A NORTHERN EVENT

Following the THA’s move into the Middle Temple (see our interview with Tony Bush today), we are now organizing an event for those living in the North of England and the Scottish Borders (and even further afield). The event is planned for Saturday, 18th July 2009 at Lanercost Priory in North Cumbria.

Lanercost Priory was founded as an Augustinian monastery in 1169 and has a somewhat chequered and colourful history including a neutron-penetrated in the early 16th century when Edward I and his entourage set up court and became the effective seat of English government. The nave of the Priory itself was transformed from the monastic building of the Dacre family before becoming a splendid manor house and a town hall. Both the hall and the church look out on the romantic ruins of the rest of the monastic buildings.

The evening will start at around 6.00pm, rather magnificent medieval village hall. During the evening, we are planning drinks and canapés in the Dacre Hall. We are also planning to explore the Priory and find out a bit of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, but there will also be opportunities to mingle and catch up with other alumni, and there will be plenty of opportunity to be a good start to a weekend in the area for those further afield.

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Dr. John Pollard, Fellow Librarian and archivist, wrote the initial finds. He believes that they were placed there by Humphrey Stilwell over time in the 17th century. They are made up of a variety of items, including a range of documents, notebooks and a range of objects from further afield. The event is planned for Summer/Autumn 2009.

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MESSAGE
FROM THE MASTER

Edmund de Waal (TH 1983), is a leading potter and author. Graham would have been delighted, also, to know that another student of English literature, Nicholas Hytner (TH 1974), now Director of the National Theatre, was this year ranked first in the top one hundred figures in the arts in Britain.

Staying with the arts, last June Trinity Hall took part in a major exhibition of Edmund de Waal’s work at Kettle’s Yard when the Chapel was the venue for both a performance of Gesualdo’s Tenebrae and the setting for one of Edmund’s works inspired by this piece of music. Edmund subsequently made a very generous donation of pieces to the College. These complement the gift from sculptor Geoffrey Clarke, now in the Fellows’ Garden, and mark the College’s commitment to artistic excellence.

This commitment has also been in evidence over the last few years in the musical life of the College. The inauguration of the organ, so generously funded by Dennis Avery (TH 1980), has been accompanied by outstanding professional recitals as well as student concerts and other musical events. Our new Director of Music, Andrew Arthur, will build on these foundations laid by Dr Richard Baker. And in sport, we have seen success at University level, with Tom James’ (TH 2002) performance in the boat race. Success in the arts, sport and music help complement and stimulate academic success across the College and it is important that we now continue to build on our academic future.

Over the last few years, we have appointed outstanding young Fellows. A recent guest to our Tuesday night dinner remarked as he left at 11pm that in no other college would Fellows still be talking on a range of issues in an animated and stimulating way. Conversations over the table lead to connections and to new ideas. Recently over dinner, I talked to a group of Fellows who are now all learning Arabic together, either to further their studies of the Crusades, or to appreciate recent French films, or to analyse the connection between Arabic and Spanish poetry in the middle ages. Connections of this sort proliferate in the sciences and social sciences as well as in the humanities. I am continually learning from colleagues who work in the fields of astrophysics, aeronautical engineering, mathematics and medicine, as well as in politics and social sciences. I often find echoes of their research in my own work on the global economy in the twentieth century.

I have realised over the last four years just how fortunate Trinity Hall is, not only in its Fellows, but also in the quality and dedication of its staff. The gardens at Trinity Lane and at Wychfield are more attractive than ever; building projects have been completed and renovations continue apace; pride is taken in the external and internal appearance of the College; food is well prepared and presented; and visitors are made to feel welcome and valued from the moment they enter the Porters’ Lodge.

Finances are, of course, a source of real concern with the rising costs of food and fuel, and the turbulence in financial markets. We are fortunate in having outstanding advice, and we have confidence in the continuing support of our alumni and benefactors. The visits to Hong Kong resulted not only in meeting old members but also in making new friends and in a generous benefaction from Leslie Chung. At this year’s University Guild of Benefactors celebration in the Senate House we were delighted to see Leslie present along with long-established friends and donors Dennis and Sally Avery, and Dr Walter (TH 1969) and Rosemary Scott who continue to provide much-needed support.

Meanwhile, the four Presidential Addresses to the Royal Historical Society that I mentioned in 2004 are completed in November 2008, covering the changing relationship between Britain and the global economy since 1850. One of the most significant figures in my final Address will be Geoffrey Howe (TH 1948) – it was a great pleasure to discuss the crises of the 1970s when we met recently at the gathering of Hall lawyers at Lincoln’s Inn. Claire and I are both most fortunate to be
able to move from conversations such as I had with Geoffrey Howe to discussions with current students, at both undergraduate and graduate level, concerning, for example, green issues and climate change, or the future direction of higher education in the UK and the US. And in Trinity Hall such intellectual exchange is made all the richer by the significant role played by the MCR.

The last four years have flown by for both Claire and myself, with barely a dull moment. The future, I am sure, will be just as stimulating. We could not have anticipated, back in 2004, that Trinity Hall would be so much fun, and that the hard work would come with such rich rewards.

NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
ANDREW ARTHUR

Throughout my career as a professional musician, I’ve actively striven to maintain variety within my working schedule. My activities as a conductor, keyboard-player and teacher all hold great and equal meaning in my life, and whilst the management of this ‘portfolio’ lifestyle can be very demanding, in truth, it is this diversity which keeps me both focussed and inspired. It therefore seems providential that I now take up a position at Trinity Hall which allows me to utilise all three of these disciplines!

My own education, at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, together with the unique training offered through the organ scholarship, and my subsequent appointment as Acting Precentor at Caius offered me a terrific start as I embarked upon a freelance career. Since this time, alongside my work as a performer, I’ve also enjoyed an unbroken link with Cambridge, teaching regularly for the Music Faculty. So my appointment at Trinity Hall feels, to me, a very natural extension of my activities to date. I care deeply for the role that music plays in the life of this great University, and I feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to influence both academic and practical music within such a cordial collegiate environment.

I inherit a position from my esteemed predecessor, Dr Richard Baker, at a college where a genuine enthusiasm for music already exists, but perhaps even more importantly, where a serious commitment has been made. These are undoubtedly exciting times for music at Trinity Hall. The recent installation of an exceptional new chapel organ by Danish builder Carsten Lund has provided an asset of untold value – one which will enhance the training and musical experience of generations of future organ scholars and choral singers. The College has also recently commissioned a double-manual harpsichord from Andrew Garlick – widely acknowledged as one of this country’s finest craftsmen in his field. And, of course, Dennis Avery’s generous donation, given specifically in order to enhance the musical life of the College, has provided us with tremendous potential – the means to create special and rare opportunities for musicians at Trinity Hall for years to come.

I feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility as I begin my work here. There are important and long-standing musical traditions already in place, such as the chapel choir and the College’s Music Society, over which I assume an overseeing role – offering guidance and encouragement on a number of levels, sometimes passing on the benefit of my experience through coaching, demonstration and ‘hands-on’ training, at other times it will involve the great pleasure of taking a step back and watching, allowing students to thrive.

Alongside the eclectic programme of musical events offered by the student body, Trinity Hall remains committed to presenting a number of professional concerts with the aim of encouraging high standards and raising musical expectations. My prime concern is to use such events to create learning opportunities for our students in the form of expert tuition, public master-classes and ‘open’ rehearsals. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce that from Michaelmas Term 2008, we shall welcome the London-based period-instrument ensemble Orpheus Britannicus as ‘Ensemble in Residence’. This will, amongst other things, help me to bring my own specialist field of research and performance into play at the College, and it is my hope that in time, Trinity Hall will develop a unique reputation as a centre of excellence for ‘Early Music’ in Cambridge.

It is a great privilege to take up post as Director of Music and Fellow-Commoner here at Trinity Hall, and I look forward to the future with great relish as we enter this exciting new chapter in the musical life of the College.
PROFESSOR COLIN AUSTIN RETIRES

Among a strikingly cosmopolitan fellowship, Colin Austin is distinct. His mother tongue may be French, but he has many other languages to his credit, of which his best are Latin, Greek, and German. Born in Australia in 1941, he was educated in France and in England, passing through Oxford on his way to the Hall in 1965. But what was then a very small College by the river was clearly more than satisfying, for apart from his regular research and lecturing trips to various parts of the world, he has remained here ever since. He is not only one of the longest serving Fellows, but it seems unlikely anyone will be able to repeat his forty-three years of service – no one is now elected a Research Fellow at the tender age of 24. And no such Fellow would now become Director of Studies on the day of their arrival either.

Colin’s academic career has been a succession of distinctions. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1983 (again at a disgracefully young age); he became University Reader in Greek in 1988, and for the last 10 years he has been Professor of that subject. His academic life has been characterized by amazing discoveries, total dedication to his manuscripts, and inspired linguistic connections. Among dozens of articles and editions, his most important are the multi-volume edition of all the surviving fragments of Ancient Greek Comedy (with notes in Latin), an edition of Aristophanes’ Thesmophoriazusae, editions of Euripides’ and Menander’s papyri, and substantial work on the newly discovered Milan papyrus of Posidippus of Pella. His Oxford edition of Menander is due by the time of the London Olympics. Most of his scholarship has been produced with a pencil and a rubber; it is only very recently that he has ventured online.

Colin is distinct in two other ways: since 1988 he has had direct contact with everyone who has gone through the Hall, for any sort of degree, in his role as Praelector. The highlight of his year is the harangue of the graduands (and admiring Fellows) in Front Court, now with a parody from this Greek author, now with one from another, finally praising the happy faces for what he will need to claim on their behalf in the Senate House: their high standard of erudition, and, with perhaps a touch of tongue-in-cheek, their high standard of ‘morals’. And second, he has had indirect contact with everyone who has been a member of the Hall since 1973 – and this through his position as Wine Steward. Elected to that role when he was slowly emerging from life as a teetotaller, he has been remarkably assiduous in laying down wines for every College occasion – Matriculation Dinners, Graduation Dinners, Reunions, Annual Gatherings, and, in fact, for virtually every dinner in College at which wine has been served. Colin may be retiring, but his wines will certainly flow long after him.

In my time as a Fellow I have been a Tutor (1975 to date), Admissions Tutor, Director of Studies and, faute de mieux, Acting Senior Tutor: I have enjoyed the thrills and spills of them all and what I have been able to contribute both in those roles and as a member of College committees.

I have seen change, the best and most significant of which was the admission of women: the worst has been the inexorable move towards the iron cage of bureaucracy which places my colleagues in impossibly demanding situations the like of which were inconceivable when I was first a Fellow.

My great delight, I freely admit, has been the company of wonderful, if sometimes infuriating, young people and I hope that a few of them at least, on reflection as they age, think that I have had a worthwhile effect on their lives. I miss the days when I was young, when I could still play cricket for the College or indulge myself in exuberant projects (I was responsible for the first College discotheque as junior Fellow – Ellen and I were weekly devotees) but I shall not miss, after so long, the recurrent inability to convince law students that certain notorious decisions of the highest of courts are intellectually flawed – to put it politely.

The mark of the Fellowship throughout my time has been the lack of faction; no matter how strong the disagreement in Governing Body or committee I have never known one Fellow refuse to talk to another.

We shall both be retired and, we hope, ‘downsized’ soon: Ellen will work as hard as ever and I continue to look for work – look for me in the Oxfam shop after 30th September. I expect to spend more time in London, particularly in the theatre. I might even write something but one thing is certain – it will not be about English law.

I shall be around but not under people’s feet and I thank everyone and wish them well.

DANIEL FLEMING ON LEAVING TRINITY HALL

I first came to Trinity Hall in 1964 for my interview: I came up in 1965 and have been here ever since as student (1965–9) and Fellow (1970–2008) with just one year off in the States where, as many know, I met my wife Ellen.

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The Philip and Mary patent before Conservation

ARCHIVAL DISCOVERIES CONTINUED

The surprise discoveries that are mentioned on the front page include –

1. A patent of Philip and Mary dating from 1558 granting the advowson of the Huntingdonshire ecclesiastical benefices of Fenstanton, Gazeley, Hemingford, Wethersfield and Stukeley to Thomas Thirlby, Fellow of Trinity Hall and Bishop of Ely. According to *Warren's Book*, he passed them on to the College in 1560.

2. Quantities of smaller patents, deeds and leases with seals dating from the late medieval to the early modern period.

3. The College ‘Gate Book’, listing undergraduates punished by being confined to College, which covers the period from the late nineteenth until the early twentieth century.

4. Three Bursary accounts ledgers dating from the 1740s.

5. Other miscellaneous College records, including grants of modification to the College Statutes made by the Privy Council during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

6. Correspondence relating to the gift of the Farren painting of ‘Degree Day’, now on display in the Porters’ Lodge.

7. A large quantity of more recent Bursarial records, including P.A.Y.E. files from the 1960s. The Archives contain very little material on the College staff so these at least tell us who were members of staff in that period.

The Assistant Archivist, Mrs Margaret Farrar, is busily at work cataloguing the finds, which means that her work on sorting and re-filing the Tutorial records, which have been moved from the Bursary basement to more suitable accommodation at Wychfield, has had to be suspended.

As if that wasn’t enough, as hinted on the front cover recent weeks have brought more discoveries! In the Crescent Room area, a quantity of stained glass (most of which would appear to have been in the windows of the lecture room which occupied the site of the present Reading Room) was found and the following week three splendid Trinity Hall silk flags on poles with a crescent finial, were discovered. These were presented to the Trinity Hall Boat Club in 1927 and experts from the Fitzwilliam Museum have pronounced them to be in remarkably good condition, though a little conservation work will need to be carried out. The flags were hung in the Dining Hall for Graduation Day and the Reunion to be enjoyed by all.

Dr John Pollard

MASTERS IN GLASS

This short article is by way of a postscript to John Pollard’s account of the excitement of recent ‘findings’ in hidden corners of the Hall. In particular I want to add a few details to John’s descriptions of the panels of stained glass. Information from written archives and from the memory archives of Jonathan Steinberg has already been brought into play in identifying the glass, and no doubt more information will be added as time goes on. As someone carrying out research in the area of stained glass, albeit medieval glass, it was a particular pleasure for me to learn of the existence of these panels.

The panels, of high quality work, are commemorations of successive Masters of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They display coats-of-arms of Charles Jenner Fust, Henry Sumner Maine, Thomas Charles Geldart and Edward Anthony Beck, and give the dates of their office-holding. Since in the case of Beck there is no end date, it is likely that the glass was installed during his term as Master which ran from 1902 to 1916. Each shield is surrounded by small, beautifully painted, heraldic badges of William Bateman and Henry Latham. There are two additional panels on which are painted, in a more elaborate style and in darker colours, the coats-of-arms of Bateman and Latham.

The date of the panels and their shape suggest that they came from the west end of Latham Court, previously known as the Thornton building. Further evidence suggests that they once formed part of what is now the ground floor reading room of the present College library. This area was originally a lecture hall but was transformed into study bedrooms in the early years of the twentieth century before becoming part of the library. When it became a reading room, window openings were blocked up, bookshelves installed, and the stained glass put into a store-room. It was from there that the College’s Head of Buildings and Services, Russell Waller brought the panels to light.

David King, a Norwich-based expert in stained glass, and Terry Devlin, master glazier, have seen the panels which are now in need of repair. The process of providing a considered opinion on how best to restore and re-use at least some of the glass and an estimate of the cost, is now underway. It is hoped that, funds allowing, the panels can be re-set into suitable window openings, and former Masters thus remembered appropriately.

Claire Daunton
PAGES FROM THE PAST:
MANUSCRIPTS IN THE OLD LIBRARY

The Old Library sits at the heart of Trinity Hall, a familiar sight and one which symbolises a continuity of learning and scholarship reaching back over hundreds of years. Indeed it is often justifiably termed the ‘jewel in the crown’ of Trinity Hall. Many alumni, Fellows, students and staff will no-doubt have enjoyed tours of the Library, with its chained books and undulating floorboards, and seen displays of some of the treasures housed within. These include the famous early 15th century copy of Boethius’s *Consolation of Philosophy*, packed with vivid illustrations (although drawn by someone with rather more enthusiasm than artistic skill!) and Trinity Hall’s oldest manuscript, a *Life of St Martin of Tours* written in c1050. Some documents from the archives are also kept in the Old Library, including a letter signed by Elizabeth I instructing the Fellows to lease land to a certain ‘pensioner’, perhaps an old servant of the College. One of the most important manuscripts is the *Master’s Statute Book*. This contains a copy of Bishop Bateman’s statutes – including a list of the original library books – and additional regulations relating to the College down to the 18th century.

It is easy to see why the Old Library holds such an important place in the life of Trinity Hall. Just as Bateman was concerned about the continued preservation of books, so the College today is acutely aware of the responsibility as well as privilege of so magnificent an inheritance. For this reason the College has launched the *Old Library, Special Collections and Archives Project*, with the intention of making Trinity Hall manuscripts, books and archives more accessible to scholars and better preserving them for future generations. Alumni responded with characteristic generosity to a Telephone Campaign last year, and in April 2007 some of the funds raised enabled Phase 1 of the *Old Library Project* to begin in earnest.

The initial stage of the project involved cataloguing all the manuscripts and archives housed in the Old Library; a number of which had never previously been described. Some earlier lists and catalogues of Trinity Hall manuscripts had been compiled, notably by M R James (a renowned manuscript scholar as well as author of ghost stories) and the Fitzwilliam Museum’s *Cambridge Illuminations* project, but these focused on particular types of books and, apart from a typescript list, no full record of Old Library manuscripts existed.

The finely decorated medieval books in the Old Library are of course interesting, but it is the formerly neglected and often ‘dull-looking’ manuscripts which have proved to be perhaps the most fascinating. More detailed work on the *Master’s Statute Book* (which M R James failed to describe) has for example shown that part of it was compiled by the same scribe as a set of exemplar statutes sealed by Bateman – and not, as previously thought, several decades after the founder’s death. Another exciting medieval manuscript is a late 13th century copy of the *Novae Narrationes*, a practical legal text. Acquired by the College within the past century but not previously recorded in the public domain, it is not cited in a modern edition of the text and will no-doubt be of great interest to legal scholars.

Trinity Hall’s traditional connection with the law is further highlighted by a collection of legal tracts written by Dr Francis Dickens, a Fellow from 1705 until his death in 1755. All of Dickens’s volumes are written in his own hand, and his concern that these unpublished works should make a contribution to Trinity Hall is evidenced by the rather poignant inscription in each volume, requesting that ‘the few manuscript books I shall leave behind . . . may find a place in some remote corner of the College Library’.

Some manuscripts in the Old Library are far more modern. These include a collection donated by or in memory of George Larman, a student during the First World War, several of which were finely written and illuminated by Larman himself. Two ‘typewritten manuscripts’ (according to their spine labels!) are in fact marked-up proof copies of books written by another alumnus, Henry Festing Jones, who was at Trinity Hall in the 1870s. Jones’s volumes recount his experiences in Sicily at the turn of the 20th century; the annotations made in preparation for publication are fascinating, not least because he sometimes changed his account further to protect the identity of friends.

From 10th century hagiography to 20th century Italian adventures by way of 18th century law, the manuscripts of the Old Library are a remarkable collection which deserves to be more widely known. Descriptions of the Western manuscripts (two beautiful Persian books awaiting cataloguing) will be made available on-line within the next few months, and a printed catalogue will follow. It is hoped that Bishop Bateman would be pleased with the way in which his College continues to value its books, and he would no doubt find much to interest him still preserved in the Old Library.

Dr Elizabeth New

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*Master’s Statute Book in the Old Library*
In October, alumnus, art historian and critic Dr Richard Cork (TH 1965), presented an eloquent and beautifully illustrated paper concerning art in hospitals, considering both the healing powers of art and its physical presence on walls, enhancing hospital buildings. The paper took a long perspective, starting with medieval places of healing and ending with new facilities at St Thomas’s hospital in London.

In January, architect and alumnus of our young neighbour Trinity College, Tim Makower, partner in the architectural practice of Allies and Morrison, Peter Bishop, planner and head of Design for London and developer Roger Madelin of Argent Developments, joined forces. They gave a fascinating account of their collaborative work on the King’s Cross development. We heard about complicated planning negotiations and learnt about the huge range of issues and opinions that had to be taken into account when preparing the master plan for the site, especially considering the different types of development there. Green issues were also discussed in some detail. Each brought to the discussion points from their own academic and professional background. The discussion was well chaired by Trinity Hall’s Director of Studies in Architecture, DiHaigh, director of design at Design for London, who was instrumental in bringing our speakers together. It was a memorable evening.

In May, Dr Derek Brown, of the Health Protection Agency, based at Addenbrooke’s, gave an admirably clear presentation of MRSA, the superbug, setting current problems concerning MRSA in their historical context and looking at both successes in containing it and its problematic rise outside hospital settings in some countries. A difficult, even controversial, subject that elicited many questions.

If this last year’s series has touched upon the disciplines of medicine, art, architecture and planning, talks in the series for 2008–2009 will move to the general areas of economics and politics, engineering and the law.

The first in the series, to be held on Monday 13 October 2008, will be given by Harriet Lamb (TH 1979), Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation. She will be speaking on ‘The Business of Fairtrade’.

The Lent Term meeting will be held on Monday 26 January 2009 and will be given by Dr Chris Williams, currently at the University of Bath, who has also worked for Ove Arup, and will consider Engineering as Art and Design.

In Easter Term, on Monday 11 May, Professor David Feldman, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law in Cambridge and currently chairman of the Law Faculty, will speak about his work as Judge on the Constitutional Court of Bosnia, particularly on matters relating to human rights.

Seminars are open to Fellows, alumni and graduate students of the College and other members of the University, as well as to interested friends of the College. All take place on the second Monday of term and commence at 6.15pm. In each case a small dinner follows. Places for dinner are strictly limited by space and must be booked well in advance. Contact details to register an interest in attending any of the seminars, and to make a booking, are email chgd2@cam.ac.uk or phone 01223 332540.

### CONFERENCES AT TRINITY HALL

The Conference & Banqueting Department has undergone some dramatic changes in the past 6 months. The introduction of a computerised booking system has seen the department become the central point for all room bookings in the College.

In addition to handling all the booking requirements for Fellows, students and alumni we are turning our attention to external events.

Cambridge colleges are enjoying a steady increase in business for conferences, dining and social events. Conference Cambridge, the marketing service representing all Cambridge colleges processes more than 2,000 enquiries per year. 45% of these enquiries are for dining. Trinity Hall is well known within the University for its fine dining, but its reputation is not widely known outside University circles. The Conference Office in conjunction with the catering team is launching a fine dining programme to showcase the talents of our kitchens.

As well as our new booking system it is envisaged that the Conference Office will launch its own website over the next few months. The majority of corporate events are booked via the web and because of this it is essential to have first page Google presence. To achieve this, a website will be developed to be more conference specific.

The facilities that Trinity Hall has to offer make it unique within the college community. The department is working closely with Conference Cambridge to improve our market presence and establish Trinity Hall as the venue for select events.

Alison Walker

Alison Walker arrived as Conference & Banqueting Manager at Trinity Hall from Homerton College, where she had been the Conference & Accommodation Officer for 2 years. She is joined by Marcella Blomsma who came to the Conference Office in March in a part-time role. To contact Alison or Marcella to book guest rooms, dinners, weddings, etc, email conference@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Claire Daunton
TRINITY HALL HELPS MEXICAN RUGBY
By Carlos Monroy Aceves (PhD Student 2002)

My dad was the first Mexican ever to play rugby in Mexico. Since then many years have passed and he is now retired and dedicates his life to training young lads. A couple of years ago, he was contacted by an orphanage to see if he could help them coach children from 6 to 17 years old to do some sport and keep them away from the streets and the use of drugs. Most of these kids had been abandoned or were abused by their parents so they had left their homes and were living on the streets. My dad said yes, and of course decided that rugby was the sport for them. There was one problem – the orphanage does the best they can to look after these children, but they don’t have much money and have to work with charities. Any money they can get hold of is spent mainly on food and basic education, therefore any money for leisure and sports is out of the question.

When my dad told me this, I asked last year’s THRUFC captain if we could help in some way. We asked the JCR for help, and between the rugby club and the JCR, we raised money to buy them some rugby shirts. They ordered their shirts and asked if they could put the THRUFC logo on them, and of course I said yes.

Now the good news… I received an email from the orphanage manager and some photographs of the boys in their new shirts. He said that the kids are playing very well and that it has helped to lift their self-esteem and keep them away from the negative things that they were experiencing.

That is great news… but even better… 4 of them have been called to the national U-19s team. They have been shortlisted, and according to my dad, two of them have very good chances to stay in the team. Ok, Mexico is not New Zealand in rugby but imagine going from absolutely nothing, from living on the street, being abused by your parents to representing your country in a sport. I think that is an amazing achievement!

Thank you to all those who helped make this possible and I hope we can help them again in the future. As you can see from the photo (in which they are in their best rugby kit), they need a decent match rugby ball and also maybe we can help them get some shorts and socks as well. They don’t have to be new – if you know that a rugby club is buying new kit because the old one is too old, maybe we can send the old kit to them.

It is good to know that Trinity Hall rugby is having such a great impact so far away from Cambridge.

Beijing Olympics

Taking part in the Olympics at Beijing will be 19 year old Adam Brown, son of Trinity Hall’s Senior Porter Kim Brown. Adam will be swimming for Great Britain this summer in the 100m Freestyle. His proud mother says of this achievement – “This has been a dream of Adam’s since he was a young boy aged 11. I am so very proud to have supported and looked after him.

It has been tough, but well worth Adam’s dedication, and to get there 4 years earlier than we ever dreamed is fantastic. A dream come true.”

Also at Beijing will be Tom James (TH 2002), President of last year’s successful Blue Boat, who will be rowing in the Men’s IV, and Emma Pooley (TH 2001) who will compete in the Road Cycling competition, both for Great Britain.
THE CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN STAGE TOUR

I spent most of my undergraduate years running from one rehearsal to another, so it came as no surprise to anybody that I decided to put off real life for a while after graduating by taking part in a theatre tour. I was lucky enough to get a place on the 2007 Cambridge American Stage Tour, an annual project which sees 16 budding theatremakers embark on an entirely student-run trip around the eastern USA. As Stage Manager I spent August making papier maché flowers and emailing venues in preparation for our production of The Winter’s Tale. Having packed everything into suitcases, on 1st September we embarked on a month-long adventure, taking the show to schools, universities and theatres, with a little bit of leisure time thrown in as our reward.

This year’s tour started in Tennessee and took us northeast through Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, before heading south again to New York City, Maryland, Washington DC and finally into Virginia. Like many foreign visitors, we went to BB King’s Blues Bar, Niagara Falls and the White House, saw ‘Rent’ on Broadway and bought cheap iPods in Wal-Mart. But we also experienced the vast and beautiful countryside that the States has to offer, and found some hidden treasures out in the sticks. Memorable stop-offs include ‘Grandma’s Tea Shop’ in Bradford, Pennsylvania, and ‘My Saloon’ in Corfu, near Buffalo – both far enough off the beaten track to ensure that we were the first British visitors in years (or perhaps ever) – and revealing that having a novelty accent really can get you a lot of free food!

Not all of America’s surprises were so endearing – the town of Pigeon-Forge in the Smoky Mountains, which reminded me of Blackpool but without the sea (ie people literally sitting in deck-chairs and watching cars go by...); gun-counters in supermarkets; and of course the driving culture – even locals who claimed to adore the countryside seemed to know nothing about how to explore it on foot! But it was all part of the adventure – and any psychological scars we suffered in Pigeon-Forge were remedied by the fantastic people we met elsewhere. At three of the venues we stayed with local families, none of whom disappointed us. In Nashville, a 16 year old theatre student produced a set of car keys (much to our surprise as he looked a good few years younger) and took us back to his family home, ‘not far away’, which turned out to be twenty minutes by Interstate. In Maryland our host was an English Professor who makes puppets and stringed instruments in his spare time – fascinating though this was, I was relieved not to be the one sleeping among the grinning wooden clown faces in the basement-come-toyshop! And in the tiny village of Washington, Virginia (whose population is less than the capacity of its theatre), I was accommodated in an 18th century plantation house, with a Real American Porch that became the envy of the entire travelling company.

As well as our hosts themselves, we met some great characters along the way. My favourite was Father Sean Clerkin, head of the Theatre faculty at Erie’s Gannon University, and possibly the coolest priest in America. Prior to our trip he’d encouraged speeding to get there (“just make sure someone else within your sight is going faster than you”) and responded generously to our request to sell programmes (“you can sell anything short of sex”). Finally he secured his place as my new best friend by being the only person to bring a nun to see the show – fulfilling a personal ambition of mine in the process!)

Nuns aside, my own memories of the trip are dominated by the joys and perils of being a driver. Only over-21s could be insured, meaning that three of us took responsibility for a vehicle each and had to drive it the entire way. Despite having a licence I hadn’t driven for over three years, so was fairly nervous. This got worse before it got better as the first drive (in a seven-seater beast, on the wrong side of the road) took us to downtown Memphis, ‘the second most dangerous city in the USA.’ At midnight. Many hairy moments followed as we navigated downtown New York (by accident), got forced off the road by cows in Virginia and got lost repeatedly with only Googlemaps print-outs to help us. But 3,000 miles (and only one very minor bump) later, I was far more confident and genuinely sad to say goodbye to the car.

Somewhere, amongst all of these adventures, we were of course putting on a show. My role involved helping with lighting get-ins, running the technical rehearsal and then (depending on the facilities available) cueing the show itself. The challenge of being in a new venue each day was of course heightened by our eagerness to go and explore rather than spending all of our time rehearsing – and I believe we rose to this challenge, reducing a tech that took around an hour at the first venue to a record 11½ minutes by the end of the tour. The show went really well in most places, although we did wonder how much our audiences knew about Shakespeare when one lady asked the director whether the references to Alice in Wonderland (one of our design influences) had been his idea, or whether they were in the original script….

There was one truly disastrous venue – New York City – where, for reasons beyond our control, the show did not happen.
This July the leaders of the G8 countries met on Hokkaido, Japan’s most northerly island, for two days of talks on the world’s economic, environmental and social problems. On the other side of the barbed wire the usual storm of protest will begin, with the media left to decide whether this will engulf the leaders’ headline-seeking initiatives or not.

With somewhat less fanfare, and without the deployment of any riot police, a group of students from each of the G8 nations gathered back in March to take part in the Model G8 Summit. The Model Summit, which met this year in Yokohama, is an annual simulation of the G8 negotiating process. Like the real G8 it does not have a formal administrative structure, with the burden of organisation shifting each year to the host country. The challenge of each summit is to look for innovative solutions to global problems and to produce a final communiqué, which all delegations have agreed on.

Having been selected to participate in the Model Summit as a minister in the British delegation, I flew to Japan with Karsten Wenzlaff (TH 2007), who had been appointed British Prime Minister. After 30 minutes interpreting a map of the greater Tokyo railway network, (just like a diagram of the London underground, except twice as large, three times as dense and in Japanese) we set off to rendezvous with the other six members of our delegation. A good deal of preparation had already been done in preparing draft papers and negotiating the agenda with our Japanese hosts; now we had just a couple of days to finish coordinating our policy positions and negotiating strategy.

The conference began with each delegation visiting their country’s embassy, and with an opening ceremony, where the various ministers were introduced. Having heard from British diplomats about the preparations they were making for G8, it was time to begin our own negotiations. Unlike the real G8 where most of the declarations are agreed in advance, we had to produce the final communiqué during the summit.

Each minister met for successive rounds of negotiations with their counterparts from the other delegations. The Heads of State focused on climate change (which was to be the top priority at this year’s G8 Summit), whilst other ministerial groups looked at finance, development and defence inter alia. In the course of the week, the talks became increasingly protracted in the search for a written formula all sides could agree on, with Karsten getting so involved in his role as Gordon Brown that he even adopted his sleeping patterns. In the end the Model Summit achieved some interesting results including a new common position on deforestation and a commitment to untie all aid (a step world leaders have not yet been able to take).

Karsten and I would like to thank Trinity Hall and the Centre of International Studies, who generously sponsored our participation in the Model Summit.

Jenni Halton (TH 2004)

There are, however, worse places to find that you have an unexpected afternoon to kill – and this hiccup also provides possibly the most hilarious anecdote of the whole tour, involving 16 posh British students, lost in the Bronx, half of them in period dress. Some were running late and others split from the group to try and locate them, so within half an hour of our arrival the locals were helping us out – we’d come round a corner to be met with “your friends went that way” or “oh God here’s some more”. Far from the intimidating reception one might expect in NYC’s notoriously ‘roughest’ district, we’d become something of a local novelty – I wonder if they thought we were time-travellers?!

Throughout the tour, we saw University Theatre departments that we could only dream of – prop and costume stores hundreds of times bigger than CAST’s tiny cupboard in the ADC dressing room. We were of course envious of those facilities, but equally it made me proud that we had created this entire experience from nothing – that cupboard lies dormant for the whole academic year, and then each summer it inspires a group of students to mount an international theatre tour. Thanks to CAST I have played charades in Central Park, learnt how to acquire alcohol in the ‘dry county’, narrowly avoided Lyme Disease, stayed the night in a High School Gymnasium, and even visited the original set of Sesame Street. Long may this fantastic society continue to thrive.

Jenni will be producing two comedy musicals at the Edinburgh Festival this August – for more details please visit www.feedtheducksproductions.com

Thomas Hartley (TH 2003 & 2007)
THIRTY YEARS ON – MEMORIES OF THE FIRST WOMEN IN TRINITY HALL

Thirty years ago! I have such vivid memories – of Gina crouching on the lawn painting Patrick’s toenails when they should have been revising; of Janine guffawing at Anne Louise munching a carrot, noisily and suggestively in the old library; of passing through the Porters’ Lodge to check for messages in the now-extinct pigeonholes; of my tutor wheeling his bike through Front Court and awkwardly avoiding my eye (shyness? inadequate essay?); of climbing down the ladder to clamber into a punt....

Gilded memories – but my email straw poll of contemporaries revealed some pithy reminiscences of a very real social experiment for the College, for the girls, for the boys already there: “I remember the sense of being in a film, or on a film set. Coming from Manchester, Trinity Hall was impossibly pretty.” (Sarah Bates, Law, Banker turned Financial Guru).

The Fellows had made a brave and eclectic choice of women and, despite the 1960s social revolution, we all seemed to feel keenly the distinctions of north/south; town/country; public/grammar school; boy/girl.

“No special concessions were made to female vanities either. A few full length mirrors appeared, but washing facilities were limited and enduring memories linger of “queuing for hours with Tom Conti (the Colin Firth-style heart-throb of our day, who was visiting Jill) for the only bathroom on our staircase” (Janine Edge, Philosophy & Law, Lawyer turned Renaissance Woman) and

“Steve remembers the year when the girls arrived as being the first time they’d met intelligent women (of their own age). They felt that they were (and were thought of as) a bit slow, since they were the last year for whom entry had been reasonably easy”.

But if the boys were awed so were the girls. “I remember thinking I would never be short of a date, but was also very shy about going to the bar/hall etc because of how male the culture was. I didn’t think I’d have anything to say, so I went and hung out with the thespians instead” (Jill Meager, English, Actress, Leadership Coach).

Yet none of us seem to remember any overt sexism. The College made very little apparent preparation for the advent of women to this all-male bastion. The top of S staircase was, exceptionally, all female but the rest of us were mixed up at random with the men, Anne Louise (History, Consultant in Palliative Medicine) being the sole woman on a staircase full of football fanatics Ian, Ken and John.

The Fellows had made a brave and eclectic choice of women and, despite the 1960s social revolution, we all seemed to feel keenly the distinctions of north/south; town/country; public/grammar school; boy/girl.

“Polite but nervous young men who seemed very different compared to streetwise Londoners, which I decided was due to the British public schools mass producing male undergraduates. The only women they had met were their mothers, some aunts and their cleaners.” (Judith Harris, Hebrew & Arabic, Oil Trader turned Domestic Goddess).

“Brains and Beauty – certainly there were. John Collier did claim that since all the female applicants for Law had A1,A1,A, he offered places on grounds of beauty. There seems to be a folk memory about Phyllida’s (Law, Lawyer, Magistrate) very tight jeans, Gina’s (English, Music Agent turned Jeweller) eyes, famous for the brown depths “that you could drown in”, Libby’s (English, Art Agent) Pre-Raphaelite aura, Isla and Debbie’s (Law, Entrepreneur) lavish blonde hair and of course Anne Louise’s enigmatic, gamine beauty, immortalised by James Runcie’s reminiscences in The Hidden Hall.

“Coming from a northern grammar school, I think the social shock (meeting those London day school pupils...) was greater than the shock of joining a previously all male institution in the late 1970s:”

Not that any of us were Domestic Goddesses – where did we wash our clothes? There are vague memories of “coin-operated machines in a basement where the new library is” but otherwise it must have been the bras in the basin/over the radiator routine. Nor were we nest-builders. Despite the ready supply of potential partners and the coothing potential of those cozy in-house double sets, few of us set up a permanent ménage. I remember being very impressed by Zinnia Bidgood’s (English, and then?) purchase of a slow cooker for our shared set in the first year, but rather appalled by the idea of ever putting it to use.

Sport, dining clubs and revelry were all put at risk by the arrival of women – or so it was feared. Yet Judith’s petite figure and commanding way (so appropriate for the oil trading floor in years to come) fitted the rowing club specification for a cox (obviously a female niche role); the always- immaculate Jan (Law, Lawyer) swam for the University and The Mourning After Club.
would have been nothing without Sarah’s vile cocktails “I am proud of the chagrin d’amour – pastis and gelatin served from a condom”.

So where was work in all of this? “The tutorials were a bit brusque – lots of pulling your socks up and not making excuses” and I remember many hours in libraries and lecture halls. Yet we did so much else and our other activities were for pleasure rather than padding our CVs.

None of us women has, to my knowledge, achieved the celebrity status of our contemporary Andrew Marr whom we misjudged shockingly. “We thought he was just an English nerd in a polyester anorak”. Yet, this year, 30 years on and as we reach the age of 50, many of us are reflecting on our fulfilling and complex lives in the professional and personal worlds in which we have chosen to live. Doubtless a legacy of those pioneering years at Trinity Hall, yet we did not feel unique or exceptional at the time – with what could we compare? But the “under the microscope” experience of breaching the male world of Trinity Hall certainly stood us in good stead as the vanguard women in the banks/ law offices/ companies of 1980s Thatcher’s Britain.

So – the enduring legacies of those three special years at Trinity Hall, so long ago? A fondness for the place, a lasting sense of belonging and “the friendships made … so real and so current”.

Catherine Stewart (Economics, business woman) is Chairman of Interel Cabinet Stewart, a leading EU Public Affairs consultancy in Brussels. She is married with two children and lives in Brussels.

TRINITY HALL: WELCOMING THE MODERN WOMAN

Thirty years on and where are we now? Trinity Hall’s women are, quite simply, showing the boys how it’s done. The hypothesis behind the social experiment that first brought women to Trinity Hall has been proved beyond question, and the girls are here to stay!

Today women participate widely in clubs and societies at both a College and University level, with women’s sport being particularly prominent in Trinity Hall where we boast, aside from sports traditionally considered to be “for women”, an all-women rugby team, women’s boat club (where we do more than cox!) as well as women’s football, and (just to break down gender barriers a little bit more) every Tit Haller knows that only real men play netball! With regard to academia more women than men were given places for the first time in 2002, a change which has become a trend as women not only keep up with the pace of our male predecessors, we ourselves are setting that pace.

We no longer need to preen ourselves to succeed, nor do we come here in order to find a mate. Women come to Trinity Hall not as decorative ornaments, making the College yet more impossibly beautiful, but to be the best that we can be. We come to prove the strength of our academic rigour, our commitment to the College societies that are our passions and ultimately, our right to equal status and respect.

The distinctions are still there north/south; town/country; public/grammar school; boy/girl, though perhaps not felt as sharply as in 1977. Yet it cannot be denied that we have come a long way – women have taken the driving seat. Watch out boys, not long from now you might just find yourselves left in our dust!

Caroline Organ (TH 2007 and Women’s Officer)
A YEAR (AND A BIT) IN THE LIFE OF THE GARDENERS

The last 18 months have been some of the busiest that Trinity Hall Gardeners have possibly ever known. The new accommodation at Wychfield has been completed and the gardens planted but then there was the unexpected redevelopment and redesign of the Fellows’ Garden. The process has been incredibly exciting, if a little stressful trying to balance the demands of redevelopment with maintenance of existing gardens, but we’ve managed it. Here’s how the last 18 months turned out.

December 2006 – The Master and Mrs Daunton were rudely awoken one night between Christmas and New Year by one of the large horse chestnuts falling over.

Thus began one of the busiest years in the life of Trinity Hall gardeners.

January 2007 – At Wychfield the new accommodation was nearing completion but with four very distinct new garden areas to be planted, our work was yet to come.

At the Central Site the clear up began of the horse chestnut and the health of the remaining trees was looked at.

Following the retirement of a long-serving member of the team, new part-time members of staff joined us at what was to become a busy and exciting time.

February 2007 – Throughout the Wychfield building works the gardening team helped with quality control of the exterior landscape. The head gardener spent lots of time in meetings with architects, landscape architects and builders.

Plant orders, quotes for mulch and re-cobbling front court, drawing up plans for the new Fellows’ Garden all had to be carried out alongside regular maintenance. New football goals were purchased, bringing a little bit of normality. And yet these took up more time than expected as funding applications to the Football Association hit snags.


Excitement was growing as the realisation dawned that the gardening team had the opportunity to develop a new garden for the central site, something that had not been done for centuries! At Wychfield, benching for the purpose built greenhouse was measured and tree pits marked out. Trees near Dean House were felled causing some issues as the Huntingdon Road gate was the only way in and out, as builders were still working on the Storey’s Way entrance!

April 2007 – Plants for the new accommodation had been ordered but because of building delays, 6,500 plants were about to turn up and needed to be housed. A temporary ‘Nursery’ was created on the Wychfield Hard Courts where the plants could be cared for until planting. It was hard work keeping everything alive and healthy until planting began in the autumn. It may have rained a lot last summer but the hard courts gave limited protection from the sun in between showers and the drying winds whipping across the sports field. It was a whole new way of gardening!

Also a new sculpture, “Twelve” by Jonathan Clarke, was installed at Wychfield.

May 2007 – With over 100 new residents at Wychfield, more waste is being generated.

A new bin store was built by the gardening team, hidden in the undergrowth! It boasts glass, paper, cardboard, plastic bottle and can recycling facilities.

The Fellows’ Garden plans were starting to prove a headache as we learnt that temporary removal of the gateway was not possible. Everything would have to come in and out through a 1 metre wide gate! Things could be craned in over the walls but once inside the garden everything still had to be moved by hand.
June 2007 – Recently a plan has been drawn up by the landscape architect Robert Myers, for the colleges backing onto the river and Queens’ Road, to create a unified feel to the landscape and a co-ordinated approach to its management. He came and discussed our Fellows’ Garden plans in relation to the wider picture.

The June event also brought with it the inevitable repairs and clearing up.

At Wychfield a new Milestone was put in place to mark the completion of the new accommodation.

July 2007 – The new Wychfield accommodation was opened by BBC correspondent Andrew Marr (TH 1977). The gardening team was on hand to explain what the gardens would look like once planted, as we were unable to access the site until it was finished in September 2007.

We did, however, move out of the porta-cabins that had been our home for 3 years and into our fantastic purpose built new sheds.

At Central Site the remaining horse chestnuts were felled. Unfortunately as the last of the horse chestnuts was being removed, the rather large and beautiful willow by the river toppled over. It too had an infection of which there were no outward signs – and so began the redevelopment of the Fellows’ Garden.

August 2007 – Just as the builders for the new accommodation began to move out we had some more move in as the renovation of Wychfield House started!

Work began on the annual task of cutting the many hedges both at Central Site and Wychfield. Lots of the boundary hedges are hornbeam and beech which are cut ‘free hand’ whereas the box hedging at the back of Wychfield and in Avery Court require a higher degree of accuracy which is achieved using string lines and a great deal of patience.

Many of the wall shrubs at Central Site received a summer prune to reduce the growth they put on.

September 2007 – Planting began at Wychfield and soon the gardens began to look more like gardens. Turf was laid and the difference was immense. Yew hedges helped define each area and gave them a clear boundary.

A small area of the new build site that was to become our nursery was handed over to us in advance of the rest of the site and this gave us the opportunity to construct both a netted and a poly tunnel, which will be used to assist in the growing on of plants and shrubs for the gardens.

October 2007 – The development of the Fellows’ Garden continued as the Master’s new terrace was laid at the front of the Lodge. The grey sandstone was selected for its neutrality in comparison to the numerous colours and styles of masonry in the Lodge. However when it rains a vast array of colours are brought out in the stone and the Lodge comes to life whilst the planting stands out against it.

November 2007 – In the Fellows’ Garden the paths were dug out and whilst progress could be seen, the garden looked rather bleak as winter began to creep in.

The triennial tree survey was carried out to determine the health of every single tree on the College sites. Thankfully most trees were healthy and very few needed work.
December 2007 – At the beginning of the month the Fellows’ Garden began to resemble a battlefield as 14 tree pits were dug, measuring around 1.5m cubed each. Locating services running through the garden was rather difficult as nothing was where it was meant to be on the maps. We worried about ‘taking out’ the Granta Network that links the entire University, but luckily we didn’t hit anything. But then, as the dense fog that plagued us during December set in, the trees arrived! The Garden began to take shape.

January 2008 – With the trees in, hard landscaping of the Fellows’ Garden was done. Slopes were graded, subtle changes were made to levels and the paths dug out. Two large lorry loads of mulch arrived at Wychfield and were spread over the new beds to help retain moisture in the soil. It became almost a game as we counted 20 shovels of mulch to a barrow, then how many barrows we had done. After about 50 barrows each we lost count but that was probably a good thing with 100 cubic metres to shift!

February 2008 – The greenhouse at Wychfield was up and running so we began to sow seeds for summer bedding plants. Very soon the greenhouse looked full to bursting as if it had always been there.

The paths in the Fellows’ Garden were laid to create an interesting circular walk round the garden. We also took delivery of five specially commissioned hand made 27” wide pots. They were made by Whichford Pottery in Warwickshire and have the Trinity Hall crescent emblazoned on them.

March 2008 – It was time to start showing off the fantastic new gardens at Wychfield as we held a National Gardens Scheme open day. A great deal of preparation was put into the event with numerous heated debates over how much to charge as an entry fee and what cakes to serve amongst other things! The weather was beautiful and we raised over £1,000 for charity. Comments ranged from ‘Just lovely’ to ‘The best garden I’ve been to in a long time’. We hope to open several times next year.

April 2008 – The bulk of the planting in the Fellows’ Garden was carried out and within a couple of weeks the garden started to fill up, eagerly awaiting the warmer weather for everything to burst into leaf.

At Wychfield general maintenance was being carried out as a sense of calm returned to the site following the departure of the builders. The greenhouse was a hive of activity as potting on and planting out occurred. The area that had been the new accommodation builders’ yard was levelled out and grass sown. The left over top soil was moved to form a mound alongside the tennis courts, as somewhere to view sporting activities from.

May 2008 – The Fellows were able to enjoy an uncharacteristic hot spell from newly sited benches around the Fellows’ Garden but this weather threatened to dry everything out so we brought forward the installation of seep hoses, which irrigate the newly planted borders.

With the plants blooming and growing, the Fellows’ Garden was officially opened.

The last 18 months have been extremely busy, not only with the two large scale projects to complete but also the everyday maintenance. The shrubs had to be cut back, weeds had to be pulled up and grass had to be cut amongst many other jobs. Throughout the last year and a half the support from both inside and outside the College has been immense and really helped keep us all going. But now comes the hardest part! Whilst we have carried out the initial changes, we will now work with the plants and conditions we have to carry on developing the gardens for the future benefit of the College.

The Gardening Team
Three generations of a four generation dynasty recently met in College for dinner. Peter Foster matriculated in 1937, with his grandson Will Staunton arriving 54 years later. In between these two, Philip Foster was actually at the Hall twice: from 1967–70 studying Natural Sciences; and then as an ordinand in training at Ridley Hall doing a two year degree in theology from 1976–78.

Trinity Hall boasts many dynasties, but here are a couple of perspectives from the Foster/Staunton family –

Peter Foster (TH 1937)
I was invited by the members of the PCC of the Church of St James, Hemingford Grey, to celebrate 55 years as their architect at a dinner at Trinity Hall. Dr Ray Latimer, the Church Warden, knew I was a Hall man and I could invite guests, which I quickly did, for my late Father (TH 1896), my son Philip (TH 1967) and grandson William Staunton (TH 1991) were also Hall men, and it seemed appropriate that we should all celebrate together.

I came from Eton to the Hall in 1937 to read Art and Architecture. Here I met many friends. Some were killed in the war, others survived, but we all found ourselves, when war was declared, obliged to join the Forces. I volunteered for the Navy on the day war was declared as my Father had served in the RNVR in the Kaiser’s War. As the Navy had no vacancy, we all joined the Cambridge OTC, where we even manned a defence post at Oakington when invasion was thought to be imminent.

My Father had been a cox, and I too followed in his footsteps and coxed the Clinker Fours, when Lancelot Fleming was our coach, and succeeded in beating Corpus II, Queens’ I and Selwyn in 1937.

As I awaited my call up I had time to obtain my BA degree, after which I served as a sapper landing with the advance guard of my Field Squadron of Guards Armoured Division in Normandy on Day + 14.

After I was discharged I again joined the Hall to obtain my architectural qualifications, by which time I was married to the daughter of the famous Norwich architect, George Skipper.

To the Hall I owe much, and hope that there may be future generations of my family at the College.

Will Staunton (TH 1991)
As a seventeen year old school boy wondering what to do next, the notion of continuing a family dynasty at Trinity Hall was pretty far from my thoughts. In fact for sometime I had been absolutely determined to apply to Wye College (London University) to read Agricultural Business Management, against all advice from my teachers and parents. During an open day at Wye, I sought the advice of one of the lecturers who benignly counselled me in the broader benefits a Cambridge degree would give me!

Having now decided to apply to Cambridge, Trinity Hall seemed the obvious choice. This was not just due to my uncle, grandfather and great grandfather having been at the Hall but also due to its unique character, location and academic credentials.

I matriculated in 1991 reading Land Economy. In common with virtually all of you reading this article, spending three years at Trinity Hall proved to be an excellent decision. I made many good friends and enjoyed the broad academic nature of my course (it’s not all colouring tractors!). I also met my beloved wife Su in the JCR at a freshers’ bop at the start of my third year. I graduated with a first (with distinction) initially to pursue a career as a Chartered surveyor.

After attending the recent dinner for my grandfather at the Hall I was spurred into renewing old friendships. As a result Richard Proudlove (TH 1991 mathematician) came to stay. Whilst sitting in the garden our eldest son Jamie (5 years old) was heard to ask him what number comes before infinity. The reply was not heard for Richard’s choking on his lager, but he did say that perhaps the dynasty at the Hall is not over yet!
THREE BILLION AND STILL COUNTING...

In an unoccupied moment, Jack Lindsay (TH 1952) took the opportunity to work out that on Sunday 19 February 2008, Dr Shaun Wylie, Fellow in Mathematics from 1937 to 1958, member of the Enigma code-breaking team at Bletchley, and Honorary Fellow from 1980, was to celebrate his 3 billionth second!

To commemorate this auspicious occasion, a small party of family and friends gathered at Wychfield where a Ginkgo Biloba has been planted in honour of Shaun Wylie, celebrated in a poem Malcolm Wylie (TH 1967) wrote for his father.

AFGHANISTAN – A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON SOME DAUNTING CHALLENGES

Going to Afghanistan in January 2002 after my first short visit in 1971, I found a country transformed from one with lush grape fields to a land almost totally devoid of greenery. It had gone from a country where girls aspired to be medical doctors to one where girls were deprived of even basic education. In late 2001, Afghanistan emerged as a state that was devastated without many parallels in modern history. The twenty five years of conflict brought on from outside the country and the internal fighting among the warlords, including six years of Taliban rule, had left the country with a heavily destroyed physical infrastructure. The Afghanistan that I saw in 2002, albeit only in the villages neighboring Kabul, was one with high levels of poverty – some have characterized the country as being closer to the 16th century than the 21st; such was the level of devastation.

Since 2002 and the last time that I was in Afghanistan in 2007, there has been much progress on the development front but unfortunately the security situation has been on a downhill track. For example, some of the visible changes that one noticed were the fields around Kabul, which had been heavily mined, had been cleared and were now covered with grape vines. The road from Kunduz in the north to Kabul that I travelled in 2005 is well paved, better than in many South Asian countries. Afghanistan’s perennial horticulture was once again back with plenty of high quality fruits. The satellite dish made from spare metal parts that I had seen in the outskirts of Kabul in 2002 receiving television channels from Pakistan had been replaced by a proper satellite dish receiving multiple channels.

On a more formal stocktaking, 6 million children are now in primary and secondary education compared to the few hundred thousand under the Taliban. In 2001, UNICEF was debating on how to educate girls who had been barred from going to school by the Taliban and had to rely on the few home schools that existed. By 2007, 35 percent of the children in schools were girls. Five million Afghan refugees have returned and 12,200 km of roads have been rehabilitated. Three rounds of elections have been held – though there is much more to having a truly democratic state than holding elections. There has been a smooth transition to a new and revalued currency. In 2001, the dominant method of moving money around the country was the ‘hawala’ system (cash transfers by money lenders in the informal economy). Now, slowly and gradually the banking system is supplanting it.

But many daunting challenges remain – foremost of which is security. The
international security forces that we worked with repeatedly emphasized that security cannot be achieved by military means alone. The lack of employment opportunities not only leads to poverty but is also a security threat and the Taliban continues to make its presence felt, particularly in the south. But in the north and west, life is more peaceful. However, only two of the country’s 34 provinces are completely clear of mines and though there is an elected national assembly, an effective parliamentary democracy will take a much longer time. We debated at great length on whether the informal system of justice through the traditional ‘shuras’ (people’s councils), with all its deficiencies in upholding human and women’s rights but still being the only widespread system on the ground, should be relied upon in the short-term in the absence of a formal system. The government is heavily reliant on international aid and grant assistance given a low economic base for generating tax revenue and limited or virtually no access to loans and private capital. The lack of national capacities has often resulted in international aid being spent on expensive international consultants and advisors often times with questionable impact. Cutting across all the challenges is the narcotics industry, which is a formidable threat to the country but one on which many farmers and poor workers depend on even though they receive a very small fraction of the money that poppy generates for the traffickers and drug lords. It is estimated that poppy production accounted for 50% of Afghanistan’s licit GDP and 30% of its total GDP in 2004. The returns to poppy cultivation are much higher than any other crop, which makes it difficult to design an effective strategy that can counter the narcotics threat in the short-term. These challenges have now been compounded by the global food crisis.

WAHEED’S JOURNEY

Waheed Mustafa (TH 2003) closes his eyes and thinks of his childhood in Kabul. A wild flower that smells like a lily comes to mind, as does dribbling a ball around sandy market stalls in 42 degrees of heat. His school – Amani High in Kabul – would be open one month and closed the next. “Everything would be normal, then out of nowhere there would be a rocket attack and we would run indoors,” he says.

Afghanistan at that time – the early 1990s – had suffered a bloody civil war and a Soviet invasion, resulting in chaos and corruption.

Mustafa’s parents and teachers were determined that the war would not rob him of an education, and so he was taken to makeshift classrooms in Kabul market for extra lessons in English, computing, typing and his favourite – martial arts. “My family were very fond of education. They wanted me to take advantage of any opportunity to learn,” he says. Quite how conscientiously his son would take their words on board would later be revealed.

On arrival in England, Mustafa went to stay with a family friend in Hammersmith, West London. He had made up his mind at 10 to be a doctor, struck by the “tremendous importance of medicine in a country where there were few medical resources to save lives and alleviate the suffering”. At 16, he chose A-levels in maths, physics, chemistry, biology and psychology. To do all five he had to flit between three colleges, making several tube journeys a day and leaving early from one class and arriving late at the next.

At this time, his younger brother Khalid, then 12, came to join Mustafa in England. So Mustafa took a part-time sales job for British Gas and somehow managed to combine that with his studies to help support them both.

And so it was that, with five A’s, he took up a place to study medicine at Trinity Hall. His tutors recognised how special Mustafa was, describing him as “exceptionally bright” and “a top applicant, not even counting his circumstances”. Dr Nick Bampos, his personal tutor, says: “Mustafa is a remarkable young man. While clearly bright, he had not only to worry about doing all the things that students his age were doing in Cambridge, and studying for one of the toughest degrees in the University, but also trying to be a ‘parent’ for his younger brother in London. Those who interviewed him were able to see someone who would one day make a fantastic doctor.”

On top of his other commitments, he became president of the Afghan Society and set up a similar group for his compatriots across the UK. His aim was to try to help Afghans who lacked support and direction. Despite considerable constraints on his time, he has kept the group going. “I try to find anyone who is from Afghanistan,” he says. “I answer any questions they have to do with their studies and, if I have time, I try to help them choose the right university course and explain the university admissions process.” Was he lonely staying in student digs during the holidays when everyone else was at home with their families? “I got used to staying in College throughout the year. The international students would get together during the holidays and I was very fortunate to be at Trinity Hall, where the environment was so friendly – I always felt like a family member.”

One day Mustafa hopes to make a difference in his homeland. “It’s important to think of long-term goals. I will be honoured one day to contribute in any way I can in the rebuilding of my country of birth.”
The Annual Dinner for 2007 was held in Hall on 22 September and was splendidly well attended, with a notable contingent once again from the late 1990s onwards. The assembled company was treated to an inspirational speech from the President, Sarah Webbe quoted her young daughter, being shown Trinity Hall for the first time, as saying “It’s not very big, is it?”, to which Sarah added: “We may not be very big, but our influence in the world is huge.” Prolonged acclamation ensued. At moments like these the affection for our College is palpable.

The AGM was held immediately before dinner, or more strictly before pre-dinner drinks, having been moved from its traditional July date. Members attended in black tie and evening dress, lending a notably stylish and amiable tone to proceedings which, no doubt with the prospect of drinks in view, were conducted at a brisk pace and no less constructively for that. It was agreed by all that the experiment of moving the AGM to the dinner date had been a success, and we shall keep it that way.

The Committee had decided not to hold a London Event in 2008, but to branch out for the first time and hold an event in a region other than London or Cambridge. First choice fell to the Midlands, where there is a substantial population of alumni, and the plan was to hold a reception in Birmingham preceded, for those who were interested, by a go-karting event at the excellent track nearby. For reasons not yet clear, but which will be researched carefully, this plan did not attract sufficient numbers; so the event was converted instead into a private dinner for some 19 members, guests, and representatives of the College at the Opus restaurant in Birmingham. Speaking about the dinner the President said:

“[It] proved a most convivial gathering, proving yet again that if you put some Trinity Hall alumni together the result is always interesting but very likely to be entertaining, amusing and instructive too. People left asking when we could do it again – the mark of a good evening.”

There is no doubt that alumni welcome this attempt to reach out to them, especially those who seldom if ever attend events in Cambridge or London. We shall learn from the Birmingham experience and continue to hold gatherings in different parts of the country over the years ahead.

In 2009 there will once again be a London Event, and we have gone for a ‘big drawcard’ venue in the form of the House of Lord’s which, through the kind sponsorship of Lord Howe (TH 1948), has been booked for 15 May next year. Please note the date for this exciting occasion now!

There have been, and will be, a number of significant changes this year. Martin Williams (TH 1966), our Financial Officer, has been involved with the THA in one capacity or another since the 1970s, and understandably feels that he has earned his ticket of leave, deciding to stand down this year. His contribution both as Financial Officer in recent years and in all kinds of other ways, notably in influencing the new structure for the THA Committee, cannot be overstated. We shall miss him hugely on the Committee and wish him an exceedingly well-earned rest.

Barry Lewis (TH 1959), having retired as Secretary after 30 years, remained a member of the Committee for a further three years, but he too will be standing down at the next AGM, and likewise will be greatly missed.

Martin Williams

Barry Lewis

Dr Marina Terkourafi
Marina Terkourafi (TH 1996) will also be retiring as member representing the Grads, and we thank her too for her enthusiastic support of the Association.

Meantime, Chris Angus (TH 1967) and Michael Womack (TH 1966) have already been co-opted. They will bring much to the Committee and we welcome them most warmly.

THE ‘VISIBILITY’ OF THE THA
The Committee has been seeking ways to make the existence and purpose of the Association more apparent to members of the College. Sarah Webbe writes elsewhere in this article about the ‘THA Awards’ that the Association has instituted this year. The observant will hopefully have spotted a handsome THA notice-board outside the Porters’ Lodge, the first time we have had a permanent space of this kind. And we now make a practice of sponsoring the pre-dinner drinks at the Graduands’ Dinner in late June, emphasising that students are automatically members for life, and for free! In such ways, little by little, we hope to build up an awareness that the Association is part of what it means to have been at the Hall, and something that lasts for ever.

THA AWARDS
The Trinity Hall Association has made four inaugural THA Awards under its new bursary scheme announced last year. The scheme was devised by the THA to stand alongside the College travel awards but specifically to support or enable participation in projects of humanitarian or community benefit in the UK or overseas. The awards are open to all current students but the majority of applications this year were from undergraduates and four have been successful in this year’s round. Over the coming summer, Henriette Guyard, a second year anthropologist, will join a women’s education project in Senegal. Fergal McCool, a second year engineer, is volunteering on a school building programme, also in Senegal. Tom Barlow, a third year engineer, is taking on a water provision project in northern Thailand and Shona Chan, a second year medic, is working in a remote health clinic in Nepal. All will write up their experiences in a formal report to the THA on their return.

THA President Sarah Webbe (TH 1981) commented:

“We are hugely encouraged by the number and variety of public-spirited and interesting proposals we received this year. Clearly, the idea of doing something useful in society appeals to the student body in Trinity Hall. These projects stood out in terms of scope, preparation and potential to make a real contribution to the communities they will serve. We look forward to hearing how they get on.”

The THA, your alumni organisation, exists to enhance the wider community of Trinity Hall. All members of College are now automatically members of the Association, for free, from matriculation. The THA Awards are one of a number of initiatives for current student members supported by the THA.

Sarah Webbe (THA President) and Colin Hayes (THA Secretary) can be contacted through the College Alumni Office.
THA AGM

The THA AGM will take place on Saturday 27 September at 6.30pm. Proxy forms will be sent to everyone with email before this date, but if you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact the Alumni Office on 01223 332 567.

Website
All the details of College events will be posted on the College website (www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events.asp) along with information for booking places and provisional guest lists. It is also a useful way of finding out what is happening in College, as there is a regularly updated News and Events section keeping alumni and students informed.

2008

26–28 September  University Alumni Weekend
27 September  Year Reps Conference
THA AGM & Annual Dinner in Cambridge (Alumni & Guest)
The THA AGM will take place before the Annual Dinner at 6.30pm
7 October  Michaelmas Term commences
13 October  TH Forum: The Business of Fairtrade with Harriet Lamb (TH 1979)
16 October  Organ Recital by Andrew Arthur – Music by Buxtehude and Bach
22 October  Leslie Stephen Lecture by Claire Tomalin
22 November  Milestone Lecture
Trinity Hall and Cambridge in the 21st Century – Effectiveness as the By-word
Professor Michael Kelly, Trinity Hall Professorial Fellow
5 December  Michaelmas Term Ends

2009

13 January  Lent Term Commences
26 January  TH Forum: Engineering as art and design with Dr Chris Williams
2 February  Commemoration of Benefactors
13 March  Lent Term Ends
21 March  MA Congregation and Reunion for undergraduates who matriculated in 2002
21 April  Easter-Term Commences
11 May  TH Forum: Constitutional Court of Bosnia with Professor David Feldman
15 May  THA London Event at the House of Lord’s
10–13 June  May Bumps
12 June  Easter-Term Ends
17 June  June Event
25 June  General Admissions (‘Degree Day’)
27 June  Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 1958, 1959 & 1960
September  THA Event in Lanercost, Cumbria
25–27 September  University Alumni Weekend
26 September  Year Reps Conference
THA AGM & Annual Dinner in Cambridge
A Northern Event

Following the THA's (then the University) tour to manganese mines in the North Staffordshire area last year, we are now organizing an event for those living in the North of England and the Scottish Borders (and even further afield). The event will be planned for Summer/Autumn 2009. It is hoped that Lanercost Priory in North Cumbria, a stones throw from Hadrian’s Wall, will be part of the itinerary. The Priory was founded as an Augustinian monastery in 1169 and has a somewhat chequered and colourful history, including a six month period in the early 14th century when Edward I had it stratified and converted it into a fortress and became the effective seat of English government. The nave of the Priory church still functions as a spectacular church for a very rural parish. The nave of the Dacre Hall, built in the early 15th century, was for many years, home to a branch of the Dacre family before becoming a rather magnificent medieval village hall. Both the hall and the church look out on a spectacular view of the romantic ruins of the rest of the Priory church still functions as a spectacular church for a very rural parish. The nave of the Dacre Hall, built in the early 15th century, was for many years, home to a branch of the Dacre family before becoming a rather magnificent medieval village hall. Both the hall and the church look out on a spectacular view of the romantic ruins of the Priory. Lanercost is just north of the Wall and the wonderful countryside of the North of England and the Scottish Borders. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and find out a bit more of its history. It promises to be a really good evening in a wonderful venue, and the Priory looks to be a fantastic setting to explore the Priory and
Dr Andrew Murray Staff Fellow in Natural Sciences (Biological) and Oxford University. Dr Murray is a lecturer in the Department of Neurophysiology, where he studies brain and spinal-cord cells to determine physiological stimuli. Last spring he was a research group at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research to understand spasticity in people with spinal-cord injuries. His recent research suggested that spinal-cord injury subjects are at a 60% likelihood to develop motor function, indicating new treatments that might help.

Institute of European History in Mainz a postdoctoral researcher at Oxford and St Florence. He comes to the Hall from the University Institute in Geneva for four years. His primary academic interest is world trade law, though he has a special interest in the Caribbean and Pacific countries in their development and neuroscience, where he studied brain and spinal-cord cells to determine physiological stimuli. Last spring he was a research group at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research to understand spasticity in people with spinal-cord injuries. His recent research suggested that spinal-cord injury subjects are at a 60% likelihood to develop motor function, indicating new treatments that might help.

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ABOUT FRONT COURT
Front Court is an informal publication produced once a year to keep members up to date with what is happening in College and amongst our alumni. If you have any suggestions for the next issue (summer 2009), please contact the Editors. All our publications are now available as pdf files from our website www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications.asp
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