

Programme for Alumni Day and Association Dinner 2025 - SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

From 12.00	Registration in the Grace Howard Room. Please collect your name badge to register. Complimentary hot drinks will be available. Downing College Alumni Association merchandise will be on sale in The Grace Howard Room until 16:00.
12.00-13.30	Cafeteria Lunch, pay-as-you-dine , in the Hall. Service finishes promptly at 13.30. Please note that cash payments are not accepted in College; please pay by credit/debit card or Apple/Google Pay.
12:00-17:00	The Heong Gallery: Alumni and guests are very welcome to visit The Heong Gallery between 12:00-17:00 to see the current exhibition, Revealing (In)visible Times: Alexandre da Cunha and Francisco Aninat . The exhibition explores the experiences of people in traditionally 'overlooked' places and times: hospital waiting rooms, the silence of daily work, inertia caused by uncertainty. It forms part of the Gallery's 'Visual Enquiries' programming strand, bringing academic research into dialogue with the visual arts. (All welcome. Please drop in).
13:30-15:30	Visit the Chapel and learn about the Organ. Join Louisa Denby, Director of Music, to learn about the craftsmanship of the Organ and how it is used in Chapel services. Alumni and guests will then have an opportunity to try out the Organ for themselves! (Places are limited in the loft, but alumni are welcome to drop in between 13:30-15:30).
13:30-15:30	Archive exhibitions in the Maitland Robinson Library with the College Archivist. Celebrating the 225 th anniversary of the College's foundation with a display of special items from the early history of the College including the College Charter. Also includes an exhibition on Downing during WWII to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. (All welcome. Please drop in).
13:30 – 14:20	Wine Tasting Session 1 - 'Whites across the board'. A tasting of white wines from fresh "sparklers" to dense sweet "heavyweights" that are guaranteed to surprise. In the Fleet Room with the current Steward, Professor Chris Haniff. (Cost is £30 pp and pre-booking essential. Sold-out).
14:00 – 16.00	Gardeners' Question Time with tea, coffee, and cake in the Grace Howard Room . This is your chance to meet The Head Gardener and Deputy Head Gardener and ask them any horticultural questions! You are welcome to bring in any photos or samples, for identification or advice. (All welcome. Please drop in).
14:50 – 15:40	Wine Tasting Session 2 - 'Red wines across the ages'. A tasting of some of the College's young and old red favourites. Prepare to be challenged and hopefully surprised. In the SCR with the current Steward, Professor Chris Haniff. (Cost is £30 pp and pre-booking essential. Sold-out).
16.00 – 17.00	Lecture in the Howard Theatre by Professor Bill O'Neill, Fellow in Engineering <i>Illuminating the Future: The Transformative Power of Laser Materials Processing</i> In this keynote, I will explore how laser materials processing has evolved from its early scientific foundations to a cornerstone of modern precision manufacturing. Drawing on decades of research and industrial collaboration, I will highlight key breakthroughs in laser technology and their applications in aerospace, energy, healthcare, and additive manufacturing. This session will be introduced by the Master, where he will announce the winners of Alumnus/a of the Year and Young Alumnus/a of the Year before welcoming Professor O'Neill for his lecture.
17.00 – 17.30	Downing College Alumni Association AGM in the Howard Theatre. All welcome.
18.15 – 18.55	Choral Evensong with the Chapel Choir of Downing College in the College Chapel - guests to attend in black tie, then go straight to the drinks reception. (All welcome. Please drop in.)
19.00 – 19.30	Pre-dinner drinks reception in the Grace Howard Room . (Pre-booking essential)
19.30 – 22.00	97th Association Dinner in the Hall. Dress code is black tie. (Pre-booking essential)
22.00 - 23.59	Bar in the Howard Building Drawing Room .