

A lasting gift: how your legacy can shape Hertford's future



Remembering Hertford in your will

Message from the Principal

Leaving a legacy to Hertford, after your loved ones have been taken care of, is an easy way to make a hugely meaningful contribution to the next generation of students to pass through our gates – without compromising your current finances.

A legacy can support so many areas of college life. It costs approximately £9.5 million to run Hertford each year. As well as salaries for teaching and support staff, our expenses range from maintaining the buildings to paying the utility and food bills. We deliberately keep accommodation and catering charges for junior members low.

About 20% of our income comes from fees. Although they go some way towards covering the teaching costs, it costs Hertford much more than that to educate each student – the shortfall is £3,000 to £4,000 for each undergraduate. That shortfall is funded by income from summer conferences, donations, and income from the college's endowment.

I had been told from a young age that I would never be a geologist and lacked the ability to study at a higher level. I was told “people like you don’t go to Oxbridge”, I have a first class degree and an ongoing DPhil at Hertford that proves otherwise.

Brooke Johnson, 2015 -
Environmental Research

Dear Friend,

Nestled amongst the great monuments of Oxford, symbols of the permanence and power of learning and education, sits Hertford College. We reside at the centre of an 800 year old institution of academic excellence – and yet we do not take our position here for granted. Without friends, benefactors and supporters, Hertford would simply not exist.

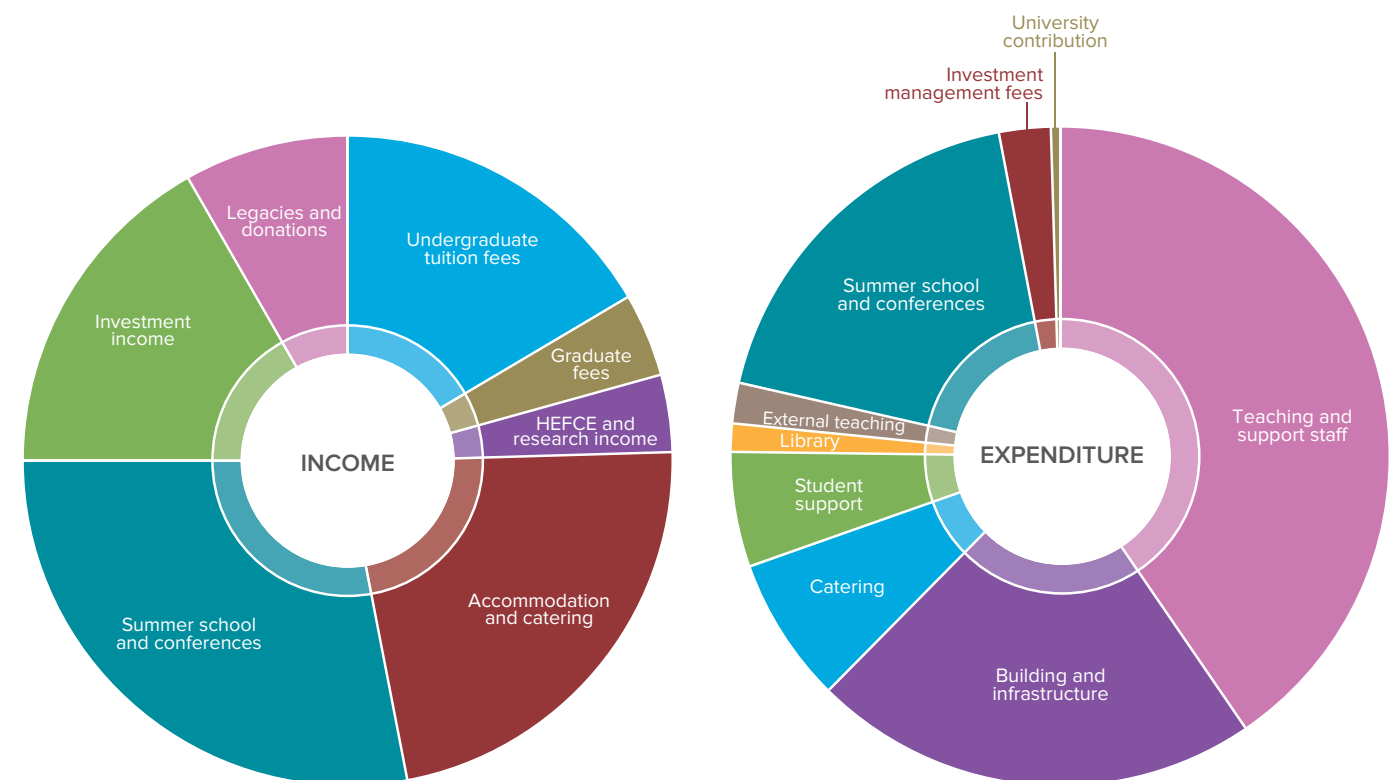
Hertford has an eventful history. Over the centuries, the college has been founded, renamed, relocated and refounded, taking many turns before it arrived at its present state. Bankrupted in the early 19th century, it closed its doors and the buildings fell into disrepair. The refoundation of the college in 1874, backed by

an Act of Parliament, was brought about by a fortuitous triumvirate: the generosity of a benefactor, Thomas Baring; the determination of a Principal, Richard Michell; the scrupulous guidance of a lawyer, Francis Jeune. Jeune's widow, Lady St Helier, went on to donate the funds that built our iconic bridge.

Today, we rely on the generosity of friends and supporters, just as we did 150 years ago. Legacies allow us to support our students with essential bursaries, scholarships and hardship grants; to maintain and update the college's rooms and facilities; to challenge and nurture minds, of both students and Fellows, with the provision of outstanding teaching and research grants.

We prepare our students for the world beyond Hertford, whatever that might look like. The 21st century will present a number of challenges, and the generation of students who pass through Hertford in the next 150 years will be the people to face them. Let's give them as good a head-start as we can. Your gift to Hertford will allow us to maintain the growth of the college and transform the next generation of thinkers, leaders and achievers.

Will Hutton
Principal



What would you like to support?

Leaving your bequest open allows flexibility and means your gift will be used for the college's greatest need at the time. These priorities are ever changing and are determined at the end of each year – at the moment they are student scholarships and the renovation of student rooms.

If you would like to stipulate a particular purpose for your legacy, you can choose one of our priority areas: **Student Support**, **Teaching & Research**, and **College Life**.

Student Support: the costs of education are rising but subsidies and grants are increasingly scarce; your legacy will enable the college to provide bursaries, hardship grants, and scholarships to students who need support and continue its pioneering outreach programme.

"I found the bursary I received to be a great equaliser. Having been raised in a family which had struggled for money for the majority of my life, it made such a difference to me to be able to focus on my studies and enjoy a social life. It allows everyone, not just the better off students, to make the most of their time at Oxford."
– Hertford student

"Hertford opened so many doors for me. I like to think that I'm giving something back and helping to give the next generation of Hertford students the best possible start. There is so much to gain from those short three years in Oxford and financial concerns should not be an obstacle to students taking every opportunity there is." – Hertford donor

Gregory doesn't have any children so he decides to divide his estate between Hertford and two other charities close to his heart. His legacy will mean that Hertford can acquire new accommodation for graduate students.



Teaching & Research:

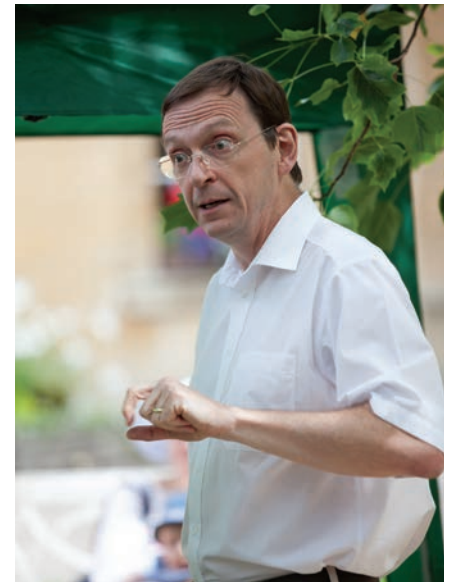
the tutorial system is invaluable but expensive to run; your legacy will go towards college tutorials, as well as travel and research grants for students and Fellows.

"Ever since I was a teenager I have been fascinated by the microorganisms, or 'germs', which cause disease. Although infectious diseases have afflicted mankind throughout history, scientific understanding of these diseases is less than 150 years old and we are only beginning to understand the microbial world that surrounds us."

The meningococcus is a normally harmless bacterium commonly found in the throat, which occasionally and unpredictably causes devastating infections, including meningitis and septicaemia.

Our research has helped establish the role of meningococcal genetic diversity in disease and the importance of transmission blocking or 'herd immunity' in vaccine effectiveness. One of the great pleasures of being an Oxford tutor is the possibility of involving undergraduates in our research, a number of whom have gone on to become graduate students and then establish their own independent research careers."

– Martin Maiden, Fellow and Tutor in Biology



Tracy makes a provision for each of her three children in her will, and leaves Hertford the remainder of her estate. This bequest will kick-start a new support fund for students from less well-off backgrounds.

College Life:

after our teaching and staff costs, maintaining the college buildings is our most expensive endeavour; your legacy will help us renovate and improve our rooms and facilities.

"As of January 2016, the college site comprises over 500 bedrooms, plus bathrooms, kitchens, communal spaces, dining rooms, teaching rooms and offices, a sports ground and a boathouse. Consequently, the maintenance of our properties is a perennial undertaking, presenting logistical challenges throughout the year. The acquisition of properties in North Oxford and their conversion to our flagship postgraduate residence will not

only increase the proportion of graduates that we can house, but also the quality of their student experience. Elsewhere, the on-going renovation of the college's heritage-listed rooms, as well as a planned redevelopment of our main kitchen and servery to improve their service and accessibility, underscores the college's continuing commitment both to preserving its historic legacy and to ensuring its welcoming and enjoyable future."

– Andrew Beaumont, Home Bursar

Patrick leaves 10% of his estate to Hertford. This gift will allow Hertford to fund the refurbishment of student rooms in NB quad.



The Geoffrey Warnock Society

Within a couple of weeks of arriving, I had settled in happily at Hertford. Not for one moment did I feel out of place because of my modest family background. I came to regard Hertford as my second home; this gave me the confidence to enjoy so many new experiences. Throughout my working life as a language teacher I continued to benefit from my days at the college.

I was therefore more than happy to leave a bequest to Hertford, particularly because my scholarship had ensured that my life-enhancing time at university had not impacted my family's finances.

Patrick Jeffers, 1952 – Modern Languages



We created the Geoffrey Warnock Society in 1999 to recognise the generosity of our alumni and friends who have included Hertford in their will.

Geoffrey Warnock was the Principal of Hertford College for 17 years; he oversaw the introduction of co-education and pursued the progressive admissions policy. He was also elected Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford in 1981 just as government cuts to higher education began. Warnock left a legacy to the college, and his commitment and dedication to its future is the reason our legacy society has been named in his memory.

Arrival at Oxford, my first time away from home, was quite a culture shock. I was mixing with some very confident and well-spoken colleagues who had had an education at some of the country's finest establishments. It helped that Hertford was a small and friendly college and I integrated quickly.

Hertford College, and Oxford, set me and now our family on course for a wonderful journey and I shall be ever grateful for the start it gave me in life. Including the college in my will is the very least I can do to show my gratitude.

Christopher Brooks, 1962 - Chemistry



Becoming a member

All alumni and friends of the college who choose to leave a legacy to Hertford are eligible to become members of the Geoffrey Warnock Society.

The society meets for lunch in college once a year to enjoy an afternoon together with friends, Fellows and students.

A lapel pin of the Hertford stag is a new addition to the society and will be given to each member. To date, 166 Hertford alumni and friends have decided to remember the college in their will.

Hertford College has played a large part in my life and, I am pleased to say, continues to do so. I am very happy to be associated with an institution which continues to do good in a rigorous, yet very human, way.

Graham Jones, 1964 - Chemistry

A history of Hertford College

Over the centuries Hertford has often been the underdog, making the most of scant resources to create outstanding academic results.

(1290)
Hertford College begins life as Hart Hall, with the purchase of the present-day Hertford site by property speculator Elias de Hertford.

1312
Hart Hall is purchased in 1312 by Walter de Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, who wishes to found a college. However in 1314, Stapledon moves his scholars to a larger site on Turl Street, which later becomes Exeter College.

(1400-1500)
Hart Hall absorbs its neighbours, Black Hall and Cat Hall. Buildings are constructed in the north-east corner of Old Quad, some of which remains as Old Hall.

1548
Principal Randell establishes Hart Hall's academic and operational (although not tenurial) independence from Exeter.

(1625)
The Senior Common Room is constructed as lodgings for the Principal. The entrance of the Hall is moved from New College Lane to the main gate on Catte Street.

1602
Magdalen Hall is founded on the grounds of Magdalen College (and later becomes Hertford College).

(1710-1740)
Richard Newton becomes Principal of Hart Hall.
Newton finances the construction of new buildings, at a cost of £2,000, in the south-east corner of Old Quad (what is now 'the cottage') and a stone chapel on the south side (now the library).
In 1740, Newton succeeds in refounding Hart Hall as Hertford College.

1820
Magdalen Hall burns down following an undergraduate supper party. Magdalen Hall's members, under Principal John Macbride, move into the Hart Hall site. The Catte Street frontage is rebuilt and two new blocks are constructed either side of the main entrance to the college.

1877-1922
Henry Boyd is Principal and oversees construction of extensive building work, with architect Thomas Jackson.
In 1887, work begins on the gatehouse, Hall (and its spiral staircase), and the north side of Old Quad.

1874
Thomas Baring was a banker and generous benefactor. He was encouraged by Principal Richard Michell to donate over £210,000 (equivalent of £25 million today), which enabled the refounding of Hertford College in 1874.

(1805-1820)
Hertford falls into decline due to lack of funds. By 1810 matriculation had ceased and the last students are awarded their degrees. In 1816 Hertford College is dissolved. Part of the Catte Street building collapses into the street in 1820.

1874
In 1874, Principal Richard Michell also sought subscriptions from alumni to sponsor an Act of Parliament to secure the incorporation of the college.

1907
Oxford's first black Rhodes scholar, Alain Leroy Locke, is admitted to Hertford after he had been refused by other colleges.

1913
The Bridge of Sighs is constructed, linking Old and New Quads.

1913
Francis Jeune, Lord St Helier was the lawyer who arranged the endowment from Baring to allow the Act of Parliament to pass. His widow, Lady St Helier, made a donation in her husband's name to fund the building of the bridge linking Old and New Quads in 1913.

1908
Construction of the Chapel is completed.

1901
Work begins on the college's site on the northern side of New College Lane, to create New Quad. This includes the conversion of the 16th century Chapel of the Virgin Mary at Smithgate into what is now the Octagon.

1974
Hertford becomes one of the first five all male colleges to admit women.

1990
Abingdon House and Warnock House are built as student accommodation, creating 131 additional rooms.

2000
The Graduate Centre opens by Folly Bridge, creating 85 additional rooms.

1975
Holywell Quad is built, creating 70 additional student rooms, the Junior Common Room and the Bar.

2015
Hertford adopts the Living Wage for all staff.

Other historic benefactors have included Henry Boyd, Lord Hugh Cecil and The Drapers' Company, without whom the college would be a very different place. We may yet uncover more historic donors as Professor Christopher Tyerman undertakes research into the college's history. His volume is due for publication in 2024, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the refounded Hertford College.

How to leave a legacy to Hertford

Inheritance tax: FAQs



There are types of legacies that allow you to put your family first while still making a provision for Hertford. You may decide to leave a fixed sum to the college, a percentage of your estate, or the residue that remains when you have provided for your loved ones. Your solicitor can advise you on the best way to record your intentions.

Codicil wording

If you already have a will and wish to add Hertford as a beneficiary, your lawyer can attach a codicil to your existing will. We recommend that the codicil to your will should include the following words:

"I give to the Principal, Fellows and Scholars of Hertford College in the University of Oxford [...amount or nature of legacy...], to be used at their discretion, and I declare that a receipt from the Principal or Bursar for the time being of the College shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors."

Letting us know your intentions

If you decide to leave something to the college in your will, please let us know using the contact details below. We like to make sure there is a clear understanding of your wishes, so they can be faithfully observed. Any information you give us will be treated in confidence and does not involve you in a binding commitment.

Planned giving in the USA and Canada

If you live in North America and would like to know more about leaving a legacy to Hertford, our partner organisation in New York can offer advice and guidance:

University of Oxford North American Office
500 Fifth Avenue, 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10110

Phone: +1 212 377 4900
E-mail: central@oxfordna.org

What is inheritance tax?

When someone dies, the total value of their estate (their property, money and possessions) is added up. The first £325,000 of their estate does not incur any tax. Above this threshold, tax is payable to HMRC at a rate of 40% on the remainder of the estate.

Are charity bequests exempt from tax?

Yes. When you leave money in your will to a charity, the charity receives **100% of that bequest** – even if it is above the inheritance tax threshold. The donation is taken off the value of your estate before inheritance tax is calculated.

As a result of this, some of our legacy donors have decided to leave the majority (or in some cases, all) of their estate above the inheritance tax threshold to charity. This is because they know that their loved ones will only receive 60% of anything above the inheritance tax threshold – so they decide that they would rather leave £325,000 to their loved ones, and the remainder to charity.

Can giving to charity reduce the rate of inheritance tax?

Yes. If you decide to leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, the tax payable on the remainder of your estate **reduces from 40% to 36%**.



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