

# SHINING A LIGHT

An exhibition of photographs by John Pheasant (Modern Languages, 1972)



HILARY TERM 2019

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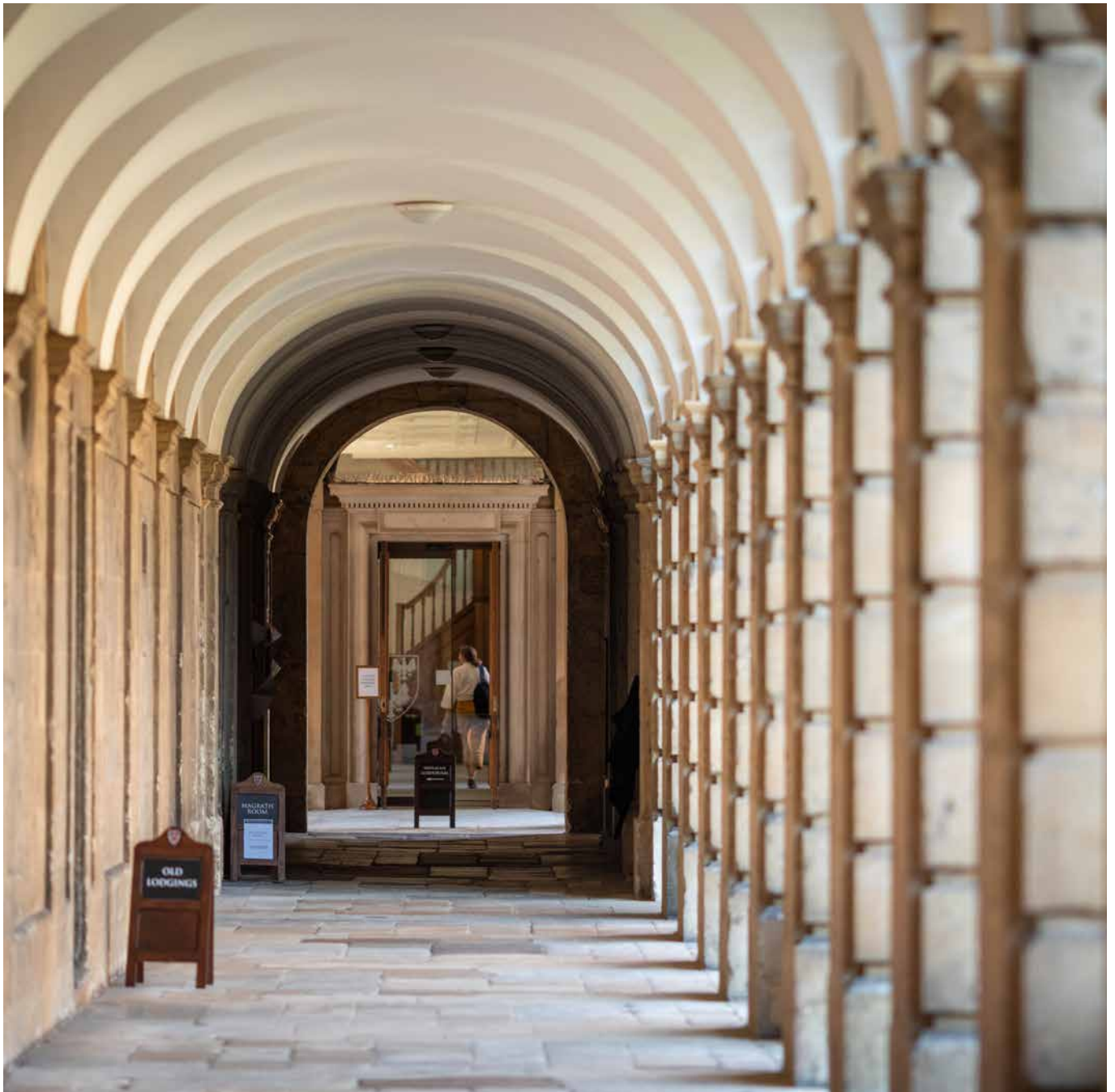


# THE BACKGROUND

2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the admission of women by the College. This exhibition celebrates this milestone by featuring women who have contributed to the College over the past four decades. It includes current and former academics, staff, Old Members, and current students, each with a one-word description chosen by the subject. Every individual included has been nominated by others to appear in the exhibition.

In 2018 John Pheasant, an Old Member of the College, made the exhibition possible by offering to take a series of photographs of College members from the past four decades. A modern linguist at Queen's (1972 - 76), John first pursued a career in European Community law while developing his interest in photography. He turned semi-professional a few years ago. Recent exhibitions in London include *Challenging Perspectives* at the Nehru Centre and *A Tale of Two Southwarks* at Roast in Borough Market, both with Indian oil painter Suchi Chidambaram. John also undertakes commissions for other UK-based charities, as well as running photography workshops.

John has a particular interest in candid portrait photography on location rather than in the studio. Travelling regularly to Oxford during Michaelmas Term 2018, John met and photographed those nominated. John will print and mount copies of the portraits and make them available to purchase; the proceeds from sales will be shared with the College to help defray the costs of mounting the exhibition.



# THE PEOPLE



## **Rebecca Beasley** Bibliophile

Rebecca became the College's first Fellow in English in 2009. She focuses on literature from the Victorian period to the present day, and has particular interests in early twentieth-century literature, literature and visual culture, and the relationship between different national literatures. One of her students said 'In addition to being one of the most phenomenal teachers I've ever had, she has supported me on a pastoral level, going beyond the requisites of her job. She is also personally responsible for the strength of her subject in the College, having introduced the single honours degree to Queen's at the start of the decade. I think I speak for all of her students, past and present, when I say that it is an honour to be taught and cared for by someone so invested in our growth not just as academics, but also as people.' As Fellow Librarian, Rebecca played an instrumental role in securing support for the expansion of the College's library facilities into an underground modern learning space.



## **April Burt** Conservationist

April has been a DPhil student in Environmental Research at the College since 2017; her research is focused on effective management of island ecosystems. She leads the Aldabra Clean-Up Project, which aims to investigate and manage the problem of marine plastic pollution on Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where she previously worked as a scientific coordinator. April has dedicated a lot of her free time to the project, has received the support of Tim Smit CBE and the President of the Seychelles Daniel Faure, and has now successfully raised funds for the £150k project budget.



## **Helen Carmichael** Optimist

Helen came to the College to read Experimental Psychology in 1980. In 1981 she became the College's first female Junior Common Room (JCR) President. Her Vice-President from that time comments that this was a brave move on Helen's part and she didn't always have an easy ride. However, her bubbly and continually positive personality shone through. She has gone on to have a varied career working with children, young people, and families in the statutory and voluntary sectors. She has launched an award-winning national youth organisation training young people in conflict-resolution skills and worked locally and nationally on new policies for children with special educational needs. No doubt her JCR experience gave her a good grounding for work in public service.



## **Solange Castoldi** Kind

Solange joined the College in 2003 and was caretaker of the Florey Building from 2007 until her departure in 2018. She was a hard-working and dedicated member of staff who welcomed and cared for the College's Freshers every year. Her kindness was very much valued by the students and she is missed.



## **Claire Craig** Distinctive

Claire will be the College's first female Provost. She is currently the Chief Science Policy Officer at the Royal Society. During her time at the Royal Society, the Society has run influential policy and public programmes on machine learning, the governance and ethics of the uses of data, and the implications of AI for the future of work. Claire was previously the Director of the UK Government Office for Science and has worked extensively on strategy and science in decision-making in the public and private sectors. She was awarded a CBE for her part in developing the UK government's science-based strategic futures programme, Foresight, which provided evidence and insights to decision-makers in areas including flood risk in 2080, human enhancement, and the future of cities. She trained originally as a geophysicist, and spent two years helping to launch a hands-on science centre in her home town of Bristol.



## **Liz Frood** Cyborg-Egyptologist

Liz came to the College from New Zealand in 1999 to study Egyptology. She rowed for the College's first eight (winning blades twice), and still misses being out on the water. She is now Associate Professor of Egyptology specialising in Ancient Egyptian self-presentation, including biography and graffiti. In 2015 Liz lost her legs, nose, part of her hearing, and the use of her hands after developing sepsis. In 2016 she returned to work and in 2018 returned to Egypt to resume her research at the temple of Karnak. Professor of Egyptology Richard Bruce Parkinson says 'Working with Liz was probably the main reason I wanted to come back to Oxford and she has been an ideal colleague and friend, exactly as expected. (It obviously takes more than sepsis to keep someone like Liz down.)'



### **Dawn Grimshaw** Happy

Dawn started working at the College in 2005. She is responsible for all aspects of the catering within the College, alongside the Head Chef. Dawn enjoys the variety of different events for which the College caters and the traditions that endure in an institution like Queen's. She especially loves being a part of the students' lives while they are at Queen's and her family always joke that if she were a stick of rock, she would have 'Queen's' written through the middle.



### **Fleur Hughes** Dragon!

Fleur was appointed College Secretary in 1980 and worked in the College Office until her retirement in 2003. In that time she worked with seven Senior Tutors and six Tutors for Admissions. On the occasion of her retirement, the then Fellow in Russian, Paul Foote, delivered a speech in which he described Fleur as 'the all-wise, all-powerful, kindly dragon' who by her personal presence had 'contributed enormously to the harmony and well-being of the College.' Her unflappable nature brought efficiency without ostentatious display and heralded a new era of order that continued through great changes to the nature of her role in the 1990s. Taking all the changes in her stride, the transformations, under her control, came about so smoothly that few people were aware of the great events taking place.



### **Jane Langdale** Forthright

Jane was appointed Fellow in Biological Sciences in 1994; she researches the genetics and evolution of plant development. Her work is focused on analysing the genetic mechanisms that pattern the distinctive leaf anatomy found in plants carrying out highly efficient photosynthesis. This research is conducted with a view to understanding how the efficient leaves evolved, with the long-term aim of engineering this leaf anatomy into less efficient crops, such as rice. This aim is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and could be instrumental in feeding the world's growing population. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2015 and appointed CBE in 2018.



### **Laura Lonsdale** Linguist

Laura joined the College as Fellow in Spanish in 2009. Her doctoral research examined the writing of two contemporary women authors and considered how helpful feminist literary criticism had been in shedding light on their work. Since then she has continued to work on twentieth-century narrative, though her interests have also broadened into theatre. Laura was brought up in Colombia, and as a linguist, literary scholar, and translator she is particularly interested in the influence of more than one language on cultural identity and literary expression. Laura has been heavily involved in outreach work for the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and in connection with its Creative Multilingualism project she has planned and delivered workshops on multilingual poetry for pupils at inner city London schools. These are designed to encourage positive and creative attitudes to languages, both those spoken at home and those studied at school, and to celebrate the cultural and linguistic diversity of the UK.



### **Tomi Makanjuola** Fearless

Tomi, aka the Vegan Nigerian, came to the College in 2010 to read English and French. During her year abroad, she decided to become a vegan. If she'd been asked just a week before her decision whether she'd ever give up meat and cheese, she says she would have laughed at the notion, but the more she researched the subject, the more obvious a decision it became. She has just published her first cookbook and now plans to focus on her business full-time, blogging and creating pop-ups around London to showcase her food. In her own words 'as a creator in the world of food and writing, a touch of fearlessness has to be a part of the mix. Fearlessness to dream, to execute, to build connections and make space for others to experience true joy - whether it is through an exquisite meal or a string of words that make the heart soar.'



### **Jane Mellor** Scientist

Jane was elected Fellow in Biochemistry at the College in 1995. With three children under five, the College offered Jane a supportive environment in which to develop her academic work. She is the Equalities Advisor in College and has campaigned for fairness and parity since her arrival. In 2009 she became the first female Dean of the College and used her time in office to establish a comprehensive set of welfare and support networks across the College community. Her research focuses on understanding the influences on gene expression that cause age-related diseases.



### **Sylvia Neumann** Mathematician

Sylvia read Mathematics at Somerville and, in addition to teaching for the Open University, was a College Lecturer at Queen's. Her colleagues describe her as self-effacing but always there as a pillar of strength for the College and those around her. Over more than 25 years she found pleasure in engaging with young scientists at Queen's. She taught mathematics, and how to use it in their work, to students reading Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, and Materials Science. She also learnt a little of their subjects from them. Sylvia says 'It has also been a privilege to enjoy the company of Fellows and their guests at dinner and other social occasions at Queen's.'



### **Cath Rees** Explorer

Cath was one of the first female cohort to arrive in the College in 1979. A student of Biochemistry, she has gone on to become Associate Professor in Microbiology at Nottingham University. Her recent research work in developing a test for bovine TB could dramatically change the future of farming. In her teaching Cath has always tried to convey to her students that the joy is in the discovery - not necessarily what you discover but the fun of finding ways of answering the questions, wherever that leads.



### **Emma Roberts** Determined

Emma is in the final year of her clinical medicine course. As a medic, she has seen Queen's from an undergraduate and pseudo-'graduate' perspective; her first three years were full of excitement, energy, and a lot of committees, whereas now she approaches Queen's in a calmer, quieter manner. The College was a home away from home as an undergraduate, providing everything she needed - from the incredible friends she met, the College itself, and formative learning experiences that she will take with her for life. Emma says 'As I get closer to being a 'proper adult' and spend more time in the hospital, Queen's as a place is not directly involved in my day-to-day life, but rather a pleasant retreat when I need a change of working environment outside of undergraduate term time, somewhere to grab some food if I am nearby, a welcome support when I need it.'



### **Tessa Shaw** Perennial

When Tessa started working in the College Library in 1983, students were in receipt of grants to fund their studies, she produced catalogue cards on a typewriter (and two shades of Tippex), books were signed out in a register, and there were inkpots on the desks. Students were addressed as Miss and Mr, the Library closed for lunch, and was never open beyond 10 pm. Google was the name of a clown in a distant circus. Tessa's working life has been transformed beyond all recognition - she says it's a reward in itself to be part of a profession which has had to move with the times. At the heart of the College, she says, are the students - both graduates and undergraduates - unique and diverse. One of the rewards of her work is playing a part in what is a hugely influential staging post in the lives of those students. She says 'This is important to me - it's about the creation of memories, the learning and the values, which then go to form part of their Queen's DNA and indeed mine.'



### **Claire Taylor** Curious

Claire is the first woman to be named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year. She started playing cricket at the age of 10 and 2009 was her 'annus mirabilis': two World Cup Winners medals, Wisden Cricketer of the Year, International Cricketer of the Year, and an MBE. She retired from international cricket in 2011 with over 150 caps and now works as a management consultant in Higher Education. In July 2018 she was inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame. She came to the College to read Mathematics in 1994; in her words, 'I was always curious but throughout life numbers have always held my attention; their patterns, the elegance and simplicity of theorems. Academically, I was stretched like never before, but always supported by my tutors at Queen's.' A keen violinist as well as a sportswoman, Claire has happy memories of playing her violin in the College Chapel.



### **Sue Tutty** Caring

Sue started working at the College in 1986 as a waitress. In 2007 she became the College's first female Steward. In this role, Sue has oversight of the wellbeing of the College, ranging from maintaining a certain standard of living accommodation for young people away from home, to acting as custodian of some of the College's more eccentric traditions, such as preparing a boar's head bedecked with rosemary for the Gaudy in December. More recently, Sue has been proactive in improving the College's green credentials through recycling initiatives.

# THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Images courtesy of John Pheasant  
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