The Head Porter joins Fellows to congratulate Fitzwilliam graduates at General Admission.
Every year, Fitzwilliam College remembers its most esteemed donors at the Commemoration of Benefactors service. It is a tradition as constant and as treasured as the ceremonies of matriculation and graduation. Philanthropy has driven Fitzwilliam's progress and accomplishments, and today every student continues to benefit from the forethought and generosity of the remarkable group who came before them.

Pledging a legacy to Fitzwilliam will cost you nothing today, but will make a lasting difference for generations of students and scholars to come. Bequests, however large or small, are vital to sustaining our rich heritage of achievement and for shaping tomorrow. Notifying the College of your intentions will allow us to celebrate, during your lifetime, an extraordinary commitment to preserving a legacy of excellence for Fitzwilliam.
John Skillington (History 1926) is fondly remembered for his dedication to the advancement of education both through his years as a schoolmaster and as a former President of the Fitzwilliam Society (1979-80). He bequeathed his entire estate, amounting to over £750,000, to the College and this has been directed towards the New Library.

Sir John Stratton (Archaeology & Anthropology 1929) was President of the Fitzwilliam Society twice (1949-50 and 1975-76). In his lifetime he made a series of generous gifts including contributions to the College’s stock of silver. Every year, at least ten Fitzwilliam students benefit from the Sir John Stratton Prize Fund and the Sir John Stratton Scholarship which were both set up from his estate.

Ian Rawlins CBE (Director of Studies 1931-34) went on to found the Scientific Department at the National Gallery and pioneered techniques in examining and preserving paintings. He made a generous provision in his Will for the building of the College Chapel, a project which was very close to his heart. In addition to his bequest, he made a donation of £60,000 during his lifetime which was at the time the largest gift Fitzwilliam had ever received from a benefactor.

“To be back at Fitzwilliam House subtracts years from one’s life and is the greatest of pleasures.”

Ian Rawlins
Hubert Walker (Geography 1935) is gratefully remembered for his unwavering support of Fitzwilliam. An early gift to the building fund in 1941 was for seventeen shillings! In the 1980s he endowed a series of prizes and later established a travel fund to support undergraduate overseas research. His legacy of £1.5m is the largest Fitzwilliam has received to date and provided much needed student accommodation. The College acknowledged his exceptional contribution through the naming of the Walker Staircase in Gatehouse Court.

New Zealander Lester Brewster (History 1948) was Founder and Director of the Fitzwilliam Trust. His bequest enabled the College to renovate the Oriel Rooms, with one being named in his memory. His name also lives on with the Brewster Debate, an annual competition held in College. In addition to the generous sum he left to the College, he bequeathed over 200 teapots, a selection of which are on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

A substantial bequest from Norman Pounds (Geography 1941) has gone towards the New Library and IT Centre. As both Tutor and Director of Studies in Geography from 1944 to 1950 he was the embodiment of the College for many students and in 1999 was elected to an Honorary Fellowship for his academic distinction as well as his service to Fitzwilliam. Every year the College holds the Norman Pounds Memorial Concert in recognition of his generous support of music. Students also benefit from the Dorothy Pounds Music Prize which he established in memory of his late wife in 1989.
The College is happy to discuss the planning of bequests to ensure that we fully understand your wishes and commemorate your generosity appropriately. There are many naming opportunities to enable a benefactor to be remembered in perpetuity.

Named fellowships, scholarships, courts, staircases, concerts and feasts are among the possibilities which we would be pleased to explore with you on a personal basis.
1869 Foundation
YOUR COMMITMENT, OUR GRATITUDE

The 1869 Foundation was established to thank and honour those individuals who have included the College in their Will.

By declaring your intention to remember Fitzwilliam with a bequest, you will be joining a select group who benefit from a distinct set of privileges. 1869 Foundation members and their spouses or partners are welcomed to the College for a programme of events and offered the opportunity to be involved in the present life of the College.

Invitations include the annual 1869 Foundation luncheon hosted by the Master, and a chance to enjoy private lectures, tours and exhibitions.

Legators are inducted into the Foundation and are invited to sign the 1869 Roll, a leather-bound volume permanently held in the Stapleton Room in The Grove.

Each member will be presented with a certificate and a distinctive pin designed to celebrate the commitment of our legators. The College will also include 1869 members in its annual list of donors, although we will, of course, respect the wishes of those who request anonymity.
1869 foundation
MEMBERS

"Cambridge is a world-class institution and to study there is a big and expensive decision. Fitzwilliam has made huge strides since I was a student; it's such an attractive place today and I am most strongly supportive of Fitzwilliam's tradition of admitting people of real talent from whatever background. My gift will be for general purposes because I'd like to see that tradition continue, with everything from first class facilities to the provision of student bursaries."

Peter Bazalgette
(Law 1973)

"Fitzwilliam has an incredible spirit that's hard to define. It's been a privilege and a delight to be a small part of the College since coming up in 1949. From signing the petition to the Council of the Senate in 1954 for collegiate status to working as Cambridge Secretary to the Fitzwilliam Society for many years, I could never have possibly imagined the changes that the College has undergone 60 years after I matriculated and I feel honoured to have witnessed them. Giving to the College can be reconciled with all of my other commitments and with my gift I wish Fitzwilliam continued success."

Alan Silvester
(Geography 1949)

"I arrived at Fitzwilliam to read Natural Sciences after school and a year working in industry without any idea of what I wanted to do in life. It was here that I matured and decided which direction I wanted my life to go in. My time at Fitzwilliam and Cambridge means an awful lot to me and has to a large extent made me the person I am. An education is the best possible gift I can give. My legacy for the future is to share the opportunities I was lucky enough to have with the next generation. I strongly believe in creating a level playing field for students of the greatest aptitude and ability to thrive and be nurtured and that is what Fitzwilliam offers."

Adrian Charles
(Medical Sciences 1978)
"In bequeathing what I can, I feel that I will be repaying the College for its contribution to my life. Looking back to my time at Fitzwilliam, I have much more appreciation now for what it means to have a Cambridge education. I am not wealthy by any measure and I am sure my legacy will be outstripped by others, but it’s worthwhile if it helps young people with bright futures. Nor does my gift to Fitzwilliam conflict with the provisions I’ve made for my family: it’s possible to take care of both. It’s fantastic to see how the College has moved from strength to strength with the help of money which people leave in their Wills."

Tracey Hancock  
(Geography 1980)

"Cambridge is a life-changing experience for most of us. As one of a small group of Americans at the College in the early 1980s, Fitzwilliam was not only welcoming, it embraced our differences. The College knew who I was when I went there and it continues to remember me. Through including the College in my estate plans I am part of the living chain of people who care about the students of Fitzwilliam today."

Houston Putnam Lowry  
(LLM 1980)

"What does Fitzwilliam mean to me? Everything! It has been the centre of my life since 1955 when I came up to read Spanish and French (with Jack Street and Ray Kelly). My wife, Anna, and I think of Fitzwilliam as our ‘family’. Most parents have to think hard before sending their children to Cambridge because it’s such a big expense, and the aim of our bequest is to help the College to provide our future students, from all social backgrounds, with an essential financial ‘safety-net’, thus allowing Fitzwilliam to continue competing with the richer Colleges to attract the best of them."

Geoffrey Walker  
(MML 1955, Life Fellow)
Writing a Will is an easy and straightforward process and gives you the peace of mind and confidence that your wishes will be carried out.

Drawing up a Will is simple and an existing Will can be easily amended. However, we encourage you to consult your lawyer or independent financial adviser to ensure that your intentions are clear and that the document is legally binding.

As a charitable entity, a bequest to Fitzwilliam College can help the value of your estate go further. Donations to the College are exempt from Inheritance and Capital Gains Taxes and your gift to Fitzwilliam will be deducted from the total value of your estate. The added benefits of tax relief can provide satisfying solutions for estate valuation issues.

A bequest is one of the most flexible ways you can make a gift. In addition to money, gifts of property, stocks, shares, art and other valuable items can be left to the College.
“We all need to get round to writing our Wills; it’s not difficult and it’s basic common sense to sort our affairs out for the next generation. I go to my family lawyer because they have standard Wills and standard questions making it very simple.”

Peter Bazalgette (Law 1973)
The Development Office would be happy to provide you with further information on the various ways you can include Fitzwilliam in your Will, the latest information on inheritance tax thresholds, or for suggested wording.

We invite you to discuss your gifts with us so that we understand your wishes and make sure that we direct your generosity to a purpose that is close to your heart.

Fitzwilliam College is an Exempt Statutory Charity (Inland Revenue No. X11732)

If you would like to know more please contact the Development Office:

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The full production costs of this publication have been met by a Fitzwilliam alumnus.