial means, only because of the support of our alumnae, parents and friends. Each year the generous gifts of our supporters help St Anne's to pay for the bursaries we offer, to provide affordable on-site accommodation, to fund the tutorial system, to create one of the largest working college libraries in Oxford and to open up cultural and sporting opportunities to enrich our academic community. We are hugely grateful for this support.

For more information about ways in which you can support St Anne's and help us to maintain our distinct identity in Oxford, please contact the Development Office.

Catherine Kernot

Head of Development

Email: catherine.kernot@st-annes.ox.ac.uk



Student recruitment is fundamental to St Anne's. At undergraduate level, we continue to strive to attract and admit students from all backgrounds, and our work in widening access and raising aspirations from an early age is a central part of what we do. Working with teachers and alumnae is enriching and vital, and it allows us to establish and maintain key contacts. Our graduate students are more in harmony with the wider College community than ever before, and our attraction to graduates rests increasingly with our growing reputation for excellence in terms of the intellectual and supportive environment we offer.

If you would like more information about admissions and St Anne's, or you would like to offer to support our activities in any way, please get in touch.

Dr Anne Mullen (St Anne's, 1988)

Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions

Tutor for Graduates

Email: enquiries@st-annes.ox.ac.uk



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The College's intellectual life is always developing. It connects people studying different subjects at different stages of their academic careers. We are a community that includes the fellowship, postgraduate and undergraduate students, alumnae, and everyone who works here and who keeps the College going week by week across the year.

"We want to make St Anne's the best example of what a modern college can be in a modern Oxford, proving to each new generation the unique character and intellectual advantages of a collegiate university."

Tim Gardam, Principal