

Annual Donor Report 2022/23



Thank you to our 1,925 donors who gave in 2022/23



211

gave for the first time



1,294

gave regular gifts



13

gave legacy gifts

- 03** In celebration of your generous support
- 04** Dr Fiona Hill's first engagement as Chancellor
- 05** The Sir Harry Evans Memorial Fund
- 06** Another successful telephone appeal
- 07** Thanks to you
- 08** New English Literature scholarship for British students of Black Heritage
- 09** Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Hatfield Lioness Scholarships
- 10** Supporting excellence in sports and Arts and Humanities

- 12** Legacies at Durham
- 14** Uncovering the secrets of medieval manuscripts
- 15** St Chad's Chapel
- 16** Durham Centre for Crop Improvement Technology
- 18** Donor funding supports PhD studentships
- 19** Durham's new research centre for Moral Injury
- 20** Celebrating 20 years of Blueprint
- 22** Your impact on University finances
- 24** Contact us

" It is incredibly heartening to see the enduring connection that so many of you maintain with the University and with one another after graduating.

In celebration of your generous support

As I reflect on the past year, I continue to feel privileged to be a part of this great University. Our community has been instrumental in driving positive change, inspiring excellence, and shaping the future of education at Durham.

Durham's position as a world-leading institution has been strengthened during the 2022/23 academic year. We enhanced our position in the QS World University Rankings 2024. Our students have excelled across theatre, music, arts and volunteering. Only recently, two of our students represented England in the Women's Junior Hockey World Cup in Chile, where the team reached the semi-finals.

We nurture all our students to reach their full potential.

It has been a pleasure to connect with so many of you through our various events. I have thoroughly enjoyed being welcomed by alumni and friends across the globe. Each visit brought about a new sense of inspiration. It is incredibly heartening to see the enduring connection that so many of you maintain with the University and with one another after graduating.



Scan this QR code to watch our Thank You video

Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor and Warden



This report demonstrates just some of the ways which our community of donors has supported the University in 2022/23. The thousands of gifts that we have received in the past academic year have had a transformative impact on our students, researchers and the wider community. The projects highlighted in this report showcase the range of activities and the lasting impact that you have made possible.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the University. Your generosity enables the University to strengthen its position as a world-leading centre of research and education. With your sustained support, our students and researchers will continue to thrive.

Professor Karen O'Brien
Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University



From left to right: Dr Fiona Hill, alumna Beth Henderson and Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor and Warden, at the Chancellor's Circle Members' Dinner 2023

" This evening celebrates the difference you as Chancellor's Circle Members make, united in a commitment to the University's advancement. I'm honoured to be a patron of this group and I'm pleased to be meeting so many of you tonight.

Dr Fiona Hill,
Chancellor of Durham University, addressing the Chancellor's Circle Members

Dr Fiona Hill's first engagement as Chancellor

In May 2023, Dr Fiona Hill participated in her first official engagement as Chancellor at the Chancellor's Circle Members' Dinner. The Chancellor's Circle comprises the University's most engaged benefactors, all of whom have made transformative gifts to Durham. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome Dr Hill as patron of this group and to celebrate the impact of members' generosity and commitment.

" The Robert Young Scholarship changed the entire narrative for me. It empowered me to apply for and attend Durham, where I achieved a First Class Honours in English Literature, and enabled me to embrace university life, both socially and academically.

Beth Henderson,
Alumna and graduated Robert Young Scholar

The Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien, warmly welcomed Dr Hill to her first engagement. Sir Thomas Allen, who founded the Circle during his tenure as Chancellor, also attended the dinner. He extended a heartfelt welcome to Dr Hill on her new role.

Dr Hill welcomed 10 new members to the Chancellor's Circle. This important group offers support across the University to projects and programmes including research, scholarships, student experience, heritage, and the Sir Harry Evans Memorial Fund.

In recognition of the impact of members' generosity, we were pleased to welcome alumna Beth Henderson (English Literature, Josephine Butler College, 2017-20) to the dinner to share her experience as a scholar. Guests also enjoyed musical performances from our current students and alumni.

With thanks to our Chancellor's Circle members, to whom we are indebted for their incredible support.

The Sir Harry Evans Memorial Fund

Internationally acclaimed journalists, publishers, and media leaders gathered in London on 10 May for the inaugural Sir Harry Evans Global Summit in Investigative Journalism at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The event was made possible by the Sir Harry Evans Memorial Fund, a landmark partnership between Sir Harry's widow Tina Brown CBE and family, Reuters, and Durham University.

The fund was launched in honour of Sir Harry, a Durham alumnus who was voted by his peers as the greatest newspaper editor of all time in 2002. Sir Harry died in 2020, aged 92.

The summit was co-hosted by Tina Brown, Reuters editor-in-chief Alessandra Galloni, and our Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen O'Brien. The global summit's theme was Truth Tellers and it brought together more than 400 reporters, broadcasters, editors, and cultural and political influencers. The onstage speakers included Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, Thomson Reuters chair David Thomson, BBC CEO Deborah Turness, former New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet, and Guardian Editor Katharine Viner.

Waylon Cunningham, from Texas, USA, who was the inaugural Sir Harry Evans Global Fellow, told the summit how even as a teenager he had a thirst for holding power to account and exposing corruption.



Rosa Furneaux, the second recipient of the Sir Harry Evans Global Fellowship in Investigative Journalism

" My hope is that I'm able to take back to Texas a little bit of Harry.

Waylon Cunningham, the inaugural recipient of the Sir Harry Evans Global Fellowship

Rosa Furneaux has been awarded the 2024 Sir Harry Evans Global Fellowship in Investigative Journalism. Rosa has already reported on major failures by Covid-19 vaccine platform Covax, exposed some of the baby formula industry's unethical marketing techniques in Asia, and revealed the global spread of a substandard, contaminated cancer medicine. She said she is delighted to be given the opportunity to further hone her skills with the support of Reuters, Durham University, and Tina Brown.

We are grateful to all of the generous donors who have given in Sir Harry's memory to the fund, which has now received over \$8.4m in pledges.



The Truth Tellers Summit was co-hosted by Reuters editor-in-chief Alessandra Galloni, editor and author Tina Brown, and Durham University Vice-Chancellor and Warden Karen O'Brien.

Read Waylon's investigation into Tesla workers sharing sensitive images recorded by customer cars here: reuters.com/technology/tesla-workers-shared-sensitive-images-recorded-by-customer-cars-2023-04-06

Connecting students and alumni

A team of student callers contacted 838 members of our alumni community as part of our annual telephone appeal. The appeal sought to raise funds for bursaries and employability grants for students needing financial support. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni supporters, we successfully raised £170,000.

Not only does the telephone appeal raise vital funds to support current students, but the appeal also offers the opportunity for alumni to speak with current students and for our paid callers to discover more about our alumni community of over 200,000 members. These connections enhance our university community.

“It was a very enlightening experience, speaking to so many alumni really showed me what can be done with a Durham degree!

Ian Cahuzac,
2023 Telephone Appeal student caller



Scan this QR code to watch a thank you video made by Louisa, one of our telephone appeal callers



Collingwood College

Celebrating 50 years of Collingwood

As part of the celebration of 50 years of Collingwood College, a team of Collingwood College students connected with many of the College's alumni with an update from the College and to seek support for current students. The team sought to raise funds to ensure that all Collingwood College students can fulfil their potential, regardless of background or circumstances.

“Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Collingwood alumni, I was able to access more of university life and do something incredible outside of my studies. I was awarded a grant to enable me to gain my British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 qualification. The funding removed the financial barrier and allowed me to pursue something that will allow me to make a difference to others.

Lucy Grazier,
Collingwood Student Opportunities Fund Recipient

Thanks to you

This year, we celebrate 14 donors who have reached 30 years of continuous giving to Durham. Regular giving is an effective way of demonstrating support and dedication to the University. These donors have contributed to our students' opportunities, college life and library resources. While celebrating three decades of support marks a momentous occasion, we are incredibly grateful to all of our regular donors. They make a significant contribution to university life.

“It has been a pleasure to contribute a little over the years. I had a wonderful time at Durham and I am happy to give something back to today's students, with all good wishes for their academic, personal and professional lives.

30-Year Donor, Nigel A A McFarlane,
(Latin, St Cuthbert's Society, 1986-89)

St. Cuthbert's Society on the Bailey



The David Wilkinson First Generation Scholarship

In August, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson (Grey College, Physics, 1981-84; Theology, 1999-2004) stepped down from his role as Principal of St John's College after 17 years. David arrived at Durham University in 1981 as a first generation scholar from the north-east. Having benefited from student grants during his studies, David, in collaboration with the College, established the David Wilkinson First Generation Scholars Fund. This fund promotes widening participation and access by providing accommodation scholarships for students from first generation, ethnic minority and lower income backgrounds. Alumni and friends of St John's College generously contributed over £32,000 to the fund, which is now supporting its first two scholars.

Lily Beetles, David Wilkinson First Generation Scholar



“I am a student on the Foundation Programme hoping to study History afterwards. With this scholarship, I plan to sign up for the Languages For All course for beginners in Russian during my second year. I also hope to sign up for a trip to the Czech Republic for the Foundation Programme. Receiving this scholarship makes a big difference as I have the means to finance important academic opportunities like this.

Lily Beetles,
David Wilkinson First Generation Scholar



New English Literature scholarship for British students of Black Heritage

The Jeremy Vine Scholarship in English Literature has been made possible by Durham graduate, the UK journalist and broadcaster Jeremy Vine (English Literature, Hatfield College, 1983-86) who has donated £120,000 to establish the fund. The scholarships will be available to one undergraduate per year who will receive £4,000 annually, for up to four years, during their time at Durham.

These scholarships are a welcome addition to Durham's existing scholarship schemes which aim to welcome students who may face barriers to university study. Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor and Warden, said: "As someone who shares Jeremy's love of literature and a former English literature student myself, I am particularly grateful for his support in helping us to ensure that we can do more to extend the precious opportunity to study English to students who might otherwise face barriers to studying at Durham. Durham has an outstanding English Department and we are delighted to have this support."

The first Jeremy Vine Scholar will commence studies in October 2024. Learn more here: durham.ac.uk/jeremyvinescholarship

"I've always felt incredibly grateful to the University for being patient with me, teaching me to love poetry and setting me on a great course in life. As the years go on I become more and more grateful. I've never really known how to express that gratitude until now. And I thought, 'how do I share that luck?' and help make a place as wonderful as Durham as open as possible to every single person who might benefit from studying there."

Jeremy Vine,
founder of the Jeremy Vine Scholarship in English Literature



Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Hatfield Lioness Scholarships

Hatfield College has welcomed five women from low- and middle-income countries, where access to tertiary education is limited, to undertake postgraduate study at Durham. The Lioness Scholars are able to enjoy the support of the Hatfield College community by living in College and receive full funding for their travel, tuition fees and living costs. The scholarships are very competitive and attract hundreds of applications annually from women around the world.

Shanila Zafar, the 2022/23 Lioness Scholar, travelled from Chitral, Pakistan to undertake her postgraduate study at Durham. Shanila explains "My hometown is in a stunning region with an immense natural beauty. However, it is also one of the high-risk regions in Northern Pakistan, where people have been facing climate emergencies for decades. My personal life experience and passion for serving my community back home brought me to Durham University to study MSc Global and Planetary Health."

The Lioness Scholarships enable their recipients to follow their own educational dreams while equipping them to make an impact in their chosen field when they return home.

"The Hatfield Lioness Scholarship has brought five wonderful women into our College community, each determined to learn new knowledge and skills which they can use to benefit their home countries – from public health, to human rights, ethical business practices and women's education. They have all contributed hugely to the richness of College life."

Professor Ann MacLarnon
Master of Hatfield College

Shanila Zafar, Lioness Scholarship Recipient 2022/23



"I appreciate this initiative of Hatfield College as it enables deserving female students from developing countries to come to Durham University and be change-makers in their respective fields for marginalized communities in their home countries and worldwide."

Shanila Zafar
(Global and Planetary Health, Hatfield College, 2022-23)



Shanila Zafar's hometown – Chitral, Pakistan

To read Shanila's blog of her experience as a Lioness Scholar please follow this link: durham.ac.uk/shanilastory

Supporting excellence in sports and Arts and Humanities

Thanks to a generous gift from Guy (History, College of St Hild and St Bede, 1986-89) and Sarah Weldon (née le Huray), (History, Collingwood College, 1986-89), the successful Weldon-le Huray Scholarships Programme has been renewed and will continue to make a transformational impact. We have welcomed 28 Weldon-le Huray scholars to date, making this our largest scholarship programme funded by individual donors. The scholarships support students who have demonstrated extraordinary potential in the field of Arts and Humanities and those who will represent Durham at the highest levels of university sport. They enable scholars to overcome the financial barriers that may prevent them from achieving success.

James Johnson, Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholar, competing at the World Aquathlon Championships



"The award has had an enormous impact on supporting my sporting journey this year, the highlight of which has been finishing fifth (and first for Great Britain) in my age group at the World Aquathlon Championships in Ibiza. The scholarship has allowed me to embrace the highs and lows of sport to the fullest.

James Johnson,
Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholar

"We have the happiest memories of our undergraduate years at Durham and are so grateful for the enduring friendships we made as well as the education and opportunities it gave us. We are delighted to be able to help some of the current generation of students fulfil their potential in two areas of university life that particularly resonate with us.

Guy and Sarah Weldon,
founders of the Weldon-le Huray Scholarships

The Weldon-le Huray Arts and Humanities Scholarships are awarded to students with a record of academic excellence to inspire them to continue with their academic aims and career-enhancing opportunities within our Faculty of Arts and Humanities. This enables scholars to flourish during their time here and make the most of the research-led teaching that is offered by our departments.

Meanwhile, the Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholarships support students with their athletic endeavours. Playing elite-level sports comes at a cost, through subscription fees, equipment expenses, travel and more. The Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholarships enable some of our highest-level student athletes to reach their potential.

The Weldon-le Huray Scholars have achieved great things during their time in Durham, in no small part due to the support provided to them through this scholarship programme. On the page that follows, some of our current Weldon-le Huray scholars describe just how important this scholarship has been for them.



Caitlin Walsh,
Weldon-le-Huray Arts and Humanities Scholar



Megan Smith (Modern Languages and Cultures, St Cuthbert's Society, 2019-23), Weldon-le Huray Arts and Humanities Scholar. Megan developed a love of Spanish art and established a volunteering project at The Auckland Project during her studies.

"The scholarship has been a lifeline in alleviating the burden of the cost-of-living crisis, which has affected students across the board. The support provided by the scholarship has relieved some of the financial pressures, allowing me to focus more on my academic pursuits and personal growth.

Shabba McDermott,
Weldon-le Huray Arts and Humanities Scholar

"This scholarship was key in simply getting to University back in September 2022. It first helped pay for my formal gown (which has had lots of use!), my JCR membership and general one-off payments at the start of the year.

Grace Hampshire,
Weldon-le Huray Arts and Humanities Scholar

"I represent Durham University in both Futsal and Women's Football. On an international level, I was once again honoured to be chosen as Captain of the Under 19s National Maltese Women's Football Team. The Weldon-le Huray Scholarship helps me afford the financial costs that come along with the lifestyle and demands of a student-athlete. Access to training equipment, medical supplies and a gym membership are all costly and would not be possible for me without the financial support of this scholarship.

Alexandra Gatt,
Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholar

"I am happy to say that alongside my academic success, the scholarship has empowered me to achieve my full potential in my personal interests. I have continued being involved in Durham Student Theatre, writing and directing another play which was accepted into Durham Drama Festival 2023.

Yolan Noszkay,
Weldon-le Huray Arts and Humanities Scholar



Rebecca Giddings, Weldon-le Huray Sport Scholar competing at the British University Team Championships in 2022. Photo credit: Malcolm Rees

Leaving a legacy at Durham

Many of our alumni and supporters choose to leave a gift to the University in their will as a demonstration of the relationship which they share with Durham. Funding from legacy gifts has enabled us to expand our scholarship programmes, foster global research and provide enriching opportunities for our students in activities such as arts and music. In the 2022/23 academic year, legacy gifts profoundly impacted the University and our community in a number of ways.

Having dedicated her career to medical sciences and public health, Janet Stevens (Botany, St Mary's College, 1952-56) pledged a legacy gift to the University to establish a postgraduate scholarship in the Department of Biosciences for lab-based microbiological research of medical or public health significance. The first recipient of the Janet Stevens Legacy Studentship is Archie Howell.

Archie has now embarked on his PhD journey as the inaugural Janet Stevens Legacy Studentship scholar. His work will research the antimicrobial effects of metal-binding proteins found in human saliva. These

proteins mediate the composition of microbes in our mouths, which is important for oral health and general well-being. Archie has shared what this opportunity has meant for him and what he hopes to achieve: "The Janet Stevens Legacy Studentship has afforded me the privilege of studying at Durham University to research an aspect of microbiology in which I hold a great deal of passion and fascination. The aim of my research is to further our understanding of how the oral microbial community is regulated by anti-microbial proteins found in the mouth. The ultimate goal of this research is to contribute to preventing diseases caused by microbial imbalances".

It is gratifying to witness the wishes of our alumni being realised, especially when their impact contributes to improving the lives of not just our students but people and communities worldwide. We are deeply appreciative of everyone who decides to commit to leaving a legacy gift to the University, regardless of its size or form.



Students at Congregation

"It has been a privilege to see the impact of Janet's legacy donation come to fruition. Archie will pave the way for talented scientists to conduct microbiological research of medical or public health significance, just as Janet wanted. Her gift will give researchers the grounding to follow in her footsteps to careers in the field and to contribute to finding solutions for the major challenges we face today.

Louise McLaren,
Senior Development Manager (Legacies)



Students in St Chad's College

Legacies supporting a new generation of students

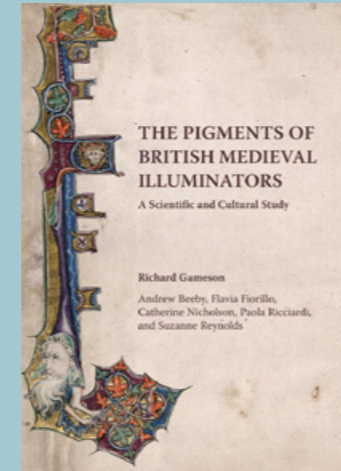
In June 2022, alumnus Jim Tyrrell (French, St Chad's College, 1984-90) sadly passed away. After graduating, Jim went on to have a successful career in the motor industry and maintained a strong connection to his former College, St Chad's, throughout his life. His premature death was a tragic loss for his two daughters, partner and many friends.

Jim wanted to support hard-working and dedicated students at St Chad's College. He gave a generous gift in his will to help students in financial need. His gift established the Jim Tyrrell Scholarships, which are available for both undergraduate and postgraduate students at St Chad's College. These scholarships help ensure that their recipients can take up the opportunity to gain a Durham University degree and enjoy the wide range of student experiences that the University and St Chad's College have to offer. In the autumn, we welcomed the first Jim Tyrrell Scholarship recipients.

"Jim Tyrrell's kindness pushes me out of my comfort zone, it helps me to have amazing experiences (such as going to Candlemas ball!), and it enables me to have the life that I would've restrained myself from. I am endlessly grateful for Jim Tyrrell's generosity!

Hannah Crockett, Jim Tyrrell Scholar

In addition to the scholarships, Jim's gift has crucially supported St Chad's Opportunity Fund. This Fund seeks to enable students to participate in activities or initiatives that may otherwise be inaccessible to them. In the past, the Opportunities Fund has supported a wide range of activities including cultural trips, training opportunities, College events, resources required for participation in a club or committee or anything else which enables students at the College to access the wealth of opportunities available to them during their studies.



Book cover of *The Pigments of British Medieval Illuminators*

Professor Richard Gameson and Professor Andrew Beeby of Team Pigment

Uncovering the secrets of medieval manuscripts

Through the generosity of donors, academics at Durham have been able to form an interdisciplinary collaboration to carry out the first-ever large-scale scientific survey of British medieval illuminators' pigments.

Team Pigment brings together expertise in History (Professor Richard Gameson) and Chemistry (Professor Andrew Beeby), to unlock the secrets of medieval manuscripts which, until now, were only known to their original creators.

The non-invasive, non-destructive chemical analysis of pigments is achieved by shining light at the pigments and measuring the reflected light using Raman and reflectance spectroscopies and hyperspectral imaging.

This information is then integrated with the historic understanding of books to transform our understanding of these manuscripts' significance as indicators of cultural exchange and societal change. The discovery that Lapis Lazuli from Afghanistan was used by illuminators in Durham c.1100 is one example.

Donor support was the catalyst for this project as donor Robert Shepherd (Grey College, Chemistry, 1962-65) describes: "The idea behind Team Pigment came from a tentative conversation followed by an interdepartmental introduction which was immediately seized and run with. We backed this up with an initial modest donation and regular top ups, which were leveraged into something far larger".

Team Pigment have overcome logistical difficulties which had previously prevented this type of research by developing innovative equipment which can be packed into a suitcase for transportation and set up within an hour at any library housing rare manuscripts.

The huge potential of this research to unlock the secrets of historic artefacts combined with innovative technology mean that Team Pigment have been able to undertake the most comprehensive investigation of this type to date.

"We have watched with delight and admiration as the project grew over ten years into something way larger and more important than we believed possible (with far more serious funding). We have found it immensely rewarding and the collaboration between chemistry and history inspiring.

Robert (Grey College, Chemistry, 1962-65) and Felicity Shepherd

"The support of our donors not only instigated our early work in this area, their ongoing engagement enabled us to develop innovative equipment and generate further funding streams resulting in the significant development of knowledge and understanding in this field.

Team Pigment



St Chad's Chapel

The generosity of nine Trusts and Foundations and 137 individual donors has funded the refurbishment of a much-loved building at the heart of the College community and of Durham City. St Chad's Chapel sits within the beautiful, listed grounds of St Chad's College, directly opposite Durham Cathedral in Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site. A white, single-storey timber building it is unique in style and shape within the city and surrounded by peaceful gardens.

This beautiful space is an important place of worship and quiet reflection but is also at the centre of the community in many other ways. It hosts vibrant choral activity which forms part of the rich musical life of the College. It plays an integral role in outreach work with schools. The space is also used as a venue for workshops and tours, theatre productions, celebrations, festivals, public lectures and debates.

In recent years, the chapel had deteriorated significantly. This was beginning to limit its use and several issues required urgent repair in order to save the building.

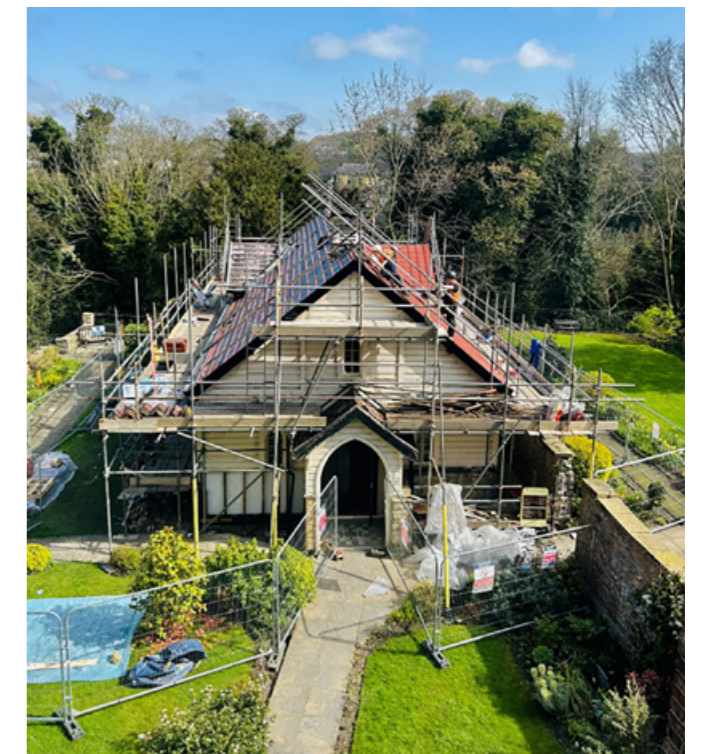
Thanks to generous donors the target to complete the works was quickly reached. Many donors were able to meet to celebrate the chapel re-opening on 26 October 2023. Thanks to their support the chapel will continue to be a special space for generations to come.

"The generosity of our donors helped us renew the life of this vital space, transforming St Chad's Chapel back into a warm, inviting building that will be sustainable for generations to come. It will continue to play a key role in our community and the wider community of the North East. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

Dr Margaret Masson, Principal of St Chad's College



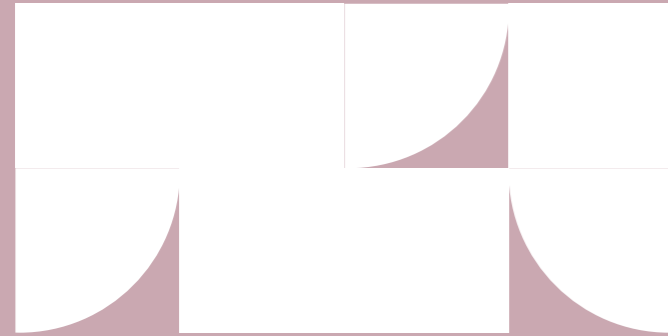
St Chad's Chapel, St Chad's College



Repair work underway at St Chad's Chapel



Celebrating the Chapel re-opening 26 October 2023



Durham Centre for Crop Improvement Technology

The Durham Centre for Crop Improvement Technology (DCCIT) is one of the country's leading centres for crop research, with a long-standing, internationally recognised, record of research excellence. It has strengths in multidisciplinary research, supporting the development of novel technologies to protect and improve crops. It works closely with farmers, the agritech industry and other research centres to seek solutions to some of the most pressing issues relating to food security. We are grateful to donors who have given generously to support this essential research.

“ The Wolfson Foundation’s investment will enable our world-leading researchers to take novel, multidisciplinary approaches and help to ensure that the UK continues to lead the way in finding innovative solutions to increase crop productivity and resilience.

Professor Ari Sadanandom,
Co-Director of the DCCIT



Professor Ari Sadanandom, Co-Director of the DCCIT

The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation generously supported the DCCIT with a grant of £1m to upgrade its plant science research facilities. The award will be used to upgrade plant growth rooms, a greenhouse and a new tissue culture suite. It is on track to be completed this year. These facilities will provide the Centre with the tools needed to support its fundamental research, allowing researchers to study model plants and crops in a wide range of climatic conditions that mimic those found from polar regions to the tropics.

The grant will enable a step-change in the DCCIT’s plant transgenesis capabilities, including genome editing, to link crop traits with genetics. This will enhance our work with industry partners and farmers to apply mechanistic insights to increase the resilience and competitiveness of national and international food supply chains. The upgraded facilities will provide a platform for knowledge transfer, upskilling opportunities for the wider community, and engagement with businesses and other partners to advance sustainable food production.

This funding will also support the next phase of the Centre’s plans, the development of the North East Centre for Crop and Soil Innovation – a significantly expanded high-tech hub, in partnership with Newcastle and Teesside Universities and Houghall College, to accelerate the use of science to boost food production sustainably.

“ Professor Slabas was my mentor, and to receive this generous support to develop microbial innovations with potential impact on the resilience of crop systems to droughts and similar stresses, is a befitting honour in Toni’s memory.

Professor Steve Chivasa, Co-Director of the DCCIT



Professor Steve Chivasa, Co-Director of the DCCIT, being presented an STFC Food Network+ IMPACT AWARD in recognition of the impact of his research on the soil microbiome

The Toni Slabas Research Fund

Internationally renowned Plant Biochemist, Professor Toni Slabas, founded the DCCIT while he worked at Durham University as a Professor of Plant Sciences from 1990 to 2013. His widow Dr Patricia Richardson, who met Professor Slabas while she worked at Durham, established the Toni Slabas Research Fund in his memory. This fund will further the important research to which Professor Slabas was so committed in his lifetime.

The fund is being invested in a project to improve agricultural sustainability and climate resilience through developing microbiome-based agritech innovations. The interface of plant roots and the soil microbiome has largely been overlooked, with most research efforts directed at plant genetics only. Recent work has uncovered the importance of previously unrecognised soil microbiome functions in plant adaptation to stress. The project brings together a Durham University research team with partners in Africa, including researchers, plant breeders, SMEs in the agrifood sector, non-governmental organisations, and a commercial bank.

Associate Professor Steve Chivasa, Co-Director of the DCCIT, is the Principal Investigator on this project. He is excited about the potential of this research which is already helping smallholder women farmers in Africa who are using cowpea crop varieties screened on the crop-microbiome platform created at Durham.

“ Toni loved his science as does Steve. So, it has been a pleasure to provide some pump prime funding for Steve and his team to further explore and progress aspects of crop development that interested Toni.

Dr Pat Richardson, widow of Professor Toni Slabas and founder of the Toni Sablas Research Fund

If you would like to learn more about the DCCIT and its work visit the Centre’s website durham.ac.uk/dccit or contact grace.norman@durham.ac.uk



The Misra family with Professor Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor and Warden

Donor funding supports PhD studentships

In addition to the many donor-funded undergraduate scholarships that we offer, philanthropic supporters also establish and fund PhD studentships. These studentships not only support budding researchers in gaining their PhD, but they also enable boundary-breaking research to be conducted here at Durham University.

Dr Rashmi (Computing, St Mary's College, 1989-92) and Dr Rajiv Misra (Mathematical Sciences, Graduate Society, 1991-92; Cosmology, Graduate Society, 1993-97) have maintained a strong relationship with the University since graduating. They have hosted alumni events in the US which have brought together members of our overseas alumni community. Rashmi

"I'm very happy that Chung, one of our excellent Durham MSc students has decided to stay on for a PhD. Simulations performed by supercomputers have a huge potential to help us in everyday life, in areas as varied as earthquake early warning, disease modelling and sustainable energy. Chung's work could increase the speed at which these simulations are performed.

Dr Anne Reinarz,
Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science

has also served on the Computer Science External Advisory Board since its inception, sharing her industry expertise to support the continuous advancement of our Department of Computer Science. More recently, Rashmi and Rajiv have established the Misra PhD Studentships.

The Misra PhD Studentships, with some additional support from the University and Rashmi's employer, Microsoft, have provided funding for two PhD studentships in the Department of Computer Science. The Misra Scholars have recently started their journey with Durham and work is now underway. Both scholars will be undertaking pioneering research projects, with one scholar investigating the neural-symbolic modelling of music and the other focusing on supercomputer simulations. We look forward to seeing what their research discovers.



Mathematical Sciences and Computer Science Building

"Undertaking a PhD has been a dream of mine since starting A-levels. I am really thankful to my donors for fulfilling my wish. I look forward to making the most of the PhD as I continue my academic journey.

Chung Ming Loi,
Misra PhD Studentship in Computer Science Scholar



ICMI launch, Dr Lydia Brown (front second from left), Dr Brian Powers (front third from right), Ven Stephen Robbins (back right)

Durham's new research centre for Moral Injury

In April 2023, 50 academics, clinicians, chaplains and others gathered in Durham for the launch of Durham's new research centre The International Centre for Moral Injury (ICMI).

What is Moral Injury?

Moral Injury is the experience of sustained and enduring negative moral emotions - guilt, shame, contempt and anger - that results from the betrayal, violation or suppression of deeply held or shared moral values.

Moral Injury was first observed in military members who experienced ongoing negative moral emotions after serving in combat environments. More recently it has been observed in non-military combat roles, healthcare workers, veterinary practice, social services and other professions. It is also being studied in non-occupational contexts, for example in refugees and survivors of abuse. The Centre engages with these areas by producing new research, facilitating innovative, interdisciplinary and intercultural projects through building networks of scholars, clergy and military members. It does this with the ultimate aim of improving care for those experiencing moral injury.

Empowering research thanks to donor support

The Centre's Executive Director role, held by Revd Dr Brian Powers, has been made possible by generous donor support through the Bernard William Vann Fellowship for Christianity and the Armed Forces.

"As long-standing donors for the Vann Fellowship we were keen to see Dr Powers and his team establish the ICMI so that the work on this topic can be shared and built upon using the academic networks at Durham University. We are pleased to see our funding has enabled knowledge of moral injury to be widely disseminated, especially among those groups of people who are affected by moral injury but where the condition is little known.

Ven Stephen Robbins CB and Dr Lydia Brown MBE
FRSB FRCVS, ICMI Steering group members and supporters of the Vann Fellowship

"I'm a veteran of the US Air Force, having served with Army units in Iraq and Afghanistan. I would say that I have experienced Moral Injury as a result of my service. I discovered a profound expression in the language of theology that, for me, could hold together both the injustice and agony of a broken world as well as point the way towards authentic hope. I write about the ways that theology can articulate frameworks of meaning in which those who are morally injured might be able find solace.

Revd Dr Brian Powers,
Vann Fellow and Executive Director of the International Centre for Moral Injury



From left to right: co-founders of Local Energy Systems Beth Holloway and Leo Thomson, and Scott Burnett of Santander Universities, long-term supporters of Blueprint

Celebrating 20 years of Blueprint

This year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Blueprint Competition. Launched in 2002/03 as a regional business pitching competition, it has since inspired thousands of students to engage with entrepreneurial activity. It has become a launchpad for high potential startups to emerge from the University.

In recent years, Blueprint has become much more than a pitching competition – it now offers a package of support. This includes one-to-one startup coaching sessions, workshops, guest entrepreneur speakers, mentoring, networking sessions and access to co-working space in the Hazan Venture Lab.

This increase in the scope of the programme has been supported by the generosity of our donors. Donors have also been instrumental in increasing the prize money. The top prize was £500 in 2017, increasing to £10,000 in recent years. This has led to more startups with big ambitions entering the competition.

Over the last 20 years, Blueprint has increased entrepreneurial activity at Durham. The ventures launched by our students and alumni are contributing positively to the local economy. Local Energy Systems, recently founded by Blueprint winners Beth Holloway (Geography, Josephine Butler College, 2018-22) and Leo Thomson (Music, Stephenson College, 2018-22) is based near Durham City. Their mission is to help communities and businesses access cleaner, more secure and affordable energy through decentralisation. They provide tools to enable organisations to meet their net zero goals.

The impact of Blueprint



Dr Natasha Boulding, co-founder of Low Carbon Materials

Low Carbon Materials

Blueprint prize winners 2019, Dr Natasha Boulding (Chemistry, St Mary's College, 2015-19), Dr Phil Buckley (Mathematics, St Cuthbert's Society, 2011-15; Chemistry, St Mary's College, 2015-19) and Scott Bush have located their company Low Carbon Materials in County Durham. This multi-award-winning climate tech company develops low-carbon and environmentally friendly construction materials. They were finalists in the Earthshot Prize 2022.

"The Blueprint startup competition was a springboard for Low Carbon Materials, laying the foundation for our subsequent success. This competition not only provided a platform for innovation but also fostered a supportive ecosystem that continues to fuel our achievements long after its conclusion - I wish we could do it all over again!"

Natasha Boulding, co-founder of Low Carbon Materials



StuRents

Mike Rainsford (Economics, College of St Hild & St Bede, 2006-09) founded StuRents after winning a Blueprint prize. StuRents is a leading student accommodation search, property management and data platform, which employs over 50 staff.

Mike Rainsford, co-founder of StuRents

"Looking back, entering and winning Blueprint 15 years ago was a pivotal moment in StuRents' history. In the midst of exams and other academic commitments, the competition gave us the added focus, resources and support network to drive our young business to its next stage, and we've grown every one of the 15 years since."

Mike Rainsford, co-founder of StuRents



Alora

Luke Young (Biological Sciences, Collingwood College, 2014-18) and Rory Horby (Biological Sciences, St Mary's College, 2014-18) won a Blueprint prize in 2019 for their innovative idea of growing crops in ocean water. Now located in Canada, they have raised millions in external funding.

Luke Young, CEO and co-founder of Alora

"Blueprint provided the confidence and foundational knowledge to allow Alora to pursue the end of world hunger. Armed with a world of creativity and an insatiable ambition to make a difference, the Blueprint programme was able to help us harness this potential and establish a pathway to success. Thanks to Blueprint we have gone on to raise over \$3.5m and are eyeing global commercialisation at the end of 2024."

Luke Young, CEO and co-founder of Alora



IMPOSSIBREW®

Mark Wong (Philosophy, Grey College, 2017-20) won a Blueprint prize in 2021. He has since appeared on Dragon's Den, been named Food and Drink Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2022 Great British Entrepreneur Awards and achieved a 170% growth in sales in 2023.

"Blueprint has been monumental to our journey to date, providing an excellent launchpad and top-class support that helped us get IMPOSSIBREW® off the ground."

Mark Wong, founder of IMPOSSIBREW®



Financial update

In 2022/23, the University outperformed its financial expectations in the face of a number of challenges, such as the high rate of inflation and a material increase in energy costs. We were pleased to see our annual income increase by 3.3% compared to the previous year (to £484.2m) and we remain financially resilient.

The contribution of donations and endowments in 2022/23 represented almost 2% of the University's income at £9,373,000. This year there was an increase in new endowments of £5,013,000, up from £3,314,000 in 2021/22.

In some cases, it makes sense for our donors' gifts to be held in permanent endowment funds. For the year 2022/23, the total comprehensive endowment income from restricted permanent endowment funds was £3,505,000.

The contribution made by our donors to university life is significant and the funds that make this possible are gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support.

Durham University's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 can be found at the following link: durham.ac.uk/about-us/professional-services/finance-service/about-us/financial-reports



Figure 1

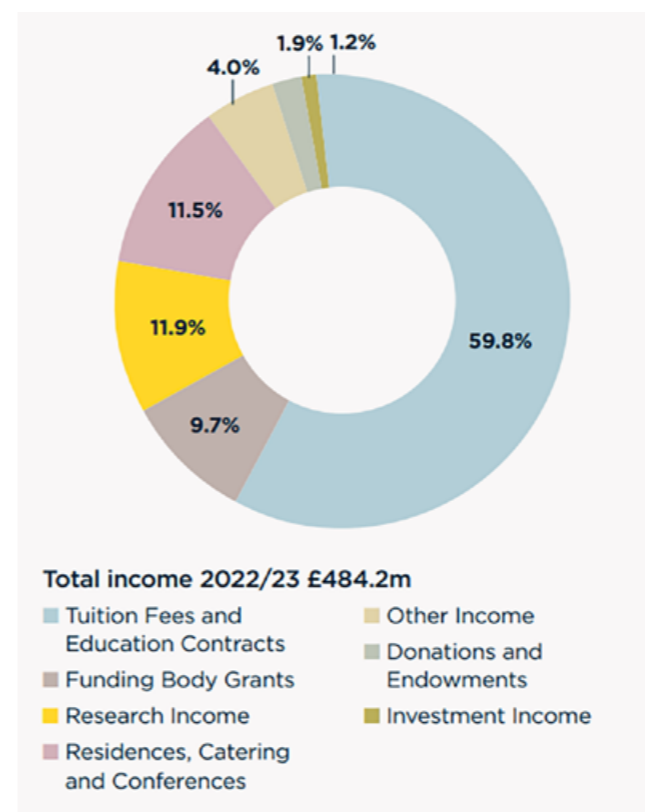
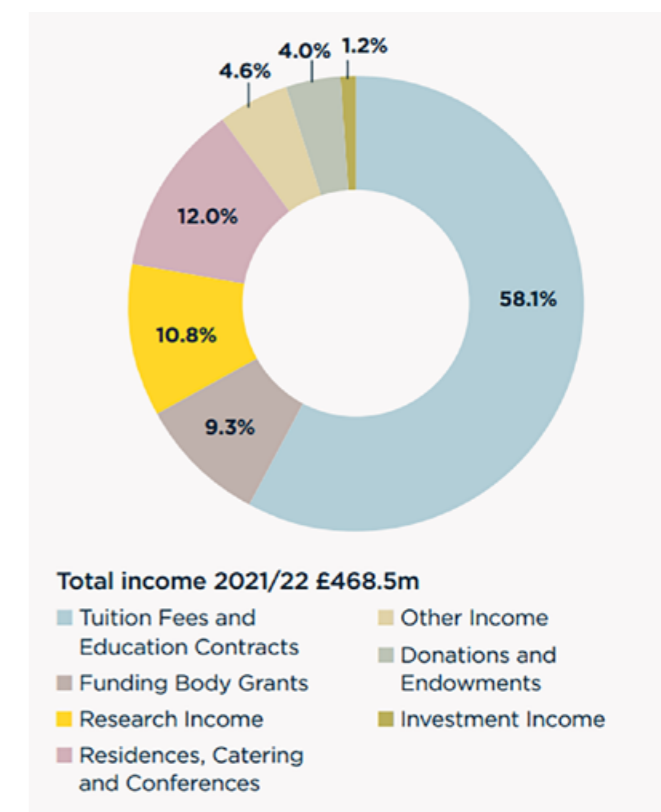


Figure 2



Please note: 2021/22 included an exceptional item in unrestricted donations.

Donations and endowments

	Consolidated 2023	University 2023	Consolidated 2022	University 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital grants and donations	367	367	248	248
New endowments	5,013	5,013	3,314	3,314
Donations with restrictions	1,764	1,764	2,687	2,687
Unrestricted donations	2,229	2,229	12,364	12,364
Total	9,373	9,373	18,613	18,613

With thanks

Durham University expresses its sincere appreciation to all of its friends, partners, benefactors and grant-makers for the support that has been provided during the past year.

If you are interested to learn more about any of the projects featured in this report, please find the contact details of our fundraising team below.

Development and Alumni Relations Office
Durham University, The Palatine Centre
Stockton Road, Durham DH1 3LE United Kingdom

 durham.ac.uk/alumni

 **Dunelm** – Durham University Alumni Community

 **@durhamalumni**

 **Durham University Alumni**

 **Dunelm** – Durham University Alumni Community

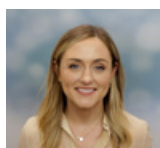
 alumni.office@durham.ac.uk

 +44 (0) 191 334 6305



Glen Whitehead, Director of Development and Alumni Engagement

Email: glen.whitehead@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 7557 182 049



Katie Harland-Edminson, Director of Philanthropy and Operations

Email: katie.harland-edminson@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 7385 426 700



Anna Abbott, Senior Development Manager (*Trusts and Foundations*)

Email: anna.abbott@durham.ac.uk



Debra Fiddler, Trusts and Foundations Officer

Email: d.i.fidler@durham.ac.uk



Louise McLaren, Senior Development Manager (*Legacies and Planned Giving*)

Email: louise.mclaren@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0)191 334 6313



Tim Guinan, Senior Development Manager (*Theology and Religion*)

Email: tim.guinan@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 777 150 0808



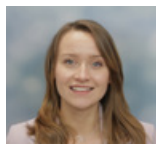
Claire Molloy, Senior Development Manager (*Faculty of Social Sciences*)

Email: claire.molloy@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 78 34567 791



Jessica Smith, Senior Development Manager (*Faculty of Arts and Humanities*)

Email: jessica.smith@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 7385 426 700



Grace Norman, Senior Development Manager (*Faculty of Science*)

Email: grace.norman@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 7880 309 112



Emmanuelle Chambon, Senior Development Manager (*Colleges and WSE*)

Email: emmanuelle.chambon@durham.ac.uk
Direct telephone: +44 (0) 7552 599 361



Rosie Morris, Alumni and Supporter Engagement Manager (*Regular Giving*)

Email: rosie.morris@durham.ac.uk



Raquelle Bañuelos, Alumni and Supporter Engagement Officer (*Regular Giving*)

Email: raquelle.banuelos@durham.ac.uk