

# WILL THONG

A fast learner and technology enthusiast committed to retraining into software engineering following a successful career as a not-for-profit fundraiser

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## PROJECTS

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I wrote **Donation Whistle** in **Python/Flask** to parse, clean and visualise data from the UK Electoral Commission's register of donations to political parties. I explain the need for the app to improve public understanding of party funding and the app's development on [my blog](#). *The Guardian's* Investigations Reporter, Henry Dyer, said of this project: "The visualisations are interesting - this information isn't out there already so it would definitely be useful for us as journalists". It relies on a **SQLite** database and includes **Pytest** unit testing, a filesystem cache, an API and task queuing with **Redis Queue**. **JavaScript** is used to synchronise the front- and back-end filters. It is deployed with **Docker Compose** behind **Nginx**. I host a [demo](#) and have recorded a [video tour](#).

**Wedding Wrangle** is my **Python/Django** application for organising a wedding's guestlist while tracking dietary requirements and RSVPs. It features loginless RSVP links for guests (URL or QR code), email merging and QR code export (for print). A demo is live [here](#) (please [email me](#) for login details).

**Binfluencer** is my **Python** script which asks your local council what colour bins, if any, need putting out today. **Home Assistant** can then provide automated smart speaker reminders.

I have contributed pull requests to the static site generator **Pelican**. I wrote [this blogpost](#) about my first, and what it taught me about automated **CI/CD** and collaborating with **Git**.

## SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

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QUALIFICATIONS AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

LANGUAGES Python (including Django & Flask web frameworks), JavaScript, Bash, CSS

MARKUP HTML,  $\LaTeX$

TOOLS Git, Docker, SQLite, (Neo)Vim, Pytest, Microsoft PowerBI

OTHER Data structures & algorithms; Linux (since 2010) including experience with Debian/Ubuntu, Fedora and Arch distributions; basic electronics for home automation, repair and keyboard making

## PREVIOUS CAREER

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OCT 2021 – Major Gifts Officer, **The Labour Party**

MAY 2023 As one of Labour's three face-to-face fundraisers, raised in excess of £600,000 in 5-figure gifts. Team lead on a database transition project. Taught myself PowerBI to present data to donors.

OCT 2017 – Senior Development Officer, **Magdalene College, Cambridge**

AUG 2021 Raised between £100,000 and £375,000 per annum through asking for 4- and 5-figure gifts. Twice covered for a vacant Database Officer position, including setting up a new database integration for in-house telephone campaigning.

JAN 2016 – Development Associate, **University of Cambridge Development Office**

SEP 2017 Raised £1.25m, leading the Faculty of Law's fundraising programme. Managed relationships between the University and international law firms, including working with managing partners.

## EDUCATION

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- **Magdalene College, University of Cambridge** (2012–2015): 2:1 in Law, with First Class marks in four papers and Part 1A (first year) as a whole
- **Haberdashers' Boys' School, Elstree** (2007–2012): A Levels: A\*A\*A; GCSES: 10 A\*s

## OTHER HOBBIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

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ACADEMIC	Rebecca Flower Scholarship, University of Cambridge (2013); Academic Scholar, Magdalene College, Cambridge (2013)
DEBATING	Quarter-Finalist, Oxford Inter-Varsity (2013); Semi-Finalist, SOAS Inter-varsity (2013); Champion, UCL Union Schools' Cup (2012)
MUSIC	ABRSM Grade 8 Piano ( <i>Distinction</i> ); Grade 8 Flute ( <i>Distinction</i> ); Grade 5 Theory of Music ( <i>Distinction</i> ); Grade 5 Jazz Piano ( <i>Merit</i> ); keyboard accordion
LANGUAGES	Cantonese ( <i>Conversational</i> ); French ( <i>Basic</i> )
COOKING	BBC MasterChef 2017 (one of 64 televised contestants from over 4,000 applicants)