



Exterior view of the Hilda Besse Building before renovations start

Dear Antonians,

Welcome to the first issue of the 'Hilda Besse Renovation' newsletter. These termly updates will give you a rundown of major upcoming milestones, and an overview of the progress made the term before. Please follow us on social media, as well as on our [website](#) for more pictures, information, and real-time updates.

Summer has ended and the new academic year is now upon us. Last year saw huge changes leading up to the start of the Hilda Besse renovation works. Below are a few of the highlights.

Please don't hesitate to send any questions about the project to hbb@sant.ox.ac.uk.

All the best,

Helen, Kara, Martyn and Wouter
The Development Team



Governing Body decides to undertake vital renovations

At the end of Hilary term 2019 Governing Body decided to proceed with vital renovations to the Hilda Besse Building. Here we see Domestic Bursar, Matthew Morgan, giving tours of the building's roof to Governing Body Fellows ahead of the decision.



Students left messages on the Hilda Besse ahead of the start of renovations

Permission was granted by local authorities

The works were greenlit by all interested parties, including Oxford's Local Planning Authority and Historic England. It was vital to demonstrate that careful planning had taken place to ensure elements such as tree removal and the preservation of the Hilda Besse's historic features were appropriate.

The literal and metaphorical heart of the College, the Hilda Besse is arguably St Antony's most important building. Grade II listed, it is considered to be the finest example of famous 20th century architects HKPA's (Howell, Killick, Partridge and Amis) realised works, and has received much acclaim. It has been granted many accolades, including winning a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award and a Concrete Society award in 1971.



Building the Temporary Structure or 'Unboxing the Hilda Box'

Over the early summer months the Quad was cleared and prepared for the arrival of the 'Hilda Box' temporary structure. A call was put out to current students to name the new temporary accommodation that will be our home for the next two years, and the winning proposition of 'Hilda Box' was suggested by the GCR Social VP. Thus dubbed, the 'unboxing' process swiftly saw the temporary structure take up residence in the centre of the College. Works were completed in early October, in time for the new intake of freshers.



Freshers' Week events ranged from formal dinners and welfare cake to karaoke sessions and dance parties

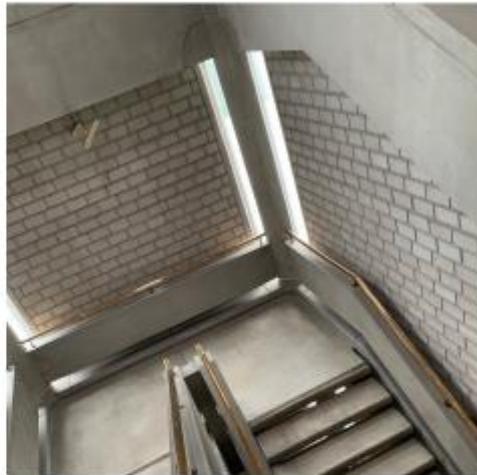
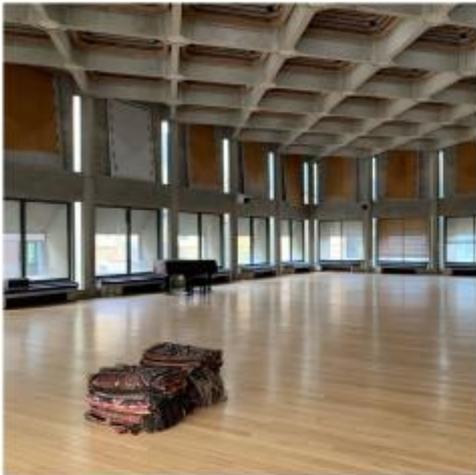
The Hilda Box is put to the test during Freshers' Week

Freshers' Week 2019 took place in the Hilda Box temporary structure. Freshers' week represents a fresh start and a chance to introduce arrivals to their new home. This year everyone, fresher and returning student alike, has a new home and a new environment to get to know. During Freshers' Week the Hilda Box was put through its paces with a wide variety of events including ice cream socials, Induction Dinners and afterparties, and the famous St Antony's freshers' bop.



Hilda Box Housewarming Party

The Housewarming party on 17 October saw the Hilda Box transformed for an elegant soirée, to rival any ball in Oxford. Live music, entertainment, drinks, and dancing started in the afternoon and continued until the small hours of the morning.



The Hilda Besse Building is cleared ahead of the start of renovations

Key Milestones for Michaelmas 2019

The start of the new academic year also sees the commencement of the Hilda Besse renovations proper. Here are a few of the major highlights of the coming term:

Asbestos Works (end of October)

One of the first tasks of the renovation is dealing with the asbestos in the building. An extensive survey will take place in preparation for clearing work to start. Asbestos was widely used in public buildings (as well as private homes) during the 1960s and 1970s, where it could be found in many kinds of building products and heating/insulation materials. Although asbestos only presents a risk when released into the air and inhaled, this is a great opportunity to make the building safe for future generations.

Graphic Wrap 'Hoarding' Installation (end of October)

The finishing touch to the construction of the Hilda Box will be the hoarding. This will see the temporary structure receiving a bold graphic design based on the ceiling of the Dining Hall and its 1970s origins.

Scaffolding of the Hilda Besse (November)

As work starts in earnest on the reconstruction, outer scaffolding will be installed, starting at the beginning of November.



An Interview with the Warden

Starting us off on our termly interview series is Professor Roger Goodman. He became the sixth Warden of St Antony's College in October 2017 in succession to Professor Margaret MacMillan. His relationship with the College began in 1982 when he arrived to start his doctoral work in social anthropology.

What does the Hilda Besse Building mean to you?

It is the place where I have had the most interesting conversations of my adult life! I can still remember my first dinner in the College in 1982 and who I sat next to as well as several lunches and dinners in the past few months and many, many lunches, dinners and conversations I have had in between. As Samuel Johnson might have said, 'When a man (sic) is tired of conversation in the Hilda Besse Building, then he is tired of life'.

What changes are you most excited about?

Everything. Of course, the new spaces which will be created are exciting, but so is the fact that we will be putting in some of the original architectural features which were never undertaken when the building was built because of lack of funds. It will be stunning to see the building's exterior returned to its original colour and the landscaping outside the building will set it off better than it ever has been. The fact that it won't leak will be nice too.

What has been the most challenging aspect of the renovation process so far?

Raising the funds has been challenging. It is not easy to raise £9 million to renovate a 1960s building, however distinguished a building it might be. The fact that we have been able to

raise over £5 million so far is testament to the extraordinary generosity and affection our alumni have for their College. What started off as a challenge has in fact become a privilege and a pleasure. (Working with the Oxford conservation officers has also been a challenge, but that is a story for another day.)

How to donate and further information

[Donate Now](#)

If you wish to get involved or make a donation to the project, then please click the button above, visit the [Development Office website](#) or contact alumni.office@sant.ox.ac.uk for more information.

A gift of at least £250 will entitle you to your name being listed on a Donor Board in the Dining Hall with others from your matriculation year. Pledged gift payments can be spread over several years. Gifts of any amount will be very gratefully received.

There are also various individual naming opportunities for larger gifts. These can be discussed with Wouter te Kloeze, Development Director. He can be reached at wouter.tekloeze@sant.ox.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about the Hilda Besse, Hilda Box, or any aspect of the project, please direct these to hbb@sant.ox.ac.uk.

You can see regular update on the project on our website [here](#), and you can also visit our website to find answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We will also be posting regularly about the project on our social media, so click the links below to follow us.



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