The Fifth Annual CAMPAIGN REPORT

Autumn / Winter 2021
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**Autumn / Winter 2021**

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The New Library opened for student use in the Easter Term and has been an outstanding success at every level. Niall McLaughlin’s widely praised design has been greatly appreciated by our students and by the press; The Times included the library in its list of the “Top Ten Coolest Buildings of 2020”, a tribute made all the more impressive by the fact that several of the other entries were paid for by governments with exceptionally deep pockets. Magdalene goes into the new academic year with the proud combination of a candlelit hall and a state-of-the-art modern library and study spaces.

Unfortunately, restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have forced us to delay the formal opening of the library but we very much hope to hold a proper ceremony next summer. In the meantime, let me say – on behalf of all the resident College community – how grateful we are to those whose generosity has made the New Library possible, to the Development Director and her team for raising the funds well ahead of the original deadline, to Niall McLaughlin and our contractors, Cocksedge, for designing and building the library, and to my colleagues on the Cloverleaf Board for the way in which they managed this ambitious project.

Since the last report, much of the focus of fundraising has been on ensuring that the College could offer a plentiful array of bursaries and make special hardship grants to those whose finances had suddenly been thrown into disarray by the economic effects of the pandemic. In this, we have also been successful thanks to the generosity of alumni, current Fellows and staff, and Friends of the College. More than a quarter of undergraduates at the College are now in receipt of some financial assistance. The College has also raised funds to enable us to appoint a Law Fellow, who holds the Dias Lectureship in Law, named in memory of the legendary Mickey Dias (1955), and to advertise for a Fellow in History, where we hope to make an appointment this term.

I shall not pretend that the last academic year – my first as Master – has been anything other than very difficult. With successive lockdowns, severe restrictions on in-person teaching, other contact, and an outbreak in College days before the main graduation ceremony, there has been no shortage of challenges. The whole College community – students, staff, Fellows and alumni – responded wonderfully well to those challenges. While we are still a long way from what we have always regarded in the past as “normal” College life, there are good reasons to hope that this academic year will be much better. As our students return and the new students settle in, we are keen to get back to in-person teaching, to a proper sports and social life in College and to ensuring that everyone can make the most of all that Magdalene has to offer.

SIR CHRISTOPHER GREENWOOD, Master

FROM THE MASTER

As the Campaign draws towards its close, there is much to celebrate in what has been achieved so far.
OVER THE COURSE OF THE 2020–21 FINANCIAL YEAR, GIFTS RECEIVED TOTALLED £2m, FOLLOWING A MONUMENTAL YEAR OF DONATIONS IN 2019–20 AS THE FUTURE FOUNDATIONS CAMPAIGN PEAKED. ALUMNI HAVE BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN RESPONDING TO THE UNRESTRICTED FUND RAISING APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE IN ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS AND FUNDING DIRECTED TO OUR STUDENTS. THE COLLEGE IS TRULY HUMBLED BY THE SUPPORT FROM OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD A HIGHLY DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE ON OUR STUDENTS, ACADEMICS AND COLLEGE LIFE IN GENERAL. THE COLLEGE HAS HAD TO ADJUST ITS PLANS AND FUTURE INTENTIONS TO DIRECT ITS ATTENTION TO THE CORE ACTIVITIES OF SUPPORTING ITS STUDENTS. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN REDUCED AND INDEED HAVE BEEN INCREASED.

DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIODS THE COLLEGE HAS MAINTAINED ITS ESSENTIAL OPERATIONAL SERVICES, GIVEN WE HAD SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF STUDENTS RESIDENT, WHilst PROVIDING ONLINE TEACHING AND EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WHEREVER THEY WERE LOCATED. SOME COLLEGE STAFF HAVE BEEN WORKING FROM HOME IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT ADVICE. AS THE LOCKDOWN MEASURES EASED, MANY STAFF RETURNED TO WORKING ON SITE, WHilst ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WHO WERE ABLE TO WORK FROM HOME HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK IN A HYBRID FASHION.


THE COLLEGE’S ENDOWMENT HAS RECOVERED FOLLOWING THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF COVID-19, PARTICULARLY ITS COMMERCIAL

RECENT INCOME TRENDS
property portfolio. The endowment value recovered as the securities portfolio has been well positioned investing in businesses which performed robustly in the pandemic. Our Cambridge-based commercial property, which has served the College so well over the decades, has experienced a challenging year with its hospitality and retail exposure, with a number of tenant restaurant businesses going into administration. Rent collection has been difficult throughout the year. The College has been able to re-let empty units and has operated a rent deferment scheme for smaller tenants and a rent credit policy for select tenants taking account of their financial position. The College’s principal fund manager, Baillie Gifford, has performed well throughout the pandemic being one of the UK’s top performing income funds.

Total income including donations was £10.6m, a decrease from the previous year, but the College balance sheet remains strong.

The University and the Colleges have worked collaboratively since the start of the pandemic with joint planning and subsequent recovery streams. This included sharing resources over student support, medical advice and scenario planning. A comprehensive plan for reopening the University was formulated in close consultation with the City Council and local Public Health agencies. The University and the Colleges have together established a comprehensive weekly testing programme for resident students as a key tool to identify and prevent infections during the University terms. Participation rates amongst the student population have been high and generally, students have acted in a highly responsible manner.

Construction works on the College’s New Library were completed in February 2021, some six months later than anticipated due to the disruptive impact of the pandemic. The new facility provides a significant enhancement to the College’s estate for its current and future Members. The success of the Future Foundations Campaign has made the New Library possible and, thanks to extremely generous support from donors, the Campaign has surpassed expectations, exceeding the £25m target when cash donations and future pledges are included.

The Governing Body had previously decided to match, for its permanently employed staff, pay rates set by the Living Wage Foundation (outside of London), excluding other generous benefits provided to our employees. The College will continue to keep its pay policy under regular review, taking account of local and national recruitment conditions and requirements. The national lockdowns have led to the need for the vast majority of our staff to remain at home. Magdalene, along with other Cambridge Colleges, participated in the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, topping up the salaries of all staff on furlough to 100% of their normal salary. At the height of the lockdowns, over two-thirds of staff were on the furlough scheme but since the easing of restrictions staff have steadily returned to their roles in College.

We have had to set deficit budgets for 2020–21 and 2021–22 due to the impact of the pandemic on the College’s income streams. Whilst the College did initially contain expenditure, it has since aimed to restore most expenditure plans for the coming financial year, and funds for student support have been fully protected to cushion the financial impact of the pandemic on our students.

MR STEVEN MORRIS, Senior Bursar
FARWELL FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

My five years as President of Magdalene has been a wonderfully fulfilling period of my academic career. It really is one of the best jobs in Cambridge!

Since I became a Fellow in 1987, I have held many of the main College offices including Tutor, Admissions Tutor, Director of Studies, College Librarian and Pepys Librarian. All of these have been challenging and rewarding. But the presidency is different: the role is ‘holistic’, and involves nurturing the relationship of the Fellowship to the whole College in a wide range of ways, whether it is deciding on the flying of the flag, choosing the menu for a feast or helping to select new Fellows. A ‘Lord High Everything Else’!

From managing the election of a new Master, to serving on the Board for the construction of the New Library, to helping Magdalene through the COVID-19 crisis, there have been challenges. Not to mention the day-to-day work that goes with being President of such a sociable, lively and engaged College. The President has a particular responsibility to oversee special events. There have been sad occasions, of course. Too many. The deaths of the Visitor, Lord Braybrooke (1952), and of our colleagues on the Fellowship Mr John Dwight (1962), Professor John Field (1964), Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward (1987), Dr Richard Luckett (1978) and Dr Martin Hughes (2000) brought the College together in grief. In contrast, 2019 saw a happy event in the life of the College as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Hall, with a wonderful day of exhibitions – including a sparkling display of the College silver mounted by the College Butler and the Fellows’ Butler, and Dr Ronald Hyam’s (1960) fascinating exhibition of kitchen paraphernalia – from platters to jelly moulds! The kitchens outdid themselves with Tudor-style nibbles and we were treated to sugared almonds, lavender scones, gingerbread and mulled wine.

It will be obvious from the previous account that the President could do nothing without the work, creativity and expertise of others. Throughout, I have been incredibly supported by staff, Fellows, and students. And also by my many interactions with our alumni, which has been very positive and uplifting experience. At the start of my period in office, I had the pleasure of meeting many alumni face-to-face. Some through the regular private tours of the Pepys Library which never failed to remind me how much our Members appreciate this unique collection. I remember the delight on the face of Mr Henry Lumley (1950), our great supporter and benefactor, who sadly passed away last year, when he spotted his own family surname as an early owner of a medieval manuscript, written by William Caxton in the 1400s. Reunion dinners and lunches have been a particular pleasure, allowing me to catch up with old friends as well as meeting many Members of the College for the first time. More recently, interactions have been perforce virtual. Who would have thought a couple of years ago that I would even have heard of Zoom, never mind hosting engaging and enlightening seminars and lectures involving Members of the College, who are based all over the world. While there is no substitute for physical presence, the online presence of so many who could not otherwise travel to College has been an unexpected and delightful positive side of the otherwise dreadful health crisis. And I have learned a great deal through these encounters, from ecology to international law to eighteenth-century book production. The team in the Development Office who have masterminded the programme of virtual events have done a truly magnificent job in keeping the College together as a community, wherever we were all logging on.

I have been very pleased that my presidency coincided with the main thrust of the Campaign and the completion of the New Library. This has been a sea change for the College and for the students’ experience. It is a truly beautiful addition architecturally and educationally – and simply in terms of morale: it is difficult not to be immensely proud of the College and its Members, both resident and non-resident, for this achievement under circumstances. I am only sorry I (probably) won’t be present to celebrate its 500th anniversary!

DR JANE HUGHES, Pepys Librarian
The five year Campaign aims to provide the best possible facilities and support for our students to reach their full potential whilst at Cambridge. Our much admired New Library opened quietly, earlier this year, and is now being used twenty-four hours a day by students just as it should be. We have yet to celebrate this truly remarkable achievement together and while arrangements to mark this wonderful addition to the College estate have inevitably been delayed, we are planning a grand opening celebration next summer.

Together, we have achieved the College’s vision of creating a building that is of the 21st century and yet sits comfortably in its historic setting. The astonishing, collective generosity of the wider College community that fully funded the New Library is a reminder of the affection Magdalene is held in by its Members and Friends around the world.

The College has long been committed to increasing the financial assistance we are able to offer those students who are in need of help now more than ever given the financial hardships due to the pandemic. The Magdalene Bursary Scheme for undergraduates has supported more than 100 undergraduate students with generous full bursaries to alleviate financial concerns and mitigate debt. Many more students have benefitted from partial bursaries worth several hundred pounds to thousands of pounds per annum. In addition, we are able to fund travel bursaries, research projects during the summer, provide assistance for medical electives (when we are all able to travel again) and of course fund prizes. We are immensely grateful to each and every one of our donors who help the College support students in financial need.

Safeguarding the supervision system and encouraging young researchers at the cusp of their careers has been another priority for the College and thus the Campaign. A number of generous donations have enabled the College to appoint the first Dias College Lecturer in Law and we will soon welcome the first Barbara & Dietrich Schultz College Teaching Officer in History. We have been able to create additional scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students; support our community with hardship grants; look after our buildings and gardens and support our staff despite the financial challenges the pandemic has created for the College.

We are immensely grateful for this overwhelming support from Members, Friends, Staff and students which has made all of this possible. Thank you!

MRS CORINNE LLOYD, Development Director
ACCESS AND OUTREACH

Magdalene’s access work has certainly taken a different form this year, but it has by no means slowed down. With in-person visits off the table, we’ve had to take an alternative approach, and have taken full advantage of the flexibility that online provision has allowed.

Since I took on the mantle of Schools Liaison Officer in January, we have organised 27 individual events reaching over 2,724 attendees. These have ranged from school visits and webinars to longer, sustained interventions such as our annual Residential and new Application Support Series. And just as our reach has grown throughout the pandemic, so, too, have connections. This year, Magdalene took an additional Link Area in the Isle of Man, and we have continued to work successfully with partners, teachers and parents to support all students in making the right choice for them.

At Magdalene, we are determined to direct our efforts to the problems that demand attention, and have continued to focus on the groups most underrepresented within Higher Education. This summer, we ran our first Humanities Taster Day for Black African and Caribbean candidates for 60 students, and last autumn our Admissions Tutor for Access worked with Target Oxbridge to provide a series of webinars for candidates hoping to apply for STEM subjects.

Moving support online has seen an explosion of resources for prospective applicants. Our Application Support Series has allowed us to provide comprehensive support for every part of the admissions process, reaching over 1,000 attendees so far. The series has allowed us to focus on areas of the application that are rarely in the spotlight. Over the summer, we partnered with Jesus College and St Peter’s College at Oxford to provide tailored support for individual admissions assessments with a series of 6 webinars attracting over 1,300 sign ups and 538 attendees. You can access all of the recordings online, if you too are looking to navigate the Natural Sciences Assessment.

Our July ‘residential’ welcomed 55 students through the virtual doors of Magdalene. For three days, our Access Team grew to include 10 student helpers, 11 Fellows, and 2 post graduate researchers. The timetable included interview workshops, socials and supervisions to give attendees a taste of university life, allowing them to make an informed decision about what’s right for them.

Though our delivery has changed, the essence of our work has remained the same. At our core, we exist to provide disadvantaged students with not just the knowledge and tools to make a competitive application, but the confidence to pursue their personal goals. Happily, we can say that our impact has matched our intention – but don’t just take our word for it:

“Every session has been nothing but engaging and informative, all of them opening new doors intellectually to explore. This week has really helped me feel much more confident and optimistic for the university application process!”
– ATTENDEE, MAGDALENE RESIDENTIAL 2021

“It was brilliant, I was feeling quite stressed and overwhelmed by the process, it having so many steps, but the methodical way you all explained it was really encouraging and it felt like anyone could do it.”
– ATTENDEE, KICK-STARTING YOUR APPLICATION

As the world begins to open up, our work shows no signs of slowing down. If you’re interested to learn more about upcoming events or Magdalene’s work towards widening participation, please keep an eye on the website or do get in touch with us at access@magd.cam.ac.uk.

TESS LEYLAND, Schools Liaisons Officer
The entire Magdalene community has come together to create some truly memorable access events notwithstanding the constraints we are working with. The Master, Sir Christopher Greenwood, gave an inspiring welcome at the Humanities Taster Day, and a huge array of Magdalene Fellows have offered stimulating lectures throughout the year on topics ranging from Archaeology to Neuroscience. Our wonderful student ambassadors, too, have shown themselves ready as always to share their insight and enthusiasm with those starting their journey towards university.

We have deepened working relationships with a range of partners, including the Seren Network in Wales, Aspire Liverpool, and Target Oxbridge. Much of the work we do builds on foundations laid by these partner organisations and I am continually grateful for their passion and dedication.

Starting in October, we will remotely deliver the second BME Engineering residential spearheaded by Director of Studies in Engineering, Dr Richard Roebuck (2003). Participants will have the chance to learn about a range of exciting topics, from aerodynamics to control systems, and despite being remote there will be a strong hands-on element: we will deliver Arduino kits to all participants, allowing them to experiment with building their own hardware and software. We hope to welcome all participants for a residential visit to Magdalene in the Easter vacation.

Another new initiative I look forward to seeing develop is STEM SMART. Magdalene is one of the Colleges participating in the pilot phase of this ambitious programme, which will provide support for up to 750 promising students who suffered disruptions in their education during the pandemic. By offering direct academic support and small-group teaching over the span of 16 months, we aim to accelerate this cohort of high-potential sixth-formers towards the university admissions process.

DR SERGIO BACALLADO (2016), Admissions Tutor for Access

The Rowan and Jane Williams Bursary Fund was created in 2019 in honour of the departing Master, Dr Rowan Williams and his wife, Professor Jane Williams. Given their interest in widening participation, and links with Wales (one of our outreach and access target areas), it seemed fitting to raise funds for an endowed Bursary Fund in their names.

Unfortunately, Dr Williams’s last term as Master was overshadowed by the pandemic and all planned farewell events had to be cancelled. Despite this, a number of Members and Friends generously contributed to the new Bursary Fund in his honour and we are delighted that one of our first year students is now benefitting from this bursary. We are most grateful to all those who made this possible and hope the Bursary Fund will grow in time to support a second Rowan and Jane Williams Bursary recipient.

The College’s Bursary scheme has had a tremendous impact on our undergraduates enabling them to make the most of all that Magdalene has to offer. More information can be found at: www.magd.cam.ac.uk/rowan-williams-fund

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

When I attended my first biennial open day at Goodison Park in Liverpool in 2017, no one could have anticipated how our work would have been transformed in the space of a few short years. I am happy to say I think we have responded to these challenges with dedication and creativity, and our access work continues stronger than ever.

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YOUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

The College has been most fortunate to receive bequests from Members for centuries and our Legacy Society is named in honour of a past benefactor who chose to make a gift in his will for Magdalene.

As we look back over the last year with all of its uncertainties, many of us have re-evaluated the things in life that matter to us, our relationships with those around us as well as the impact that we have on others. We are truly grateful, that for so many of our Members, Magdalene matters and is often remembered when they write their Wills.

Legacy gifts, however modest, can really make a difference to the College and to the lives of our students.

The College embarked on its most ambitious fundraising Campaign to date in March 2017 and we are truly proud of the generous response of our Members who have supported Magdalene and helped to secure the future for our current students and those yet to come. However, it is important to note that we have also received almost £4 million in bequests since the launch of the Campaign and these legacies have played an important part in realising our vision for the College including the New Library. We are indebted to those Members who choose to leave a bequest and support the College in this way. Every Member making a bequest will choose to do so because of personal reasons, relationships and connections with Magdalene but share an affection for the College which is wonderful!

A Lasting Legacy – The Buckingham Society

Members and Friends of Magdalene who choose to make a bequest to the College are invited to join the Buckingham Society, named in honour of Henry Stafford, the 2nd Duke of Buckingham. The Master hosts an annual luncheon for all members of the society in early June. Sadly, these events had to be virtual in recent years but we very much look forward to our next luncheon in person (fingers crossed)!

For more information on how to leave a legacy to the College, please contact the Alumni and Development Office.
What Magdalene Means to Me

Mr Alec Samuels (1949)
I came from a modest background. I was selected by the Master, who happened to have been my MP, and kindly overlooked a modest academic record. I was a first generation undergraduate. From the very first day, in 1949, I felt “at home”. Friendships were formed immediately, and still survive to this day. We took lunch and dinner in Hall, seven days a week. The College and the University buzzed with activity. Unfortunately, there was no Law Fellow. However, subsequently the College developed a very strong Law team. Mr Mickey Dias (1955) proved a huge help to me over the years, and Dr du Bois-Pedain (1990), Dr Colin Kolbert (1986), and Professor Bill Cornish (1990) were all very friendly.

Visiting the College I was invariably made most welcome by all the Fellows and staff at every level, and interesting lectures and events were staged. The College environment steadily improved, especially the Cripps Building. And now we have the New Library. I always found the old Pepys Library fascinating, due to guidance from Dr Richard Luckett (1978) and Dr Jane Hughes (1987).

The former Master, Sir David and Lady Calcutt (1980), were personal friends. Dr Rowan Williams (2013) treated us all as much valued individual humans. Sir Christopher Greenwood (1978) I greatly value as a friend.

Thinking of the legacy I begin to feel a little embarrassed. I have not made millions in life. Inheritance tax remains at a very low threshold, though charitable gifts to the College are exempt; yield on investments is poor; dividend tax is to be increased; and care home fees remain horrendous. But College generosity demands reciprocal generosity.

The College took me in, supported me, set me off in my career, and welcomed me throughout life. I belong there. I am so grateful.

Ms Mary Napier (1995)
“To whom much is given, much is required.”

But it was said in Latin and at lightning speed. At the time so much around me was new and different – the quick prayer at dinner was just another one of those things that separated the British from the Americans.

It was as if they wanted to remind us to never give up, have a stiff upper lip, you were part of a bigger plan. For me, an untested young adult, it also whispered a promise: you can do it and we believe in you. I wanted that prayer to make me different – like a platform of 9 3/4s before Harry Potter existed.

Twenty-five years on, it has made me different. It is a memory of an era gone by for us Americans – it is a spell for us to reach for “our better angels.” Magdalene is in my will, so I pass this reminder forward.

Here is the portkey: cui multum datum est multum quaeretur.

When I think of the words, they transform me into my better self and remind me of a better time. I hope you will join me in the ‘magick’.

The New Library

Our state-of-the-art New Library building already feels part of the Fellows’ Garden without intruding and would not have been possible without the generous support of our Members. More than £1.5 million of the funding for the project was provided thanks to the legacies of Members who wished to play a part in enhancing the College estate for future generations and some of their names have been recorded for posterity in the new building.
I am a lecturer in Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory. My Optofluidics research group studies light-matter interactions in special hollow optical waveguides to support the development of more sustainable energy materials.

Conventional optical fibres are commonly used for data transport. They guide light by total internal reflection: an optical phenomenon that occurs when light waves arrive at the boundary between a medium with a lower speed of light (high refractive index) and a medium with a higher speed of light (low refractive index). If the angle between the light wave and the interface is large enough, no light is transmitted through the interface, and perfect reflection occurs. Experimentally, this is achieved by surrounding a cylindrical glass waveguide core by a glass ‘cladding’ layer with a slightly lower refractive index. As a result, light sent into one end of the fibre cannot pass through the core/cladding boundary and is waveguided through the fibre with negligible transmission losses. For optical sensing applications, however, light needs to interact with a sample. One approach is to infiltrate a hollow capillary with gas- or liquid samples and guide light along the hollow channel to probe the sample’s optical properties. Unfortunately, the core refractive index is, in this case, below that of the cladding. Thus, the absence of total internal reflection results in a short interaction length with the sample.

Hollow-core photonic crystal fibres (HC-PCFs) remove this limitation. HC-PCFs are unique optical fibres comprising a hollow microchannel surrounded by a glass microstructure. The microstructure uses interference effects, similar to those that give colour to soap films and butterfly wings, to create a mirror surface that keeps light guided along a hollow microchannel over extended distances. My group develops novel spectroscopy techniques based on liquid-filled HC-PCFs to study various novel energy materials. Our team collaborates across five departments on research topics ranging from novel photocatalysts that use sunlight to create hydrogen gas from water, to identifying degradation mechanisms in next-generation Li-ion batteries.

Our photocatalysis project focuses on easily scaleable carbon-based materials that convert sunlight into chemically stored energy. Despite their huge promise, the wider applications of these systems are prevented by low energy conversion efficiency and, ultimately, by a lack of detection techniques that can monitor the reactions as they take place. By infiltrating the photocatalyst mixture into an HC-PCF core and measuring its absorption, fluorescence, or Raman spectra, we can monitor reaction dynamics and steady-state concentrations in real-time and within the reaction volume. Significant advantages of our ‘optofluidic microreactors’ over conventional sample cells are: enhanced detection sensitivity from meter-scale optical paths, small sample volumes of a few nanolitres per cm fibre length and well-defined and enhanced light-matter interactions: all key for the quantitative analysis of light-driven chemistry. Our data helps to identify the dominant energy loss pathways, such that materials and reaction conditions can be optimized.

Our battery project develops HC-PCF probes to observe chemical changes within next-generation Li-ion cells. This work is part of the UK-wide Faraday Institution for battery research. By extracting a small electrolyte sample from a working battery into an HC-PCF, we can monitor changes in its chemical composition by in-fibre Raman spectroscopy. This provides a unique insight into the battery’s state of health and gives early warning signs of failure, also allowing the electrolyte chemistry to be tracked over many battery cycles without opening or destroying the battery.

We hope that our techniques provide a better understanding of loss mechanisms in photocatalysis and by helping identify limitations of the lifetime of Li-ion batteries.

DR TIJMEN EUSER, Director of Studies in Natural Sciences
Ecology and climate are, not surprisingly, increasingly attracting the attention of historians, in particular those concerned with imperialism and European expansion. As a historian of Southeast Asia, my previous research has dealt with various aspects of scientific exchanges between Europe and Asia, with a particular focus on botany and the transmission of botanical knowledge. My present project attempts to combine these two subfields of history, as I examine the emergence of commercial colonial agriculture and its impact on the environment in nineteenth century Malaya.

British expansion into the Malay Peninsula took off with the founding of a trading settlement in Penang in 1786, followed by Singapore in 1819. British influence in the Malay Peninsula increased rapidly in the second half of the nineteenth century, with commercial interests partly driven by the prospects of large scale agriculture. Throughout the century, governance and administration of British possessions in the Peninsula generated a wealth of official documents, which offer detailed insights into agricultural enterprise and the quest for viable crops. Further primary sources are local newspapers, private correspondence, published travel accounts and, later in the century, papers relating to individual companies.

Through these sources, a story emerges which in many ways is intertwined with wider global events and processes, such as new patterns of migration, an emerging global trade in fertilisers and the introduction of steam powered machinery. The ability to operate sustainable cultivation was also dependent on factors such as the level of official support, global price fluctuations and empire wide policies regarding land tenure.

My focus, however, is on the uniqueness of this particular region in British expansion. British agriculturalists were from the outset dependent on traditional growing methods and manufacturing techniques of the Peninsula’s different ethnic groups: local Malays, migrant Chinese, and later indentured labour from the Indian subcontinent. It was, I argue, the interaction between various forms of ‘indigenous’ and ‘imperial’ knowledge and skills that enabled larger scale monoculture, a form of agriculture that was traditionally not practised in the region.

Historians of Empire have suggested that this was a time when new relationships between with science and the colonial state were forged, and this has often been seen through the lens of global transfers of botanical knowledge and plants. In Malaya, a wide range of ‘imperial’ crops were tried. Most experiments failed for various reasons, such as the lack of definitive seasons, unsuitable soil conditions, but most importantly lack of knowledge about growing techniques for individual crops. Here, the sources offer an opportunity to map experiments with crops such as nutmeg in Penang, sugar in the so-called Province Wellesley and coffee in Perak.

It is also clear that the tropical climate of Southeast Asia was in many ways new to European agriculturalists. This meant, for example, that the often devastating impact of extreme climate events was carefully recorded. Crop damage thus prompted more systematic weather observations, leading to attempts to define the cyclical nature of certain weather phenomena, most importantly the so-called El Niño.

Concerns about the ecological impact of monoculture in a tropical setting emerge early in official documents. Leaning on climatological theories of the day, some officials argued that the clearing of forests to make way for plantations would irreversibly change the climate. Calls were soon made for the protection of local forests, and so the Malay Peninsula came to participate in the collation of global examples of the ecological impact of colonial agriculture, leading to empire wide measures to protect tropical forests later in the century.

DR CHRISTINA SKOTT, 
Director of Studies in History
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Miss Lisa Duffin
Mr Barnaby M Golder
Mr Brendan M Goss
Mr Tai Loo Lam
Mr Christopher D Laws
Dr Alan W L Leung
Professor Chris J Lintott
Mrs Kate Mayne
Mr Luke Webster

2000
Mr Raihan Akhtar
Mr Christopher J Bull
Dr Stephanie M Coughlin
Mr Thomas P Cropper
Mr Edward J D Cross
Mrs Robyn M Curnow
Mr Simon J Gillis
Dr Annette Kolodzie
Mr Timothy T C Lee
The Reverend Professor John L Morgan AM
Ms Frances J Munnelly
Mr Thomas E Page
Mrs Hannah L Ross
Mr Alexander P Schultz
Miss Sarah J Winward
Dr Zhong-Ming Zhang

2001
Mrs Lucy S K Abercrombie
Mr Carlos Ardid Candela
Mr Joseph M D Ballard
Dr Jenny M Bosten
Mr Matthew R Coldrick
Ms Julie H Cooke
Dr Edward J Costar
Dr Stefan Halper
Mr Wayne A Hanson-Prince
Professor Kasturi Moodaliyar
Ms Charlotte M Morley
Mr James R H Morton
Dr Henry A Nash
Dr Hubert Pham
Dr Andrew S Robertson
Dr Kirsten A Schuetz
Dr Cornelia J F Thomas
Mrs Mala Thurston
Miss Tara N Walsh

2002
Mr Christopher M Ashford
Mr Graeme A Bartlett
Miss Ella E Boughton
Mr Michael W H Conway
Ms Gemma L Donaldson
Mr Thomas Gaillard
Dr James S A Glover
Mr Jonathan Hellyer Jones
Mrs Hannah C James
Dr Tahir I Khokhar
Mr Michal Koblas
Dr Daniel K K Lin
Dr Andrew C Morley-Smith
Ms Rachel A Reid
Mr Duncan Robinson
Mrs Samantha Yvonne Smith
Mr Peter O Smith
Mr Benjamin J W Smith
Mr Niall C Taylor
Dr Thomas Wilkinson
Mr Tom Williams

2003
Dr Gareth Atkins
Miss Emma J Davies Sheard
Dr Robyn H Inglis
Mr Henry C M James
Ms Claudia Mascino-Murphy
Miss Anna K Roberts
Dr Dorotheé L Schuessler
Dr Anna Wade
2004
Mrs Carly A Carter
Dr Rachel Clifton
Professor Helen Cooper
Dr Benjamin M Dobke
Ms Kate L Grimes
Dr Ross A Hartley
Dr Azeem Ibrahim
Dr Natasha C Y Ip
Mr John M W Kyffin
Ms Rebecca M L Lowe
Dr Fred Ludlow
Mr Andrew S S Mann
Mr Michalis Papachristofis
Mr Tom Pope
Dr Ignacio Quintana Alonso
Dr Anitha Thillaisundaram

2005
Dr Jeremy Appleyard
Mr Rogier J J Beaumont
Dr Maria Botcharova
Ms Sophia Burton
Mr Matthew J S Byford
Mr James W Cherry
Miss Karen Chiu
Mr Robert Cripps
Miss Amy Gunning

2006
Mrs Jingyu L He
Mrs Emma M Johnstone
Dr Bertram Kloss
Miss Hannah E Latham
Dr A E D Lloyd
Mr Paul R M Magee
Mr Tristan T Matthews
Dr Victoria L Parker
Dr William A E Parker
Mr Jai N Patel
Mr Andrew E Pay
Miss Emily V Penn BEM
The Reverend Mr Michael T E Robinson
HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah of Perak, Malaysia
Mr Liam P Townson
Ms Amber N T Wan
Mr Eric S Yang

2007
Mr Thomas G Barfield
Dr Oliver S Caplin
Mr Leslie Cheng
Mr James R Z Collopy
Mrs Jo Dickson
Dr Faye C A Dorey
Miss Debra Gerstein
Miss Xiaoxing W Guo
Dr Jason P Hafler
Dr Bjarki Holm
Dr Miranda C J Malins
Mr Scott W Martin
Miss Eleanor J Purkhardt
Mrs Lara Russell-Jones
Miss Jessica Town
Mr Peter D Wickham
Dr Tom Wilson
Miss Xiaomin Zhu

2008
Ms Mary E Cahill
Mrs Cara L T Cooper
Dr Ewan Gage
Dr Loyd D G Grossman
CBE FSA
Dr Luke M Innes
Dr Kathleen O’Neill
Ms Bo Y Park
Mr Daniel Q Y Steel
Mr James R Syrett
Dr Daniel Trocmé-Latter

2009
Ms Ntombikayise Banda
Dr Stuart Breakey
Miss Sarah Chadwick

Mr Derek O’Brien
Mr Peter P O’Brien
Dr Dace Ruklisa
Mrs Alice J Soulioux-Evans
Miss Annie Spencer
Dr Lauri M O Tähtinen
Miss Elissa F Tennant-Brown
Dr Henry J Walton
Dr Dominic E White
Dr Mike Zhong
Miss Sophie Daud
Dr Molly Dorkin
Mrs Miriam Fine
Miss Eva Johnson
Dr Adele Julier
Miss Keren Li
Mr Johnny Lui
Dr Emily Mynott
Mr Alastair Neilson
Dr Emily Parsloe
Mr Rajiv Patel
Dr Oliver Sanders
Ms Lucy Urwin
Mr Johann Xavier

2010
Mr Robert Abernethy
Miss Carolyn Beniuk
Mr Jonathan P Blunden
Mrs Lauren Davies
Mr Nicholas Eames
Mr Felix Faire
Mr Peter Gould
Mr Eric Hambro
Mr Oliver Holmes
Mrs Corinne D Lloyd*
Ms Joy Montgomery
Mr Anton Ozornin
Miss Sorsha Roberts
Professor Emma G Rothschild CMG*
Mrs Julia Trocmé-Latter*

2011
Mr Jad Abi Esber
Mr Paul Chu
Mr Samuel Clinton-Davis
Miss Olivia C Dalseme-Stubbs
Miss Sichu Jiang
Mr Joe Johnson
Dr Nicolaas C Kist
Ms Kathryn I Lindsay
Miss Rosalind Peters
Miss Annie Raff
Mr Tyson Ruengsukilp
Miss Maddie Skipsey
Ms Alice S Taylor
Mr Chris Thomas
Ms Ali Whiting
Miss Mengyi Zhou

2012
Miss Vivian K W Chow
Mr Rafi Colman
Ms Hermione H Cox
Mr Devdut Dalal
Mr Angus B Knights
Mr Khoon-Hong Kuck*
Ms Leslie Manthey
Miss Rozzie Marshall
Mr Andrew Peecock
Ms Julia A Sherman
Dr James A Sturdy
Miss Grace A Taylor
Mr Will Thong

2013
Mr Theodore M Arnold-Forster
Mr Tom Collingwood
Mr Ray A Fan
Mr Alex Fanourakis
Miss Harriet J Lamden
Mr Daniel J Lee
Mr Taibo Li
Mr Max J Lowther
Mr David Matthews
Dr Bogdan Petrisor
Mr Jieqin Zhou

2014
Professor Thomas Gallanis*
Dr Travis Helms
Mr Pui H Ip
Professor Myles V Lynk*
Dr John M Munns*
Mr Henry Yuchi

2015
Mr Alex Hibbert
Mr Iain D C McLean

2016
Miss Jade A Charles
Miss Alice M I Gable
Mr Lorenzo G F Honeyger
Miss Natalie R Rees
Dr Andre J Wijaya
Dr Jennifer J Wiseman*
Miss Emily Wood

2017
Miss Laura Belt
Mr Nathaniel R F Bernstein
Miss Wei Chin
Professor Saul Dubow*
Miss Wendi Fan
Mr Dylan A C Gaffney
Miss Annabelle Goldsmith
Miss Rebecca D A Grubb
Mr Michael Lewis
Miss Sarah Longworth
Mr Dinghao Luo
Miss Mia C Lupoli
Mr Daniel J Maybe
Mr Harry D Solomons
Miss Alexandra Souty
Mr Ran Xiao

2018
Mr Thomas J D Cripps*
Mr Cameron J G Dodge
Mr Zhou Fang
Mr Gareth Hart
Mr Ivo A Macdonald
Mr Suri Singhania
Mrs Amy Tennent*

2019
Dr Christopher N Osaufor

Friends
Mrs Victoria Amey
Mrs Joyce Beechey
Ms Elizabeth Blase
Mr John Braybrook
Mrs Lorna Brown*
Mrs Kate Chartener
Mrs Gina Coleman
Mr Darren Cooke
Dr Ulrich Desselberger
Dr Chris J Edcombe
Mrs Alenka Edmondes
Mrs Sheila Evans
Dr Amanda Foreman
Mr Basie Gitlin
Mrs Aliki Goulardris
Mrs Abigail Hafer
Mr Bruce K Henderson
Mr Norman Ho
Mr John Hoerster
Mrs Carol Hoerster
Mr John Hudson
Mr Andrew M Hunter Johnston
Miss Tamara Ljubec*
Dr Lui Che Woo
Mrs Julie Lynk
Mr Richard Marriott
Mr Mark V Mathers
Dr Andrew McLachlan
Mrs Miranda Menzies
Mr Hironori Nakamura
Mrs Frances A Phillips*
Mr Jonathan Roberts
Mrs Lisa Robinson
Mr Mark Shelton
Mrs Tamsin Shelton

Mrs Delphine Stevens
Mr Charles Stevens
Mr William D Sweatt
Mr Yen How Tai
Mr Andong Tang
Mrs Margaret M Taylor†
Ms Felicia van Pallandt
Mrs Lucy Vignoles‡
Dr Alan J Walton*
Mrs Sarah Woodrow
Mrs Jane Ziar
Apple Inc.
The Arcadia Fund
The Chelford House Christian Fellowship Trust
Coracle Analysis Ltd
The Cripps Foundation
Genentech Inc.
Google Inc.
M&G Investments
The Mercers’ Livery Company
Morgan Palmer Foundation
PA Consulting Services Ltd
The Edward Ramsden Charitable Trust
A.B. Regester Fund
The Rockefeller Brothers Fund
S&P Global Inc.
Steven B. Schonfeld Foundation
YH2 Capital Management Pte Ltd

Whilst we do our very best to ensure that these lists are accurate we apologise if a name has been omitted.
Founded in 2012, the MCF received its first gift of $100 in late 2013 and has gone from strength to strength over the years. During 2020–21, it donated about $590,000 to Magdalene, and in a span of less than eight years it has granted a total of over $7.3 million to the College, a truly remarkable sum.

A group of alumni living in the US established the MCF to give Magdalene greater control over its fundraising efforts in the United States. It continues to be governed by an independent board composed of six Magdalene alumni who matriculated between 1971 and 2006. Importantly, our modest expenses are covered separately, ensuring that 100% of every donation goes to the College. All donations to the MCF can be tax deductible for US tax payers. It can also receive contributions of shares, which have amounted to over $600,000 since 2013.

Donors have given the MCF some large gifts for which it is extremely grateful, but about 75% of cash gifts received have been $1,000 or less. The median cash donation is $300, and one-quarter are $100 or less – this shows the importance of Magdalene to a wide variety of Members. Though it is hard to tell because people move into and out of the USA, over 40% of our US alumni have contributed at some point over the years.

What does this say? Really two things: many US alumni care greatly about Magdalene, and people with both large and small giving abilities are equally committed to supporting the College.

With respect to the Future Foundations Campaign, the MCF has been a leading supporter. Since the Campaign began in March 2017, the MCF has donated over $4.5 million – about a sixth of the total amount raised. The MCF is grateful to be listed in the New Library as one of the major benefactors of the building.

The MCF has two other significant roles in the US. First, we host receptions and dinners in various cities working closely with the Colleges Alumni Events Team. Our annual New York Dinner was held in November for the 29th time, it ranks as the longest-running and best-attended Oxbridge College event in the US. We hold other gatherings in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, plus Toronto and Vancouver in Canada. All are welcome, and over half of US alumni have attended at least one event.

Second, the MCF assists Fellows and students who come to the US to study or complete research, and it helps the College with other efforts in America. For example, the MCF supported the College Chapel Choir during its US tour in June 2018, arranging concerts in Connecticut and Massachusetts. And Dunster House at Harvard, named after Harvard’s first president, Henry Dunster (1627), received tracery stones from Magdalene when it was built in 1930; the MCF arranged for Dunster House to donate a limestone facing in 2015 that now supports the statue of St Mary Magdalene by the New Library.

As it nears the start of its second decade, the MCF looks forward to continuing its significant role in supporting this splendid College and in helping Magdalene do wonderful things.

MR ROBERT CHARTENER,
Magdalene College Foundation Chairman
SUPPORTING MAGDALENE

Every gift, large and small, makes a huge difference to the College. There are many ways you can support the College, details of which can be found online at www.magd.cam.ac.uk/support.

UK Taxpayers

If you are a UK taxpayer, every £100 you donate through Gift Aid is worth £125 to Magdalene, the difference is paid by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at no extra cost to you.

If you pay tax at the higher or additional rate you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and the basic rate on your donation, either by filing a self-assessment tax return or by asking HMRC to amend your tax code.

<table>
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<th>For example:</th>
<th>Net Donation to College</th>
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US Taxpayers

US taxpayers can make tax efficient gifts via The Magdalene College Foundation (MCF) which is a 501(c)3 organisation. The Alumni and Development Office is the administrative office of the MCF.

Gifts made by US taxpayers to the MCF are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and a tax receipt in a form acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service will be issued for every donation received.

Cheques are to be made payable to ‘The Magdalene College Foundation’, and sent to: The Magdalene College Foundation c/o Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, PC, 324 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Canadian Taxpayers

The University of Cambridge will issue donation receipts that are accepted by the Canada Revenue Agency for tax purposes on behalf of Magdalene.

Cheques are to be made payable to ‘Magdalene College Cambridge’, and sent to: Alumni & Development Office, Magdalene College, Cambridge, CB3 0AG

If you would like more information or wish to discuss your gift in confidence, please contact the Development Office by telephone +44 (0)1223 764410 or by email development.director@magd.cam.ac.uk.

Alternatively, please complete and return the accompanying donation form. Thanks for your support!