Summer of Vintage Reunion

On 4 July, more than 120 members attended a truly ‘vintage’ reunion weekend in College. They were representatives of the most senior matriculation years, the earliest being 1922 up to 1946. The depth of memories and friendships renewed, coupled with the strength of attachments to an old college which they had attended 50, 60 and 70 years ago, created an memorable and emotive occasion.

In paying tribute to this vintage gathering, the Master commented: “This must be one of the best attended Reunion Dinners ever. It is certainly the best attended of all that have been held during my Mastership. Thin is the line more gratifying with so many rival attractions, including Henley, Wimbledon and the World Cup. And there would have been others here, if they had not been committed elsewhere or prevented from attending for other reasons.

That you are here in such numbers bears eloquent testimony, not only to the vigorous longevity of the more senior of you, but also to the affection and loyalty that you all feel towards your College. Many who could not come feel the same loyalty, of course.

The present Reunion Dinner is also remarkable for its chronological spread. Every matriculation year between 1923 and 1946 is represented, excepting four. Great though the changes are that have taken place between the early 20s and the mid 40s and, then again, between the mid 40s and the late 50s, in the College as in the wider world, they have left untouched the essence of what the College stands for: its ethos, and the intellectual and spiritual values it seeks to defend and propagate.

As for the physical environment, I feel sure that, in this respect too, Trinity Hall still looks and feels like the College you knew as students.”

Further coverage of the occasion continues on page 3.

Passing Milestones

At the time of going to press in September 1998, The Milestones Campaign had reached a tally of £7,277,780.

The College is most grateful to all donors for helping to make such good progress. A new list of Milestones Campaign benefactors is included in this issue.

Further coverage of the campaign and related developments can be found on pages 6 and 7.

Anyone for Hockey!

Six members who played in the successful Cappers’ hockey side in 1946 were reunited at the event on 4 July and sat for this photograph. They are (from left to right, standing) Dr Peter Thomson FRCP, D’Arcy O'Donel MBE, Brian Wyle (Senior Treasurer), Alan Grieve (at seat) (seated) Donald Spark, Stanley Bushell and Professor Henry Kay CBE, Ramon Alborga QC (sitting, right) played in the 1946/47 side.

Newest Addition to Pantheon of Libraries in Cambridge: “After 11 months of work ... scaffolding has been removed ... ready for students to take up occupation. The arrival of the New Library at Trinity Hall as a ‘worthy contribution to the world famous Cambridge riverscape’ is now about to be fulfilled.”

Turn to page 5 for reports on progress of the library project.
Senior Tutor’s Annual Review

In some ways it has been a difficult year, with an edgy ‘phony-war’ quality, as we awaited government decisions about the college’s fate. Although the broad position is now known, it is still unclear exactly how much money will be available to the College after the next academic year and on what conditions.

Beneficiaries have enabled us to make strides in offering support to students of limited means and in safeguarding the future of our Research Fellowships for young academics, but the core activities of the Tutorial side of the College are not protected if public funding is removed. Maybe it is appropriate that we should have to review our teaching and pastoral role as the millennium approaches, but much that we have taken for granted and held dear may be at risk.

As Senior Tutor and a historian to boot, perhaps I am over-sensitive to the longer-term implications of financial change. Looking at the College on a day-to-day basis, things seem very much as usual. If Trinity Hall was ranked a little lower in the Tompkins Table - seventh as opposed to sixth last year - the proportion of firsts was similar (and indeed not much different from 1995 when we were ranked 21st). It was an annus mirabilis for English with nine of the 14 candidates gaining firsts and coming top of the Tripos in both Part I and Part II, a magnificent achievement for both the students and their teachers. The College headed the class lists in Part II Philosophy, Part II Materials Science and Metallurgy (a pleasing continuation of the strength heralded by Michael Stobbs), Part III Electrical and Information Sciences and Part I Social and Political Sciences. We are also proud of the much sought after Chaucer and Kennedy Scholarships, won by two of our finalists. Of course firsts are not everything; I remain impressed by the seriousness of purpose of all our students. They play hard - witness the zestful production of Guys and Dolls in the Lent Term, the commitment to RAG and the seemingly ineradicable enthusiasm for sport - but they also work hard.

One of the greatest pleasures of the year has been to see the New Library take shape. It looks wonderful and is on schedule for completion in October. The unfortunate denizens of P and Q staircases have shown scanty forbearance as building work has gone on around them throughout their first year and we have all missed the Latham Court in what passed for summer. Without a doubt it will all have been worthwhile. Dr Sandra Rubin

Singed Out

The following students won University or other external prizes during the year:

Alan Rempel, Sinisa Stjepic and Jine-Huei Wu were awarded J T Knight Prizes for postgraduate essays in Mathematics.

Dan Stark was the Chemos Reading Prize for readings in Anglo-Saxon.

Simon Colton gained a mention tria bini during an exchange year from the Law Faculty with Poitiers. He took the same course in the French, in French and came first in his year out of 400.

Anna Henry, the Gordon Duff Prize

Alan Hewitt, the Greathouse Prize in Pathology.

Harriet James, the Members’ Classical Essay Prize.

Duncan Alexander, the Goldsmith’s Prize & Medal

Dan Crichlow, the Ricardo Prize in Thermodynamics.

Anthony Glaser, the Charles Lamb Prize

Dan Wakelin, the Martin Chadwick Prize and the Austin Dobson Prize.

Adam Johnson, the George Long Prize for Roman Law and the E C S Wade Prize for Administrative Law.

Tristan Stuart, the Bertha Wolfson Rylands Prize.

Chapel Choir Tunes Up in US

This summer the Chapel Choir undertook its most ambitious tour to date - a concert tour of central Virginia and Washington DC. The tour was managed by Organ Scholar, William Villiers and Richard Quason, with accommodation and local arrangements generously being provided by the Virginia Choral Society. Furnished with a generous donation from the College and the Trinity Hall Association, and the proceeds of a successful fund-raising concert in High Wycombe Parish Church, the Choir arrived in time for the Fourth of July celebrations. They performed their first concert at Brunswick Parish Church, as part of Williamburg’s summer concert series, and then were the prime ‘feature’ at Yorktown’s Independence Day celebrations. A flypast and fireworks show immediately followed their performance. They sang a morning Eucharist service at Hampton Parish Church and were fortunate enough to take part in a joint concert with Virginia Choral Society at the Christopher Newport University. On the last leg of the tour - amid sight-seeing trips in Washington DC - they also performed a concert at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, and were featured in a local television documentary.

Next year, the Choir is planning an expedition to Northern Scotland.

Our Year Rep on Broadway

Earlier this year, Simon Jones enlisted as Year Rep for 1989. A familiar ‘face’ on stage and (TV) screen, he explains how, nearly 20 years after matriculating, he is now making his name on Broadway:

"My arrival as an undergraduate at Trinity Hall was marked by two simple acts of rebellion, neither of which went entirely unpunished. Great Uncle Fred wrote to say that he hoped I would choose to read Law - "an altogether satisfactory profession." As my interview, I secretly hoped, John Collier smoked me out in no time: "I have no reason to believe," he said, "that you have any inclination, desire, or even aptitude to read Law. Don't do it unless you like every other time. Go and read English."" 

Canzon Nathaniel Woodard had been dead for at least 70 years when Graham Streit took me under his wing to read English. Nonetheless, the words of the great Victorian divine and educator had been carved in granite on the wall of my school, if not on my brain: "Never play the hero...seek to pass through life without attracting the eyes of men and neither seek nor depend on their praises.""

My decision to plunge into the world of Cambridge Theatre, to the extent of appearing in no less than 22 productions in three years, must have seemed like a calculated insinu to the ex-Canzon’s expectated shade.

He let me go through the ritual: regional repertory in exotic places like Crewe and Derby, a career in the West End, a stint with the RSC. He chose not to interfere when I appeared in Brideshead Revisited or The Hitch-hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy. He allowed me to transfer my activities to New York, permitting many Broadway appearances, including a stint opposite Joan Collins in Private Lives which in and of itself must have seemed to him something like justice.

In fact, he left me pretty well alone until this year, when I appeared in the Broadway run of The Herbal Bed - winner of last year’s Olivier Award as Best Play in London and seemingly a sure bet for New York. Then he made his move. I see now that he made me obey his instructions to the letter. Far from being a "hero", I played a villain. The producer, anxious to maximise, spent virtually nothing on publicity: "The eyes of men" were anything but "attracted" to a theatre with no posters outside. Not only did we not "seek" the "praises" of the critics - we positively assayed them, and even though there were a few perversely good notices, the producers, panic-stricken, chose not to "depend" on them, even as a last resort. We closed in nine days - a bona fide Broadway experience.

A moral? A man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do, but given a choice, it’s always best to avoid giving offence to rich uncles and, more particularly, dead conglomerates. The utmost reach of their punching arms is farther than one could ever imagine.

Taylor Travel Awards

Fen and Hugh Taylor are American brothers whose father gave them the opportunity to study at Trinity Hall at the beginning of the 1960s. Now they have established annual travel awards to attract Trinity Hall students to set up work experience programs in the United States during the summer vacation.

This summer’s Taylor grants were awarded to:

Guy Carling, to investigate restructuring among biotech companies in Silicon Valley.

Sophie Fawcett, for a placement at the Smithsonian Institute to assist her investigations into the character of national portrait collections.

Rhyt Jones, to conduct a mapping project in eastern Arizona, linked with a copper-mining company.

Christopher James Trust

The Trust, established by Mrs Jane James in memory of her late husband, Christopher James (1961), has awarded bursaries to four students at the College in the past two years. In addition, after interviewing candidates in the spring, the Trustees made the following awards for vacation projects this summer:

James Whiteburn, to undertake a course in Arabic Law studies at the American University in Cairo.

Simon Halliwell, to assist with a placement in a French Law firm.

Thanks to several new awards - among them the Sid Swindells Award, the John Green Award, and a number of "Milestones Awards" awarded after individual donors and members underwrite financial need can now be helped at a crucial time in their career.

Concern for undergraduates funding, see page 7
Thanks for the Reunion

1920s and 1930s

1940s to 1946

The College received many glowing compliments from members who attended the second Reunion Dinner of the year, for all those who matriculated during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, up to 1946. Here is a selection of their comments:

"I was particularly impressed with the visit to the Wychfield site which I had not seen before. The architecture, the mature background, the sunken garden all fitted in to give a worthy 25th century whole, in no way inferior to the main (College) buildings in central Cambridge."

"We all appreciated being fortunate enough to enjoy the privileges of membership of the Hall and the spirit of "family" was very much in evidence during the service in Chapel."

"There is always a note of sadness when one thinks of those who whom one shared so much, but who are no longer with us, but one also has the sense of a great tradition being carried forward."

"It was the most enjoyable of the reunions I have attended. The College staff deserve a medal for the enterprise, indeed gallantry, with which they conjured up our dinner in portakabins."

"Being a junior (1946) at the function gave an enormous boost to my morale at age 44!"

"This was a very special occasion during which cherished memories and friendships were renewed."

"...if I did not accept the invitation on this occasion, there might not be another opportunity to go to another - in light of my advancing years. The fact that there were so many of many earlier years than mine gave the lie to that. I now look forward to June/July 2006!"

Sixty Years On

Reading College publications and the ‘My Time at Cambridge’ pieces in Gav magazine makes me realize how much more immature we were when we came up. We referred to ourselves as men (there were no women except at Newnham and Girton) but really we were merely older boys. No doubt there were exceptions: I regarded myself as one of them because, on getting a place at Trinity Hall in December 1937, I had gone off to Germany (nominaly attached to Bogn University to read chemistry, travelled by train over quite a large part of Germany and Austria, down to Budapest by boat, and attended the last Nazi party rally in Nuremberg before coming up to the Hall in October 1938.

As pupils, our tastes were entitled to and did supervene our general behaviour and activities. We had to spend 60 nights in college each term if we spent a night away it had to be made up. There was a dance hall named The Rex, better known as ‘The Randy’, which was one of the few places that does such a concept now exist! If one returned to College after 10.00 pm it was recorded by the duty porter. If I came in too often after 10.00 pm, my tutor would tell me so. Some avoided this by climbing in.

Most undergraduates had an "allowance" of about £300 per year, made up from their parents, and scholarships and grants. In fact I gave tuition during the summer of 1939 to supplement this, staying with the family because my parents were abroad. The poorer undergraduates managed on £250 per year and the wealthier ones, such as my friend Edward Carson (sadly now dead, the son of the great advocate and later a Lord of Appeal), had £500 per year. He used to be visited in his room by London tailors, shirt-makers and bookmakers: this was utterly novel to me but I did have a bow tie for 7/6d which I still have!

Freshmen used to be bombarded by officers of the various clubs to join – notably Trinity Hall, the Boat Club and Law Society. Since 1 was reading Natural Sciences and was keen on athletics, I joined neither. My tutor, the robustable Dr (later Sir) Owen Wrambrough-Jones (known affectionately as ‘Wagner’), was also my supervisor.

He was the Senior Tutor and a man of great influence and popularity. Many of us owe him a huge debt. Wagner set out to educate us fully. I remember listening in his rooms to Monard and Baysley, played on a large gramophone with triangular-cut wooden needles, and we held discussions on wines, the rescue of Jews, the importance of Niels Bohr, and much more besides. Trinity Hall was, I think, exceptionally fortunate in its Fellows – Lancelot Fleming (later Bishop of Portsmouth and Dean of Windsor), Lionel Elvin (later Director, Institute of Education and happily still with us), Charles Cravely, Tom Ellis-Loew (known everywhere as ‘Ted’) and Charles Angus amongst others. The last named, a classical scholar, opened his rooms at midnight until about 4.00 am to all of us for general intellectual discussion on the Classics and the provision of beer. Many of us just drank the beer, but listened. It was a one such session that the epigramm "If you go to the Bar you will tend to be one-eyed, but if you also read Law you will merely be blind” became indelibly etched on my mind.

So, after a wonderfully happy first year, the War came and, gradually, nearly all undergraduates left. After service in the Royal Artillery, I was lucky enough to return in September 1945 and read Law. It was a different place. My best friend had been killed in action (as had my younger brother and my father). Only few of us had been up before the War and we were spoilt, being given our own rooms and not sharing as everyone else did.

I entered the "Hour Glass", a debating society, and got my degree. Now, returning to Cambridge, I realise again what a hugely different place it is – and rightly so. In 1938, we tried to find for ourselves. Now I read of the many activities of the JCR, which helps everyone get even more out of the huge privilege of being up at Cambridge. No doubt we were more affluent, but it is wrong to think that we were all from public schools: that is not true. I remember "Wagner" telling me the intake of one of my students was made up of "one-third bright, one-third interesting and one-third nice". A good mix! I doubt whether the undergraduates now (almost half of them women) are fundamentally different, but inevitably they are less well off.

At any rate, I can never forget the benefit and pleasure I acquired and my debt to Cambridge and Trinity Hall.

Bookshelf

- First-hand observations of Chile during its bitter conflicts of the 1970s and 80s, and the struggle to restore democratic government, is provided by John Hixson's Chile: A Country at War (1982) which looks at the Salt of the Earth - A Portrait of Chile, published this September by C Hurst & Co., 38 King Street, London WC2B 6JZ, tel 07173402666, at £19.95.

- Isaiah Wolf (1979) has published her first novel, a romantic comedy, based on a column that she has had in the Daily Telegraph, "Tiffany Trot's Dating Diary". The novel is about "a woman with a mission - but just not quite sure what it is..."

- The Trials of Tiffany Trot, Harper Collins, £6.99

- Charles Lewis (1952) and his son, Kenji, have published a photographic study of six urban villages in South Delhi, singled out for the historic interest of the 14th and 15th century monuments in their Laxmi Chowk, the villages themselves.

- Delhi's Historic Villages, Seagam Books, Brunelfield Street, London E1 6RN, £25.95
South East Asia Tour

Kuala Lumpur, where a dinner was held at The Bankers Club for some 25 members and guests, including Tun Ismail bin Mohdali (1938), the senior member present. Decorative local arrangements were made by Mrs Shalini Amsingst Afai (1981), with the active support of her husband, Dennis Ganeendr (also 1984).

In Singapore, a reception was held in the spectacularly refurbished Raffles Hotel where a large number of members, guests, medical friends of Sir Roy and members of the business community, joined the Deputy Prime Minister, Brigidger Huen Loong Lee (Trinity 1979), representing his father, the Senior Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, who had relayed taking his supervisions at Trinity Hall during the 1940s.

During his visit to Hong Kong, Professor & Lady Calne and Douglas QC attended on 4 June at two dinner parties. The first was at the Braemar Club in honor of the Chinese government's elected by an electoral college of 400 members hand-picked by Beijing. After years of economic growth, Hong Kong people find it difficult to adjust to the harsh reality. The last was one of the many controversial measures passed by the puppet provisional legislation which was put in place when the Chinese took over in July 1997. Elections were finally held on 24 May this year to choose the first SAR Legislative Council. The election system was tailor-made at the behest of Mr. Tung to entrench the pro-Beijing sector. Almost 1.5 million people, or a historic 53% of the registered voters, turned out to vote. The voters, however, can only vote for one-third of the 60 (i.e. 20) members of the council of which the SAR government that it would cost Hong Kong a further decline of its GDP by 9.5% this year. Before the Chinese takeover, concerns had been expressed about the erosion of civil liberties and the rule of law The SAR government's recent refusal to prosecute the official New China News Agency (NCNA) Hong Kong Branch and its proprietor for corruption charges sparked off speculation that the new government or individuals who are close to Beijing or Chief Executive Tung will be similarly favoured. There was uproar in the legal and human rights community last April when Chapter 1 of the Laws of Hong Kong was amended to accord to NCNA a status above the law.

So Far (Not) So Good

The financial downturn, Hong Kong was hit by a series of crises, the bird flu scare leading to a mass slaughter of poultry and other food hygiene problems, all traceable to a lack of coherent public health policy, was but one of them. The problem-plagued opening of the Chek Lap Kok airport on the first anniversary of handover was a culmination of the problems. Costing HK$30 billion (US$3.8 billion) to build, the malfunctioning of the world's most expensive airport and of its air-cargo handling facilities (vital to Hong Kong trade) became an international humiliation. It is estimated by the SAR government that it would cost Hong Kong a further decline of its GDP by 9.5% this year. Before the Chinese takeover, concerns had been expressed about the erosion of civil liberties and the rule of law. The SAR government's recent refusal to prosecute the official New China News Agency (NCNA) Hong Kong Branch and its proprietor for corruption charges sparked off speculation that any organisation or individuals who are close to Beijing or Chief Executive Tung will be similarly favoured. There was uproar in the legal and human rights community last April when Chapter 1 of the Laws of Hong Kong was amended to accord to NCNA a status above the law.

Honour for Germany

When Chancellor Kohl of Germany visited Cambridge in June to receive an Honorary Degree from the University, he was met by Dr. Peter Hutchison, Director of Studies in Modern Languages at Trinity Hall, who acted as interpreter. He is pictured (centre) with Chancellor Kohl and Roger Paulin, Scholar Professor of German at the Honorary Degree Ceremony at which HRH The Duke of Edinburgh officiated in his capacity as University Chancellor. Dr. Hutchison was himself awarded a Cambridge Littl later in the summer.
Landmark in College History as New Library Opens

The happy, friendly and busy place to be - from river level to attic pc space

Trinity Hall is famous for its 16th century Elizabethan Old Library, often described as the rarest and best surviving example in the country. Now, with the completion of its New Library project, the College seems certain to add another fine example to the pantheon of libraries in Cambridge.

After 11 months of work, the scaffolding has been removed and builders are completing interior finishings ready for students to take up occupation during the Michaelmas Term. The Master’s description of the library plan as a “worthy contribution to the world famous Cambridge rivercape” is now being fulfilled.

The work has proved a tricky feat of engineering and building skills. At times, builders had to work while standing in the river. Materials, including massive oak timbers and handmade bricks and roof tiles, have had to be carried along Garret Hostel Lane or transported on trolleys. There are three different roof pitches and slay walls with 60 degree angles.

“The Fellow Librarian, Dr Peter Hutchinson, is enthusiastic about the New Library and eagerly awaits its coming into service this autumn.

“Our students actually seem to like studying alongside each other, and never have I seen our existing library spaces used as intensively as in the recent Easter Term. For years, we have enjoyed the image of being a “small, friendly College, and as doubt we continue to attract friendly types who relish working silently in each other’s company (just as much as they enjoy pursuing other activities with them elsewhere).”

“I am confident that the New Library will become just as happy, friendly and, ideally, as busy a place. That will be the best test of its success.”

ARCHITECT’S GUIDE

The architect, Tristan Rees Roberts (1967), summarises what the New Library will provide for its users.

Entrance Hall
At the entrance, formed from the former entrance into Q maincase, there are four routes to library rooms, and it houses the Librarian’s office, a photocopy room and toilets.

The first doorway leads to the Reading Room, slowly completed in the earlier building phase, containing 24 reading spaces and 7,000 books, and beyond that, to the seminar rooms in P maincase, with 16 reading spaces and 2,500 books. The old Q maincase leads up to the third library level, and there are two short flights of steps leading up or down to levels one and two.

Level One
This floor is close to river level (its window seats are just above the 1947 flood level) and it will house 16 reading spaces and 6,000 books.

Level Two
This floor has space for 24 readers, with views of the river from its two window seats, and 6,000 books.

Level Three
This is the top level of the main library and there are wonderful views out onto the backs.

Level Four
The Law library here has the best views of all, and houses an attic room with space for 27 readers and 3,000 books.

Attic Computer Room
Above the law library, walking through to the attic above the student rooms in Q maincase, the college’s new computer room will be housed with 23 pc spaces.

Library of Art

Other than its beautiful views and state-of-the-art technology, the New Library will also have important works of art on display. Its walls will be graced with paintings by Martin Bloch, the German émigré artist of the 1930s - from a collection kindly loaned by the family - and with a new work by John Bellany CBE RA (Fellow-Commoner 1988).

WORKS DEPARTMENT

The complete New Library scheme has been managed and supervised by the Bursar, Miss Susan Pope, and the Clerk of Works, Mr God Pittsworth.

Contractors were:
Joinery: Globe Joinery, Gravel, Cambs.
Structural engineers: Andrew Flechere, Cambridge.
Quantity surveyors: Sheriff Tiplady, Huntingdon, Cambs.
Services engineer: Garth Hurden.
Collier & Calne: Names to be Remembered

Two of the College’s most eminent and long-serving Fellows, John Collier and Professor Sir Roy Calne FRS – giants of the second half of the 20th century at Trinity Hall in their separate ways – are to be honoured as they near retirement.

At the Commemoration of Benefactors ceremony in June, the Master announced, before an audience which included lawyers and medics, that two named funds have been launched to endow College Fellowships in two specific subjects: Law and Medical Science. These are to be named, respectively, after Mr Collier and Professor Calne.

John Collier Fellowship in Law

‘KC’ became a Fellow in 1966 and in the senior Staff Fellow in Law. He holds a University Lectureship, his speciality being International Law. In his announcement, the Master said:

“This academic distinction and the respect in which he is held in the wider world of Law, is indicated by his having been elected as a Bencher of Gray’s Inn in 1988 - a rare honour. But ‘KC’, as he is known to many members, is essentially a College man. He has acted as a Director of Studies and, for many years, as a Tutor; he has also served terms as Vice-Master (1986-90) and, over the years, has served several terms on all the important College committees. He is particularly well known to several generations of members – both undergraduates and postgraduates who have read Law at Trinity Hall in this period, and/or were involved in sport at either College or University level. Indeed, many may well be proud to think of themselves as his ‘magics boys’ or – yes, nowadays – his ‘magics girls’. As a regular supporter of all our alumni and Association events, he is also well known to many older members too.”

Roy Calne Fellowship in Medical Science

“Unquestionably, Sir Roy is one of the most distinguished of our current Fellows,” the Master said. “His membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and also of the Royal Society, and particularly his Knighthood, bear evident witness to that. He came here in 1963, as the first incumbent, to the newly established Chair of Surgery. He has held that position and has been in charge of the Department of Surgery based at Addenbrooke’s Hospital ever since. During that time, he has become world-famous as one of the foremost pioneers in transplant surgery, especially in liver and kidney transplants. Unusually for someone who has achieved such eminence in a highly specialised field, throughout his career he has continued to practice (and to teach) general surgery. At Trinity Hall, as a University Professor, he has not been involved in undergraduate teaching or tutoring. He has, however, played a full and influential part in other aspects of College life: apart from exercising a watchful brief over the health of the resident senior members and College staff, as High Table Steward he has taken a particular interest in the quality of our catering and of the welfare of kitchen staff.”

“Step up to the Plate”

John Langbein (1944), Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and Legal History at Yale, returned to Cambridge as the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professor in Legal Science and was elected a Fellow for the year. This brief extract is taken from his address to guests at the Commemoration of Benefactors.

“If you take advantage of your time here today, you will see there has been a process of constant and subtle improvement to physical plant of the College. I would direct you to the building of Cherry Tree Court and also the exciting new project down by the river. The intelligence with which this week is being done is a real success story.

A kind of satellite site has been developed at Wythfield, another one is Bishop Burton College, back behind the Round Church, very close to the town centre. What has not been emphasized adequately is that none of the undergraduates live in digs anymore - that’s a big plan. Residential life in College facilities enhances learning and fellowship.

One finds a much larger presence of mature students doing a second degree - no longer from the UK and North America exclusively, but much more from European countries (reflecting Britain’s membership of the European Community) and from South East Asia.

There is the growing fear about College finances. It has been a fascinating time this year to be present in Britain while new initiatives have come down from Government. Quite clearly, institutions like the Hall will have to rethink their way.

Coming from the outside, I do know it is important for the College to say to undergraduates, even while they are here, that all of us who are the beneficiaries of this wonderful place have to “Step up to the Plate”, as it were, and make our own contributions.

We have been the beneficiaries of the philanthropy of six and a half centuries of our predecessors. None of us have paid our own way at Trinity Hall in that deeper sense, and all of us have a responsibility to support the College in the changed circumstances that are now confronting us.

For those of us in Law, there is one little addendum: John Collier is threatening to retire, but we hope this will be deferred for a little longer and that he will continue teaching the law at the end, and narrow the establishment of the John Collier Lectureship in Law at Trinity Hall is a splendid initiative that will memorialise his three decades of utter devotion to the College and its law students.

Philanthropy

Cormack Newark (left) has been elected as the first incumbent of the Schulman Research Fellowship in the Arts, and John Collier in October, from Christ Church, Oxford, to study Grand Opera in 19th century Paris.

Douglas McCall (right) is the ICR President in 1994, having been awarded a Tindall Scholarship, open to postgraduate students from Canada during the past decade, by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust.

Even Schellman (centre) provided the funds to endow both opportunities, in celebration of his father and three uncles, all of whom attended Trinity Hall. Even Schellman was elected as an Honorary Member of the College by the Governing Body in 1997.

Pledge Form

“I hereby invite you to support The Milestones Campaign.”

Sir John Lyons, LLd LFA

[Form details for pledging support and donations]

Name & Address in CAPITALS

[Address line for names and addresses]

Telephone

Postcode

Matriculation Year

Degree Subject

[Options to select pledge types and amounts]
Milestone Markers

Newly-appointed Campaign Director, Dr Alan Kerby, assesses the position reached in the campaign two years after its launch:

The Trinity Hall Milestones campaign, described by Sir John Lysons at its launch "as the College's most ambitious development programme ever" has now entered its second half or route to the 650th anniversary target of £125,000. The graphs on this page show our progress at a number of milestone markers. By the end of September, the campaign had reached an impressive £7,277,780, as shown in Chart 1. Chart 2 illustrates the number of gifts received.

The strategy in the first two years of this very exciting development programme, which is seeking to raise much needed funds for four priority areas of College activity - Student Support, Research & Scholarship, the New Library and Material Patrimony - has been to concentrate on securing a number of large donations. This has been successful to the extent that nearly 95% of the campaign tally has come from gifts larger than £5,000.

More recently, the College has embarked on a new stage (phase 2) during which we are soliciting support from the main bulk of old members in various categories. This summer, for example, the Master has written personally to some 650 Trinity Hall members and, at the time of going to press, an additional £157,000 has been added to the campaign fund from this and other activity. This process of making contact with all our old members will continue during the remainder of the year and on into 1999.

As The Milestones Campaign gathers momentum, both stages, which are critically important, will carry on in tandem:

- the search for large gifts from individuals, trusts, industry and the corporate sector, and from overseas constituencies, especially the United States.
- support through the solicitation of gifts from large numbers of College members, at whatever level of giving they feel they can manage.

If you haven't contributed to the campaign yet, please make a gift now by using the form on page 6. Your support will be very much appreciated.

3. Forecast vs. Actual Gifts and Pledges received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gifts of Value</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Program at Sept 98</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£1,000 &amp; over</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£500 &amp; under</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£250 &amp; under</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£100 &amp; above</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£50 &amp; above</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£25 &amp; above</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£5 &amp; above</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1 &amp; above</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£7,277,780</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate Welfare

The Senior Tutor, Dr Sandra Roban, turns the spotlight on the issue of Student Support, a key priority over which concern has risen considerably, now with the imposition of student fees, the impending replacement of grants with loans, and the threat to the traditional 'College Fee' in Oxford and Cambridge:

The future pattern of educational funding for home and European Union undergraduates is now almost in place although the full implications will only hit the generation matriculating in 1999. A contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of their fees will be made by all but the poorest and there will be no more maintenance grants. Instead there will be loans, the larger part of which will be means tested. Any of the growing number of undergraduates on four-year courses who draw on the full entitlement, including the hardship loan - by definition those in greatest financial difficulty - will leave with a debt in the region of £15,000.

This seems shocking to those of us who, without student loans, came through the system between the 50s and 80s and know how daunting such a prospect would have seemed.

We fear for those in similar circumstances today. Of course times change. Now that a far higher proportion of eighteen year olds enter Higher Education, and 'M克莱larning' is becoming a reality, it seems reasonable to ask those who will benefit from their degrees to bear more of the burden of their cost. The new system of repayment through the tax system, geared to the level of income, is also an improvement on present arrangements. None of this however relieves our more serious concerns or the need to have a means of assurance in place.

Our first worry is for those who may be deterred from coming at all unless substantial scholarships are available. This is particularly important at a time when the University is under pressure to widen access. It means that a Cambridge education will no longer be easily open to everyone irrespective of means. It is also possible that undergraduates on the Science side may opt for the shorter three-year courses at a time when the country needs all the highly qualified scientists that it can get.

Our second worry must be for those who come, but for whom funding is a struggle. No doubt some future parents on moderate incomes will make provision for university fees through insurance, but there will be difficult bridging period before this is commonplace. No doubt too, a loan culture will develop with time. Existing student loans meet with great resistance, but are now widely taken up. This still leaves us with a short term problem and are we to help those who worry about money, or would rather do without than see debt mountings up. Students elsewhere are increasingly undertaking paid employment during term time. The nature of Cambridge courses is such that this could only damage a student's Trigons prospects. We would very much prefer to offer financial assistance in order to avoid it.

Thanks to the generosity of benefactors past and present, we are already in a position to offer help to some of our most needy undergraduates. The College still has also set aside funds for this purpose. The real challenge will come, appropriately enough, in the millennium. We hope to be in a position to meet it.

The Milestones Campaign

All donations, queries or requests for information and copies of the College's campaign brochure should be addressed to:

The Campaign Office, Trinity Hall, Cambridge CB2 1ET.
Tel 01223 339988. Fax 01223 339987.
email a246@cam.ac.uk

Campaign Director: Dr Alan Kerby.
Campaign Secretary: Miss Annie Thomson.
Alumni Relations Secretary: Ms Karin Bano. Tel 01223 332567.
Library Opening Curtain-Raiser for Anniversary Celebrations

There promises to be a large attendance at this historic event, which will set the scene for the series of 560th Anniversary celebrations to be inaugurated a few months later. Other events taking place during the Annual Gathering weekend include a concert by the Endellion Quartet, which has developed a special relationship with Trinity Hall over the last few years as the University Quartet in Residence.

Milestone Lectures

The Anniversary Year's intellectual dimension will be provided, principally, by a series of lectures. Each lecture will be devoted to milestones in the development of a particular discipline — e.g., law, medicine, engineering, literature and theatre, language, physics, history, or chemistry — and will be intended for non-specialists. The inaugural Milestone Lecture will be given by the Master. Other lectures, all members of the College and experts in their subject, are now being invited.

A Milestone in Music

The celebrated composer, Alexander Goehr, Professor of Music at Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity Hall since 1976, has agreed that a new composition of his, for Violin and a Voice, will be performed in Cambridge under the auspices of Trinity Hall during 1999. It will be played by the Fitzwilliam group and sung by Michael Chance and will be the first performance of the work in the UK.

Remembering

The College has tried to assist donors in making contributions to commemorate the memory of former members and contemporaries, now sadly deceased. Here are brief reports of feelings expressed in this way:

Michael Roberts & Alan Howard (both 1958)

Peter Hall (1959) recalls a Saturday in March when he and 24 contemporaries and family gathered to dedicate a table in the New Library to the memory of Michael Roberts and Alan Howard.

We went through the doors of the Reading Room (on Q staircase) of the New Library which has five large study tables in it. The middle table on the left has a brass plaque with the College crest and the dedication inscription to Michael and Alan set into it.

The Dean, Dr. Charles Elliott, offered a short prayer of dedication (interrupted by occasional glancing from Alan's grandson, Harry), saying the plaque would recall happy memories of both of them. There was a short but moving silence as we recalled our two friends, which we all found an emotional moment.

Sir Norman Fowler then spoke briefly, recalling that Alan showed patience and tolerance in sharing a room with him — they had been a bipartisan duo, as he was chairman of CUCA and Alan was secretary of the Labour party (though Norman was mere left wing than Alan!). Michael was a natural speaker and a natural teacher, and he had often sent postcards from his teaching posts abroad. Everyone present missed them both.

All of us who had given to provide the table were thanked by Dr Peter Handschin, the Fellow Librarian, who described how the Reading Room was frequently full and busy with student users and how the plaque was an indication of friendship for all to see. I was delighted that an idea, originating at a dinner the previous June by four old Hall friends, with Kaoru Roberts, had become a reality.

We processed outside for a photograph in front of the College coast on the Old Library (into which Graham Howes and his bicycle somehow managed to intrude!). Our day continued with an excellent buffet lunch in the Cherwell/Leslie Stephen rooms, gossiping long into the afternoon.

It was a friendly, moving and nostalgic day.

Liz McLaughlin (1990)

Two weeks from the first anniversary of Liz McLaughlin’s death, members of her family and many friends from the Hall met in the Fellow’s Garden to celebrate her memory, writes Alice Phillips (1990).

We dedicated to Liz a section of orange-stained glass, in the middle window in the New Reading Room in Q staircase, looking out on to Leatham Lawn. Neither under or overstated, it was clearly visible on entering the room. What could be more appropriate than sunlight through glass, radiating a reddish gold, the colour of her hair? On the wall beside the window, a small plaque spelling out her name unlocked quiet tears. The plaque helped to reassure her family and friends that a resting place has been found for her, in a place full of happy memories. Dr Peter Handschin spoke simply, about the Hall and the importance of commemorating her family, and we all joined him in raising a glass to toast Liz, in friendship and remembrance.

I am grateful to the Fellows and staff of the Hall whose kindness and practical help has enabled me to make this most appropriate memorial, together with many generous donations from Liz’s contemporaries. The small summer pavilion behind Wythfeld House is to be renovated and renamed in her memory.

L P ‘Pete’ Wragg

A table dedicated to the memory of Leithwaite Palmer ‘Pete’ Wragg (1953), who died in 1994, has been purchased by his friend and colleague, Howard Krendang (1964) now employed as Of Counsel at Freshfields in New York.
Beyond the Chain: From Toronto to Polna via Cambridge

The College’s Alumni Office played a crucial role last year in re-establishing ties between Charles Heller (1965) and his father’s home town of Polna in the Czech Republic, helping him piece together the parts of a century-old puzzle involving serial murders, T G Masaryk and the Austro-Hungarian Government!

As the Czech Republic celebrates the 100th anniversary of its independence, the opportunity to revisit old friends and memories in Polna, where the late Charles Heller (1965) lived from 1920 to 1935, was too good to resist. Charles Heller, a talented photographer, recorded his childhood experiences in Polna, which he considered his second home. He sent me a collection of his photographs, along with a letter recounting his memories of the city and its people.

The city of Polna, a small town in the rural Bohemia region of the Czech Republic, has a rich history. The town was once a center of Jewish life, with a large community who lived and worked in the area. However, during World War II, the town suffered under the Nazi occupation. Many of the town’s residents were forced to leave, and those who remained endured great suffering.

Charles Heller was born in Polna in 1920 and attended the local Jewish school. He later moved to Prague, where he continued his education and pursued his passion for photography. In 1965, he graduated from the Charles University in Prague and returned to Polna to live with his parents.

After the war, Charles Heller continued to document the town’s history and culture, capturing the everyday life of its residents. He was particularly interested in the stories of the town’s Jewish community, which had been significantly reduced during the war.

In 1971, Charles Heller returned to Canada to continue his education and pursue his photography career. He remained in contact with his family in Polna and visited them whenever he could.

After his death in 1984, his family donated his collection of photographs and personal papers to the University of Toronto, where they are now part of the archives. The collection provides a unique glimpse into the town’s history and the lives of its residents. It is a testament to the importance of preserving the past and remembering those who have gone before us.

And from Bolivia and Dubai, Two Shaggy Llama Stories:

John Pilkington (1968) made an unusual career switch a few years ago, giving up his job as a town planner to write, photograph, and make radio programmes about some of the remotest parts of the world. In the middle of the Silk Road and in Patagonia, Ladakh and Kyrgyzstan, he found himself last summer on a strange quest in southern Bolivia ...

On a bleak, windswept plateau surrounded by Andean peaks, a group of Aymara people live in harmony with their environment. They are known for their traditional way of life, which includes the raising of llamas and alpacas. John Pilkington was fortunate enough to witness one of their ceremonies in honor of the llamas. It was a beautiful sight, with music and dance accompanying the ritual. The people were happy and content, living in perfect balance with nature.

At the beginning of 1998, Rama the Cama held international media attention. Dr Lulu Skidmore (1991) was involved in his birth and recounts the tale:

Rama the Cama was born in 1971, during the first years of the Peruvian government of President Fujimori. It was a time of great uncertainty and fear for the people of the Andes. The government was unstable, and there was a feeling of hopelessness.

Rama’s story is one of resilience and determination. Despite the challenges, the people of the Andes continued to live their lives, relying on the llamas for survival. Rama’s birth was a symbol of hope and renewal, a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always a reason to hold on.

Rama’s story continues to inspire and educate people around the world about the unique relationship between humans and llamas. It is a testament to the strength and resilience of the people of the Andes and their commitment to preserving their culture and way of life.
Tun Ismail bin Mohamed Ali

Tun Ismail came to Trinity Hall in 1939 where he took a degree in Economics and then went to Middle Temple. He joined the Malay Civil Service in 1946. From 1947 to 1958 he was a minister of the Malaysian Embassy in Washington and between 1958 and 1960 he was both Economics Minister and executive director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He joined Bank Negara, the Central Bank of Malaysia in 1960 as deputy governor from 1962 until his retirement in 1980. Tun Ismail was chairman of Permodalan National Bhd, the National Equity Corporation, from 1979 until 1996. He continued to be an advisor to PNB until his death. He became one of Malaysia’s most highly respected and revered national figures through his rigorous management of the country’s national savings institution. A year ago he was the senior member present at the Trinity Hall dinner in Kuala Lumpur attended by Professor Sir Roy Calne.

Revd Canon David Strangeways OBE DSO

David Strangeways was admitted to Trinity Hall in 1936 to read History—one of a large Hall family including five brothers. E. A. Beck, his maternal grandfather, was Master of the College, 1902–6. On graduating, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Duke of Wellington’s regiment. At the outbreak of war, he went to France as Adjutant to the Regiment in the BEF. During the retreat to Dunkirk, on finding a Thames barge sandbagged on the beach, he managed to transport part of the battalion back to Dover. He then became involved in schemes to deliver false information to the enemy and during the campaign in North Africa, Italy and North-West Europe, successfully carried out a huge deception plot.

Sir John Ellis MBE

John Ellis (1934) came from a medical family, renowned essentially for the College, and came under the tutelage of Dr Archie Clark-Kennedy while up at the Hall. Thus began his “influential career in medical education.” (The Times, 23.06.95).

On being appointed sub-dean of the London Hospital in 1948, he began an intensive study of medical education. He visited every medical school in Britain, Scandinavia and the United States (thanks to a Rockefeller Fellowship).

Before long, his expertise was much in demand; it was as if every government planning a medical school sought his advice. In 1963, the Ministry of Health invited him to advise on postgraduate education, and many of the systems taken for granted today are the products of his input to this period.

Sir John was appointed Dean of the London Hospital in 1968 and he was knighted in 1989. Lady Ellis comments, “My husband had a great ability to realise what a country or hospital would need in ten years time rather than what those in charge at the time wanted and it was always of the highest standard. Ellis was his goal — perhaps the Hall taught him that.”

Brian Marson Till

Brian Till died in 1997 after a life which was divided between the twin strands of the City of London and country pursuits. He served both with energy and enthusiasm.

At Trinity Hall (1934), he read Law and represented the College at Rugger and Tennis, and gained an entrance to the nudge boat — the latter arising from a misdemeanour on Guy Fawkes Night the year before for which he was “rotostated” by Professor H. R. Dudley Dean. This led to being sent to a temporary term at Cambridge in order to graduate, thus giving him an opportunity to row. He and Professor Dean remained on the best of terms. When qualified as an accountant, he joined the family firm of Black, Geoghegan & Till, eventually succeeding his father as senior partner. He was a long-standing member of the Court of Assistants to the Livery of Fishmongers, and was elected Prime Warden in 1979.

He vigorously promoted field sports and all aspects of country living. He became President of the Suffolk TRT Association, Founder Member of the Game Conservancy, and the Atlantic Salmon Trust.

Geoffrey Boaz MBE

Geoffrey Boaz gave outstanding service to agriculture. His daughter, Anne Boaz, in 1933, obtained an Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences to Trinity Hall, then, following his degree, he took a Diploma in Agriculture and became Assistant Director at Cambridge University Farm. After active service in the war, he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Agriculture at Leeds University in 1946. During the 1950s, he joined Rossmore Ltd., and later became President of the European Association of Animal Production. In 1980 he was awarded a Kellogg Scholarship in the USA where he visited several universities to study animal husbandry. During retirement, his father worked on a carefully planned programme to improve the wool quality of the sheep, breeding the only pure Merino flock in this country. In 1987, a flock was placed first at the Smithfield Show. His father’s challenge was to prove that Merinos could be kept satisfactorily in England and make a contribution to our fine wool supplies.

John Carrick Robertson

Mae Ann Nigey writes from New Zealand about her father.

My father went up from 1927-1929. He was the epitome of a scholar at your most distinguished University. He rowed for the College and we have three oars which hang proudly in our home...JCR was a pioneer in New Zealand. He turned thousands of acres of virgin bush into productive farmlands. He stocked thousands of sheep and hundreds of cattle on his land each year. He was a skilled horseman. The families employed on the farm stayed many years and enjoyed working for a fair man.

The whole farm was planted with exotic, deciduous trees (which were mostly protected from the stock by coats of barbed wire). The farm was a garden which attracted masses of visitors. He served on many Boards and Government bodies. He “ran where most walk” and was always proud of his days at Cambridge.

C A ‘Tony’ Miller TD MBE

Tony Miller, who came up in 1922, was in recent years one of the Hall’s most senior members and one of its most active supporters, having maintained a close connection with the College, particularly coaching on the tow-path, throughout his long life. Extracts for this brief tribute are taken from an address at the Service of Thanksgiving at Knollfield in January, and from The Trinity Hall Boat Club, 1928 – 49 (J.T. Swann).

“After Wellington, he spent four years at Trinity Hall. He enjoyed his time there profusely,” said David Hughes in his address. “He was a good oarsman and rowed in the College boat which was always a good one. Characteristically, he returned to reach you in your boat!”

“He has been serving the Boat Club well in that capacity,” the THCIC History records, “but he is now accepted as almost the ideal coach for the middle part, at the time when the crew is becoming a crew—He is thought to be unique as a coach who has never left an unhappy crew.”

On coming down in 1926, Tony Miller joined the family firm of food manufacturers and stayed until it was taken over in 1959. After retirement, during which he commanded the Infirmary Signal Training Wing at Catterick, he became deeply involved in hospital management, becoming a representative on the United Manchester Hospitals Board. He was Cheshire County Director of the Red Cross from 1963-74, and Vice-President of the Cheshire County branch from 1975 until his death. He received the Queen’s Badge of Honour, the highest Red Cross award; the number of living holders being limited to 30 worldwide. He was awarded the MBE in 1996 for services to the Red Cross and local community.

“In the past, Tony’s presence added an extra dimension to a social gathering,” David Hughes concludes. “In recent times, the mere mention of the name ‘Tony Miller’ to an old friend always brought a smile to the face.”

Christopher Gillie (who once contributed memorably to a volume entitled Underage) was—his pupils were glad to know—no fashionably or glittery gun. Like his published works—among them the Preface Books volumes on Jane Austen and E. M. Forster and the aptly named Longman’s Companion to English Literature—he was as a teacher quiet, judicious, unassuming.

Supervisions at 1, Burton Close were generous; one was visited with more attention than one deserved. The present writer was later charged with having at the first meeting ‘terrified’ his supervisor by his ignorance. That, perhaps, was only the inadequate youthful response to the simple integrity of Christopher’s gaze, as challenging then as it was gentle in his weeks of dying.

College Water-colours

Popular water-colours depicting College scenes which have been painted by Dennis Rosby Butt RWS, are offered to members once again.

The prints, signed and numbered by the artist, can be ordered via the leaflet enclosed with this issue. Price: £45 or £47.5

10
THA Aspirations

Over 50 members of this year’s graduating class - soon to become the newest recruits to the Trinity Hall Association - turned up for a summer’s evening party on the Cherry Tree Court terrace, hosted by the THA.

Barry Lewis, the London Secretary, spoke of his aspirations for the THA and why it is valuable for students to join. “We actively assist in matters touching the welfare of the College and those in it,” he said. “We want to put something back, especially in the area of job counseling and work experience, and we help individuals and College societies from

Richard Devitt (1959), left, Auditor of the THA, and Martin Williams (1964), Treasurer, were each presented with a silver College mug in recognition and gratitude for their long service.

At the AGM, Hon. Sir Anthony Colman (1959) was elected President for the 1998/99 year. Roy Nolen (1966) was elected Auditor, and Frances Road (1977) became Treasurer. Barry Lewis was re-elected as London Secretary, while Dr David Thomas QC, the retiring Vice-Master of the College, succeeds Dr Jonathan Stebbing as Cambridge Secretary.

On the Dinner Trail

The Alumni Secretary, Karin Bane, recounts:

Bristol: Two active 1940s Year Reps, d’Arvy Orders MBE and Penny Oliver, were the inspiration for the very first Trinity Hall West Country Dinner.

On a cool evening in June, 35 members and guests met and dined together at the Grand Hotel in Bristol. The Master, the Bursar, the Campaign Director and I took pleasure in representing Cambridge and meeting members resident in the West Country. John Hickman CMO (1945) took the Chair for the evening. The Master reminded us that, as luck would have it, we were dining close to Trinity Sunday. It was a memorable evening and a welcome opportunity to meet a number of members who live just a little too far from Cambridge and London to visit College. We feel inspired to propose a Trinity Hall Dinner in your area, please let me know - all suggestions welcome!

London: The second annual London Dinner in recent times took place in February. I joined over 60 members and guests in the regal setting in the Middle Temple. Presiding was Sir David Innes Williams FRCS (1937), President of the Trinity Hall Association who was in the company of both his wife, Lady Williams, and his son Martin Williams (1966). The Vice-Master, Dr David Thomas QC, Mr John Collier and Dr David Rubenstein FRCP, helped me lead the team from Cambridge.

These London Dinners on a winter’s eve are quite marvelous, but be careful - they can be habit forming!

Nostalgic Returns

Sarah Webbe (1981), Year Rep and THA committee member, recalls a special family reunion:

My father, John Webbe, was up at ‘The Hall’ just before the World War II, achieving a Crescendo tie for mugger, a certain celebrity as gossip correspondent for Varsity and, he assures me, a respectable English degree. Last summer, his children gave a birthday lunch for him at Trinity Hall to mark his 80th year and unwittingly found themselves playing host to a substantial group of Cambridge alumni.

Back in the 1930s, my father’s decision to try for Cambridge had been influenced both by my grandfather, Harold, a former lightweights trialist and Wrangler at Queens’ and my aunt Rosemary, who, some four years ahead of my father, had read Classics at Newnham. She later married Anthony Stephens, who, had been up at St Johns (although he was also a neighbour at home). My father’s younger brother, Brie Webbe, also read Law at Trinity Hall.

A generation later, my cousin, John Stephens, went to Trinity whilst my older brother Kit embellished the hall of the ‘60s with his guitar and an impressive selection of artworks which, in those days, he could actually borrow for tiny sums from Kettles Yard. I was half a generation behind and the Hall had gone co-ed in time for me to try my luck - the first Webbe in a mixed college.

To my father’s delight, much about the College seemed unchanged but life at ‘Tr Hall’ was not quite as gracious as during the ‘60s or even the ‘50s. In my final year, by complete coincidence, my room was the bedroom of my father’s old set on P.1 intake, the large sitting-room long ago divided off to house someone else.

On one of the hottest days of the year, The Birthday was a great success. We enjoyed a genuine welcome from the College staff, whose catering and service were outstanding. Several people went hunting to prove that they had not lost their touch. It was a great party for a landmark anniversary, but, as people kept saying, it was also lovely to have a reason to be back. It seems that, even 60 years on, the feeling of belonging to something quite special never quite goes away.

Year Rep Agenda

An interesting day awaits the College’s 60 Year Reps gathering for their annual conference - the fourth since 1995 - on Saturday, 26 September (at time of going to press). Among continuing issues, they are being asked to consider and advise the College on:

- A members’ network to assist student career development.
- Alumni relations post-2000: looking beyond the 650th anniversary.
- Postgraduate alumni relations: a special focus.

All College members who are in Cambridge for the University Alumni Weekend are invited to join the Year Reps for tea in College at 3:30pm on Saturday 26 September. This precedes the Annual Dinner on the same evening.

Diary note: 1999 London Dinner

The Magpies at the London Hotel will once again feature the College Runners-up, the Molesey Harriers, in the 3,000m. The whole College community is most welcome.

Peter Basnett (1957)

The College notes with sadness the death this summer of Peter Basnett who had assisted enthusiastically in setting up the Year Rep scheme and participated fully in the programme. Our condolences go to his wife, Margaret, and family.

The NMC family reunion - June Cambridge and two-and-a-half Trinity Hall generations

Peter Basnett (1957)

The College notes with sadness the death this summer of Peter Basnett who had assisted enthusiastically in setting up the Year Rep scheme and participated fully in the programme. Our condolences go to his wife, Margaret, and family.

C A L E N D A R  1 9 9 9

London Dinner

Friday, 29 January

MAs Ceremony (1992 graduates)

Saturday, 20 March

Annual Gathering & Ceremonial Opening of the New Library (see page 8)

Saturday, 15 May

Commemoration of Benefactors

Sunday, 13 June

1st Reunion Dinner for Years 1952 - 1957

Saturday, 3 July

2nd Reunion Dinner for Years 1961, 1962 & 1963

Saturday, 11 September

Annual Dinner & University Alumni Weekend

Friday, 24 September
McLuhan Revisited

Our coverage of Marshall McLuhan, the ‘global communications guru’ of the 1960s and 70s, in the last Front Court, attracted readers’ comments:

Sir John Ellis (1934) who rowed in the same fourth boat as McLuhan in 1935, wrote before he died earlier this year: “His disappointment at not winning our race was made up for in the heats of the following year. He rowed three in the Rubers Boat which achieved a bump each night, as described in J T Swan’s History of Trinity Hall Boat Club 1923-49: “First night, hit Fitzwilliam III in 20 strokes. Second night, hit Sydney in 15 strokes.”

“Marshall McLuhan enjoyed the Hall and his rowing, and we enjoyed him. He kept his eye on his office throughout most of his career.”

The Editor stands corrected: McLuhan is photographed at seven, not six, as stated in the previous edition.

Professor Lionel Elvin (1924) also writes: “The note on Marshall McLuhan in your last number is somewhat incomplete. He had two periods of residence here. He came up first in 1935 as an affiliate student to read the English Tripos. I was his supervisor. His aim then was to be a literary critic and to obtain a post in the English Department of the University. I thought he shaped quite well. Indeed after he had obtained a post in the University of Saskatchewan he wrote one or two articles which I thought good. But that was after he had been back to Cambridge for a period of graduate research. His subject was the English poet Thomas Nashe. I was not an authority on him but Marjorie Bradbrook was (as on so much else), so she supervised his work. But we remained on friendly terms. Indeed when he got married while over here, and he did not want to buy furniture for his short stay, we lent him some of ours so that he could set himself and his wife up in their flat.

McLuhan became something of a guru of course. This was largely through his ability to coin a phrase that stuck in the mind (‘the global village’, ‘the medium is the message’). He hardly gave any signs of this facility when he read English with me. I remember only one, and that was a pun. He wrote an essay on the rivalry between Lewis Jones and Ben Jonson over the masques for the court of James I. Jonson did the scenery and pageantry, Jonson the words, and as the former was indispensable in the masques and the latter less so, Jones won. McLuhan said: ‘It was a case of In I Go Jones and Out I Go Jonson!’ I am sure that he enjoyed both of his periods of residence at Cambridge and at the Hall.”

Crescents & Penguins Reunite

The University has been rewarded for centuries of academic achievement with the gift of the Crescents’ and Penguins’ Clubs, claims Adam Barnes (1994). No one could have foreseen how this seemingly trifling action would catapult Trinity Hall to a position of pre-eminence in all facets of university life, both sporty and not-so-sporty.

Nor would those of us returning for the 1998 joint reunion dinner of the two clubs ever doubt this. There were 70 of us fitting snugly into the Dining Hall and going our way through the best that Joseph and his cohorts could provide. It proved to be a weekend of supertastes; we imbired in the College bar and at the Maypoles, and somehow found ourselves admitted to the 23rd Club as well.

We seemed to have recovered from the trauma of not having a pigeon-holt, and we locally and generally remembered studentdom. As Wordsworth would have said, if he’d been admitted to TrH (and squeezed into the pool team, and scrubbed for the rugby side): “Bliss was it on that evening to be in Cambridge, but to be a Crescent or Penguin was very heavenly”. Then he would have matched his tie.

Tipple Triumph for Trinity Hall

Cambridge has a long and glorious tradition of wine-drinking, writes David McInerney (1999). This tradition is maintained by a small group of students who dedicate themselves to defining the essence of wine in preparation for the Oxford-Cambridge wine-tasting match. Once a year the two teams meet at a club in Mayfair for a head-to-head drinking competition. In late February the 47th Varsity Blind Wine-Tasting Match began at 10.30am.

Six white wines had been laid out in the drawing room for each blind-taster. We had just 40 minutes to analyse the acidity, oak, structure, sweetness, length and finesse of each wine. Marks are awarded for recognising the grape variety, country and region of origin, village or appellation and vintage. The swilling and slurping became desperate toward the end of the session. After a short break we returned to taste six reds. Slightly fulfilled brains were recked for tell-tale signs of mature claret, young burgundy, or Piedmontese nebbiolo.

After the last sip-and-spit, both teams retired to a local pub called The Grapes to recover from the morning’s sport and await the results. Cambridge won the Pol Roger trophy for the first time in four years. The Trinity Hall contribution came in three forms: Juha Kokkilä and Alan Swift, achieved the second and third highest individual scores (personal bests in both cases) and the team was captained by myself. A trip ‘tipple’ triumph for the Hall. It only remains to be said that the victory was greatly advanced by the friendly interest shown in the team’s progress by our Wine Fellow, Dr Colin Aastra.

Rugger Boats

Prompted by recognition given to Rugger Boats in previous editions (the 1936 and 1964 boats are two examples), Dr Michael Mynott (1947) has written to tell of the successful 1949 rugger crew who bumped five times in the Mays – on Queens VI, Cat V, Sidney III, Downing IV and Jesus VIII.

The 1949 Rugger Boat over hanging on Michael Mynott’s wall.

Wish You Were Here

The College kitchens, last overhaulad 20 years ago, have been closed during the summer for major refurbishment costing £800,000. Catering for traditional leations and conferences has continued, without compromising the customary Hall quality, from temporary ‘portable-kitchens’ sited in Latham Court.