



Brasenose
College
UNIVERSITY *of* OXFORD

Donor Impact Report 2015





Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to be introducing my first Donor Impact Report and thrilled to be taking up the reins as Principal following the successful tenure of Alan Bowman. Ours is a community dedicated to nurturing minds and the requirement to fundraise to guarantee the continuation of this endeavour is more acute than ever given recent cuts in government spending.

In this report you will read heart-warming stories from the fantastic students at College today. They have been kind enough to let us share the details of how your donations have impacted on their experience at Brasenose. Every donor plays their part in ensuring that the academic excellence of our College remains strong through supporting these students – some of the brightest minds in society. Thank you.

Brasenose is a community in which you, as alumni, play a major part. In my first few months at BNC, I have been astounded by the depth and warmth of feeling towards the College amongst Old Members of all ages and levels of means.

The most evident way that you demonstrate this warmth is through your generosity in financially supporting the College and its community. The impact of these donations is clear through capital projects like the library extension, the endowment of Fellowships and the provision of undergraduate bursaries and graduate scholarships.

Oxford has many pressures on students which can militate against them applying and which can be very off-putting

when they arrive. These factors include a cost of living at London rates, a virtual inability to work during term time and the wonderful traditions (gowns and the like) that unfortunately do cost a small fortune. Your support helps relieve them of the burden of financial worry so that they may get the most out of their time at Brasenose.

It is clear that without your support, students from low income backgrounds may not consider higher education, never mind Oxford. I am particularly interested in the College providing more bursaries so that everyone who is gifted and talented, regardless of their household income, can receive the best quality education which is available here.

Oxford shaped my career and gave me access to the facilities and opportunities I could only dream about when growing up. I want this for every student who turns off Radcliffe Square, walks through our gates on an Open Day and has decided that Oxford (and, of course, Brasenose in particular!) is where they want to study. I am delighted that so many of you share this desire and support the College to achieve those aims.

Thank you for keeping this a world-class institution. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you already and I hope to see many more of you in the near future.

John Bowers QC
Principal

Fundraising at Brasenose



BNC's telethons

Each year, Brasenose holds a number of telethons through which we speak with thousands of alumni.

As well as providing vital support for the College – assisting us in funding student priorities including bursaries for those from low income backgrounds – the students who choose to work on the campaign have excellent conversations with alumni. They share stories about College, update each other on news and talk about the projects that alumni generously support. One caller in our April campaign said:

"I loved talking to Old Members. I was given some amazing advice and heard some hilarious anecdotes about College."

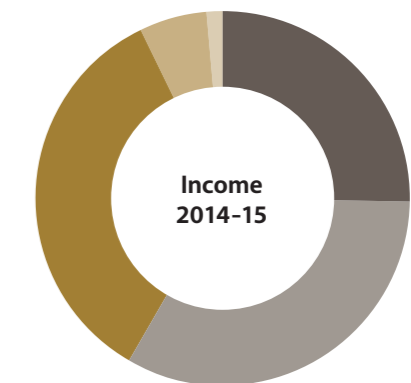
Thank you for support during our telethons. Your generosity really does make a difference to BNC and its students.

Oxford Opportunity Bursaries

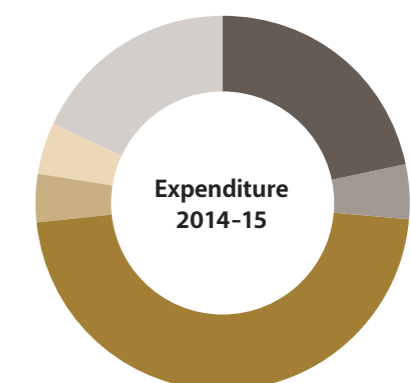
Bursaries available to students who started their course in 2015:

Household income	Annual Oxford Bursary
£16,000 or less	£4,500
£16,001 - £20,000	£3,500
£20,001 - £25,000	£3,000
£25,001 - £30,000	£2,000
£30,001 - £35,000	£1,500
£35,001 - £40,000	£1,000
£40,001 - £42,620	£500
£42,621 +	£0

College Finances



Income	£ (000s)
Academic	2,526
Domestic (inc Conferences)	3,322
Investments	3,427
Development (ex capital gifts)	575
Other	134
Total	9,984



Expenditure	£ (000s)
Academic	2,149
Student Support	473
Domestic (including Conf)	4,618
Loan Interest	412
Development	457
Overheads	1,757
Total	9,866

Your impact on students



Alison's Story

During my time at Oxford, I had the pleasure of working in the laboratory space in which Norman Heatley (the scientist who successfully developed the process by which penicillin could be efficiently purified in bulk) and his colleagues used to work. Working in this exciting environment, Annual Fund donors helped me to become fully immersed in the world-class academic experience offered at Oxford. Your support funded one of my research projects as well as helping me attend a research conference in Boston, USA.

Put simply, my research investigates the possibility of enabling the body to accept a foreign protein without the need for immunosuppressive drugs as these may make a patient more

susceptible to infections and cancer (much like work that has been done on the body accepting an organ transplant). Nowadays, we are able to take skin cells from an individual to generate stem cells (known as iPSCs) which, in turn, can be used to generate any type of tissue in the body. In my research, iPSCs are grown into cells of the immune system in the presence of a particular drug and the foreign protein which, in the future, could be injected into individuals enabling the acceptance of the foreign protein in the absence of immunosuppressive drugs.

In applying my research to the clinic, I am especially looking at Lysosomal Storage Diseases which occur when patients lack a certain protein causing severe health problems. One of these diseases is Pompe Disease, the specific focus of my research. Pompe Disease patients lack a certain enzyme which is treated by enzyme replacement therapy. In the cases where patients completely lack this enzyme their immune system mounts an immune response which reduces the effectiveness of the treatment. Our approach will hopefully lead to the acceptance of the enzyme rather than its rejection.

Your support has enabled me to immerse myself in aspects of academic life that I may otherwise not have experienced. Oxford is all about discovery and thorough engagement in the love of one's subject. Your generosity helped me to take full advantage of Oxford academic life and for that I am very grateful. Thank you.

Alison Leishman
(2010, DPhil Pathology)

residence in College over parts of the Easter and Long Vacations whilst preparing for exams and working on my Final Honour Schools research project.

In addition, the bursary has given me the opportunity to participate in aspects of College and University life to a greater extent than I would otherwise have done. I am a member of Brasenose College Boat Club; racing as part of BNC Women's 1st VIII. I have also been able to afford membership to a number of University societies, such as the Oxford Medical Students' Society, of which I was President for the past year, and the Oxford Union. If I had to find employment, I certainly would not have been able to enjoy this aspect of Oxford life.

I am incredibly grateful for the extra help your donations have provided. Thank you.

Georgina Sanderson
(2013, Preclinical Medicine)



Georgina's Story

I am very fortunate to receive financial support from College – made possible by the generosity of Old Members. On top of termly grants this year, I was offered a one-off 'start up' bursary in my first year which contributed greatly to costs associated with starting university in Oxford. Your donations have a great impact on my daily life as a student and for that I am very grateful.

The support I received provided essential help with day-to-day living expenses, meaning that I have not felt pressured to find employment during term time to support my studies. It is a great relief not to constantly worry about money whilst studying, especially considering the exceptionally high living costs in Oxford. It has been particularly useful in enabling me to afford



Florence's Story

I was lucky enough to receive funding to travel to India for three weeks to take part in the 'Act for Change' project. 'Act for Change' is a forum theatre that aims to make the arts more accessible and diverse. It also aims to investigate ideas and often taboo subjects through acting.

My project team, which included a handful of students from Oxford, aimed to explore the stigma associated with mental health problems across the sub-continent – creating a 15-minute piece centred on the impact of depression in the home. The play was performed once by the group. It was then repeated as we encouraged audience members to replace a character of their choosing and thus change the play's outcome, becoming so-called 'spect-actors'. This form of participation benefits the

understanding and awareness of the issue being discussed in a much more thorough way than simply watching.

The project was designed to explore mental health issues and not to preach a 'correct' response – an enlightening and liberating experience for all involved. Aside from the immediate aims of the project, this experience was one of true cultural exchange. The whole team became very close and we learned a lot from one another, for which I am very grateful. The 'spect-actors' became heavily involved in the performance which provoked some amazingly honest discussions around depression (including post-natal depression).

I would like to thank Annual Fund donors whose gifts allowed me to have such a life-changing experience. As I now sadly leave Brasenose as a brand new alumna, I will always look back at my time in India with such fondness. The intention is to return. Your support helped me get there and for that I am truly grateful.

Florence Brady
(2012, English Language & Literature)

Christopher's Story

I was delighted to have been awarded funding generously provided by Annual Fund donors to produce a short video on the biology and importance of insects which ultimately led to me appearing on BBC One's *The One Show*. The video was initially to be used solely for science outreach events for prospective Oxford applicants, however it developed into many exciting opportunities including a chance to appear on one of the nation's most popular television shows.

My short video focussed on global insect diversity, its role in ensuring functioning healthy ecosystems, and the use of predatory and parasitic insects as an alternative to pesticides in the control of agricultural pests. I was thrilled to learn that the idea was accepted by producers at *The One Show* and the BBC Natural History Unit. I travelled to a studio in Bristol for two days in order to assist in filming appearing alongside presenter Dr George McGavin. This was a fantastic experience and a great insight into the practicalities of producing natural history media.

My Annual Fund video was shown at outreach events for the Royal Entomological Society which led to interesting discussions from school children and entomologists alike. This presentation also led to me being commissioned to produce a series of audio podcasts for National Insect Week. As part of this work I interviewed a range of professional entomologists across the UK



including academics, conservationists and even cinematographer Rod Clark, who has worked on our treasured Sir David Attenborough documentaries for over 20 years.

Your generosity made possible the creation of this film which subsequently led to valuable opportunities to expand my media production portfolio. You helped me combine my passion for natural history and education into a format that can be consumed by people of all ages and abilities. For this I am extremely grateful.

Christopher Jeffs
(2008, BA Biological Sciences; 2012, DPhil Zoology)



Karl's Story

I am a graduate cancer researcher at BNC. My studies at Oxford are supported by a Clarendon Award in conjunction with Brasenose College. Clarendon Awards are highly sought after university scholarships and I am so grateful to be supported by the Oxford community in studying the

markers. I am producing a paper that, put simply, will contribute towards improving 'The PSA Test' for prostate cancer.

The focus of my second project is surrounding the risk of developing prostate cancer associated with a person having had a vasectomy. Having done the research and a meta-analysis, I have found no real risk of prostate cancer associated with the procedure. This is in contrast to a prior suggestion that is may increase the risk by as much as 30 per cent. Vasectomy is used by millions of men around the world as a family planning technique and thus my research, along with that of others who share my view, will hopefully help to reduce worries associated with having the procedure.

It is thanks to generosity such as yours that I can study at Oxford. Thank you to those that give, regardless to which fund you donate, as you make the dream of studying and making a difference at this amazing place a reality.

Karl Smith Byrne
(2014, Population Health)

subject about which I am so passionate. I currently work on two projects with the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer (EPIC), a cohort of participants from all over Europe.

My first project concentrates on the molecular and genetic factors that can be used to identify risk factors leading to the incidence of prostate cancer as well as predict who will be at risk. During my research, I have identified a meaningful increase in the ability to predict prostate cancer using a cocktail of protein and genetic



Tianhao's Story

On arrival at Brasenose I was told that I was able to receive a bursary. The extra financial support has meant that I can enjoy my degree much more, with a lot less to worry about. It has helped me significantly and has really made a difference. Thank you.

The support has helped me with living costs, which in Oxford can be quite high, and also a chance to explore and experience everything that this beautiful city has to offer.

Alongside general living costs, I have been able to join the clubs and societies, about which I am passionate. Martial arts has always been an important part of my life; being able to compete for the Oxford Boxing Blues has been a valuable experience, bringing me closer to the opportunity of competing nationally. I have also been able to take up kickboxing sessions and join the Oxford Photographic Society, where I have found myself serving as Treasurer, working hard to improve the society so that others may enjoy it.

I am truly grateful for your support and I believe it is fantastic that students coming into Oxford University do not have to worry about expenses and can focus on their studies. It also makes university life much more enjoyable, funding events like College Balls, and the ability to take part in clubs and societies. Thank you!

Tianhao Xu
(2014, Fine Art)



“By naming a chair, desk or bookcase, you could seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to etch your name on a seat of learning that has existed for over 500 years.”

Be part of the new BNC library

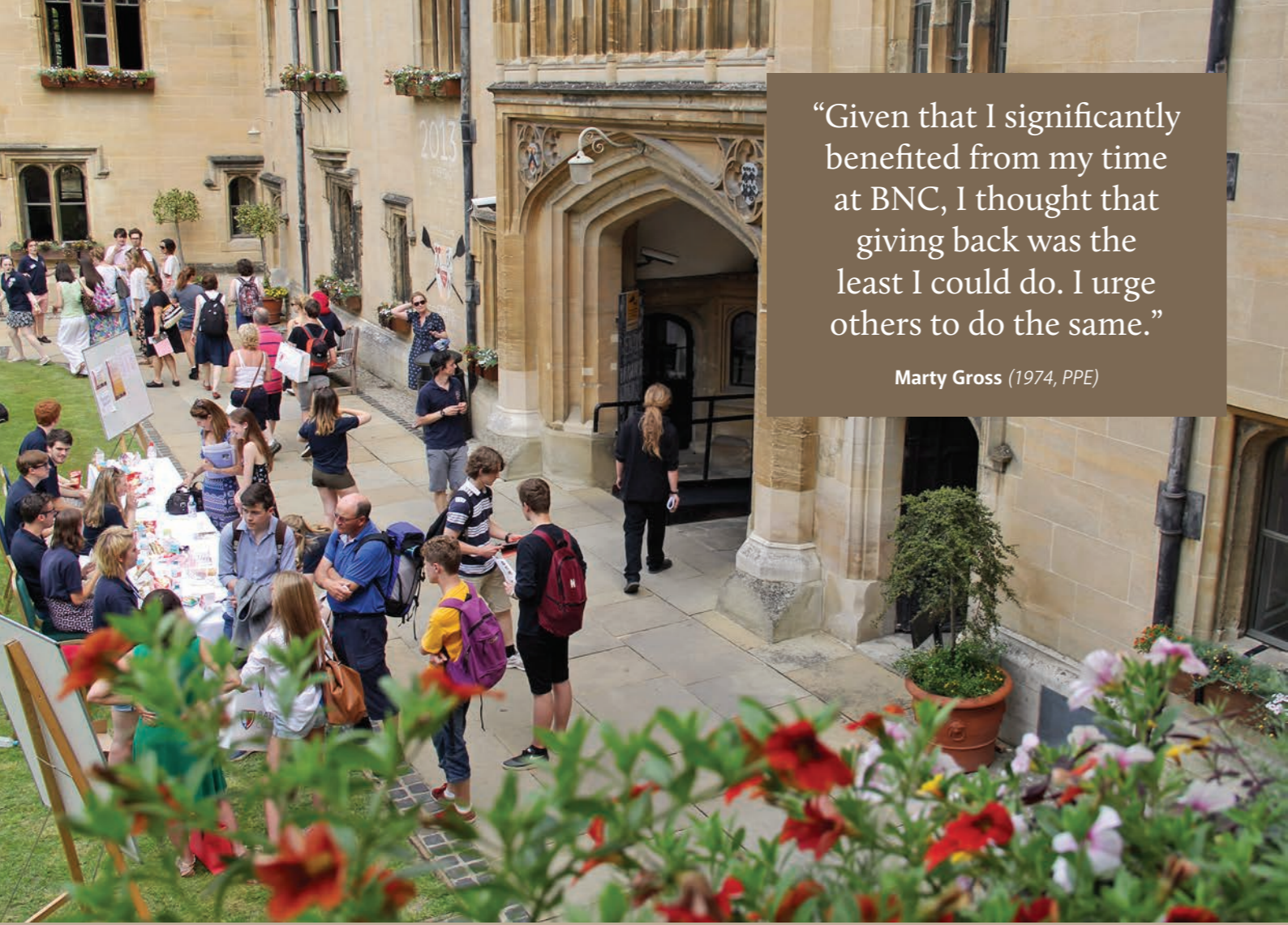
Brasenose's historic library was built in the 17th century to serve 28 Fellows and house 2,300 books. Today, the original space is used by 60 Fellows, 550 students and 60,000 books. Thanks to the generosity of a group of Old Members, £4 million has already been pledged to fund an extension and refurbishment to the library. In order to complete the project, we need to raise an additional £200,000. As the library goes through its transformation into the perfect space in which academic excellence can flourish, we want to give you the opportunity to get involved by donating to this project.

By naming a chair, desk or bookcase, you could seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to etch your name on a seat of learning that has existed for over 500 years:

- Name a library chair: £1,509+**
- Name a library desk: £5,000+**
- Name a library bookcase: £25,000+**



Any gift can be made by monthly or annual instalments over a period of up to five years. There are limited numbers of each of these naming opportunities.



“Given that I significantly benefited from my time at BNC, I thought that giving back was the least I could do. I urge others to do the same.”

Marty Gross (1974, PPE)

Why I give



I joined an all-male BNC as a young 18-year-old grammar lad in 1956. Most of my cohort was ex-national service, mostly commissioned and sometimes shot at - I was deferred as doctors were preferred to spotty medical students but I was Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve (TAVR) later.

I entered a quite different world - so many interesting people and things to do; maturation was rapid. My formal contributions to college life were slight - table tennis team and jazz bands at parties, but I made President of the OU Medical Society and secretary of the newly formed Modern Jazz Club.

After a research year and then London for clinical studies - the age of Carnaby Street - I ended up Professor of Chemical Pathology in London at the Royal Free. Returns as for higher degrees, weddings of daughter Clare (BNC 1984, Law) to Alan, organ scholar, and of son Phil to Alison (BNC Research Fellow), both in the chapel, bring memories flooding back of that intense and wholly consuming time of life. We alumni can support the College to help others enjoy that glorious bounty, and that is why I encourage you to give back.

Tony Winder
(1956, Medicine)



I read Biochemistry at Brasenose just 4 years after the College first began admitting women. I stayed on whilst researching for my DPhil at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology.

As the first in my family to go to University, and the first from my Dorset comprehensive to attend Oxford, I arrived at BNC with a certain amount of trepidation. Being part of a friendly, mixed college helped bring a sense of normality and offered the opportunity to meet a diverse array of friends from a variety of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. There was so much to discover and discuss: music, literature, wine tasting, the world generally and, of course, rowing. Not forgetting the opportunity to study a fascinating subject, taught by world class scientists.

Eventually I left Oxford for London, switching from cancer research to patent law. I am now a partner in a law firm that specialises in intellectual property litigation, bringing my scientific background to bear in technically complex biotech patent disputes.

I have very fond memories of my time at BNC. I was pleased to contribute to “The 1974 Bursary” set up to mark 40 years since the College went mixed. Hopefully the donations and mentoring support that I have provided help to give something back to College and will help others to make the most of their opportunities too.

Dr Penny Gilbert
(1978, Biochemistry)



Being given the opportunity to study Classics at Oxford University, and in particular at BNC, has undoubtedly been one of the highlights of my life. Over the years I have often been asked the question: “What was the point of studying Classics?” I have always loved the opportunity to answer it because it gives the opportunity to discuss the very purpose of education and, secondly, because the Greats course helped me enormously with language construction as a parliamentary draftsman and then as a pensions lawyer with a leading City law firm. I have therefore every reason to be grateful to the College for giving me opportunities in life. I am now able to reciprocate through supporting the Annual Fund.

As chairman of a charitable trust, I have also been able to arrange financial support for the widening access initiatives that BNC has put in place. Life at BNC has always been enriched by the fact that the College brings together students from different schools from all parts of the UK and the world. For some students, the travel and accommodation costs of getting to and from Oxford will be daunting; the charitable trust provides funding to support those needs and to encourage good candidates, whatever their circumstances, to get a taste of this great Oxford College.

Christopher Berkeley
(1972, Classics)

Discover the different ways you can give to Brasenose overleaf

The 1509 Society: Celebrating philanthropy at Brasenose



The 1509 Society brings together the College's most generous philanthropists – those who donate more than £1,509 each year (referring to the year of BNC's foundation). The College wishes to thank these Old Members, who have given so generously, for the impact that they have had on our community.

Three 1509 Society qualifying gifts could transform the BNC experience for one student from a low income background by providing a full bursary.

1509 Society members are invited to regular events at which they are introduced to the students and Fellows who see and feel the impact of members' gifts every day. The Society was launched in June 2015 at the home of alumnus, Simon Lough (1981, PPE). The event, held in beautiful summer sunshine, was a wonderful celebration of philanthropy at Brasenose.

Please join the 1509 Society today and seize the opportunity to transform the experience of a BNC student.

Gifts can be made on an annual, quarterly or monthly basis and to any fund. Qualifying gift amounts for the 1509 Society are as follows:

	Required gift (no gift aid)	Required gift (with gift aid)
Annual/one-off	£1,509.00	£1,207.20
Quarterly	£377.25	£301.80
Monthly	£125.75	£100.60

BNC in 1509

Before the foundation of Brasenose College, part of the site was occupied by Brasenose Hall, one of the medieval Oxford institutions which began as lodging houses and gradually became more formal places of learning.

The transformation of Brasenose Hall into Brasenose College was so smooth that it is difficult to give an exact date to the change. A quarry in Headington was leased to provide stone for the new buildings on 19 June 1509 and this is the year which Brasenose keeps as its foundation.



In-memory gifts are the perfect way to remember someone with a very special connection to you and to BNC.



Ways to give

The Alexander Nowell Circle

A legacy gift is a particularly special way to give back to one's College. Those donors who generously remember BNC in their Will are entitled to take their place in the Alexander Nowell Circle. Nowell was a Fellow, and later Principal, of Brasenose as well as Dean of St. Paul's, a celebrated angler, the supposed inventor of bottled beer and an energetic supporter of BNC.

The biennial meetings of the Alexander Nowell Circle are a celebration of the profound effect that gifts in Wills have on the College and its community. At these meetings, the College can formally thank Old Members and their guests for their generosity.

In-memory gifts

In-memory gifts are the perfect way to remember someone with a very special connection to you and to BNC. Old Members and their families are very welcome to use one of our naming opportunities in our new library (see page 7) to honour a loved one.

If you would like to discuss making a bequest or a gift in memory, please contact James Fletcher on +44 (0) 1865 287277.

Gift Aid

On donations made by UK taxpayers, Brasenose can claim a further 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to donors.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Brasenose can claim Gift Aid on your behalf provided you pay Income or Capital Gains Tax equivalent to or of greater value than the amount we and all the other charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs to which you donate can reclaim. We can claim on gifts made in the last four years and on an ongoing basis as long as it is supported by up-to-date documentation. If you qualify and have already given us a declaration, you need not do anything. However, if your circumstances have changed, you must tell us as soon as possible so we may amend your records accordingly. Donors who haven't paid sufficient tax to cover the claimed gift aid will owe the amount of the shortfall to HMRC.

Thank you so much for allowing Brasenose to reclaim Gift Aid on your behalf. It is a small gesture with a very big impact.



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Credits

Front cover: Julia Diamantis

John Bowers QC: Richard Wakefield

Library plans: Lee Fitzgerald Architects

1509 Society garden party and Christopher Berkeley: By Gaya Photography

Students: Provided by Alison Leishman, Georgina Sanderson, Christopher Jeffs,
Florence Brady, Karl Smith Byrne, Tianhou Xu

Tony Winder: Provided by Tony Winder

Penny Gilbert: Provided by Penny Gilbert

Founders allegory: Hawksmoor's design, Brasenose Quartercentenary
Monographs 1909

Telethon: James Fletcher

Old Cloisters and bicycle: Christine Matthews

Brasenose pictures: James Fletcher, Dr Joe Organ

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