Highlights:

Colin Austin
A celebration of his life

Meet the new
Dean

THBC triumph
on the river
THBC Weather Vane Reinstated

Members of the Boat Club will be delighted to hear that a replica of the original weather vane has been installed on the Boat House. The original was presented to Trinity Hall Boat Club in recognition of the College achieving Head of the River for five consecutive years in the 1890s.

The weather vane is a gift from Dr Walter Grant Scott (TH 1969) who hopes that the “replacement of the weather vane will act as a motivator to current crews to move on to ever new heights. It is a reminder that we have not secured a clock tower, which is awarded for ten consecutive years!”

The new weather vane incorporates remnants of the original structure and design. Borley Brothers, a local Cambridge engineering company, were thrilled with the commission, saying that they were delighted to be involved in such a prestigious job that allowed them to revert to the old traditions of blacksmithing.

The new weather vane is made of mild steel, which was galvanised, powder-coated and then lacquered. The red lion, which sits proudly atop the directional spurs, is cast in brass.

New Trinity Hall Merchandise

Two new Trinity Hall crested mugs are now available for sale at £5 each from the Porters’ Lodge. A Trinity Hall Tote Bag is also available at £2, as well as a selection of postcards and prints.

About Front Court

Front Court is an informal publication produced once a year to keep members up-to-date with College and alumni news.

If you have any suggestions for the next issue (Summer 2012), please contact the Editors.

All our publications are available as pdf files from our website: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications.asp

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Thank you to all our contributors and photographers.
Welcome from the Master

Front Court provides a reminder, if one were needed, of why Cambridge colleges are so appreciated by their members, and are so worthy of support in difficult financial times. The photograph above of our two new Honorary Fellows records the election of Mani Shankar Aiyar (TH 1961), a former Cabinet Minister in India and now a member of the Upper House, and Sir David Bell (TH 1965), the former editor of the Financial Times and Chairman of the Pearson Group. Elsewhere, we congratulate another Honorary Fellow – Edmund de Waal (TH 1983) – on the huge success of his recent book, The Hare with Amber Eyes; and we thank a fourth, Sir Brian Hoskins (TH 1963), for speaking to the Trinity Hall Forum, alongside fellow alumni, Dr Walter Grant Scott (TH 1969) and Tim Lunel (TH 1969).

Members of the Hall come together across the generations as part of a single community. The strength of feeling for the College and its members was no more apparent than in the memorial meeting for Colin Austin, who presented many graduands for their degrees over so many years, and unfailingly turned up for College events. Our new weather vane, generously funded by Dr Walter Scott, reminds us of the time when we were head of the river – and will point us in the direction of future success. Music flourishes as well as sports, with the visit of the choir from the Académie des Arts et Musique at St Anne D’Auray in Brittany, led by their director of choral music and our former organ scholar, Richard Quesnel (TH 1995), through whom our links of friendship with Brittany have been extended. The return visit there by our own choir, directed by Andrew Arthur, will be just one of several events of the summer vacation.

Indeed, throughout the summer many current students will be scattered around the world undertaking projects generously funded by the Trinity Hall Association. Some of the Awards for 2009 are recorded in Front Court – and the sense of adventure extended to the Fellowship: the sojourn of Dr Leonard in Greenland has attracted interest beyond Trinity Hall, including in national newspapers and on the radio, and shows that the spirit of Launcelot Fleming and Professor William Deer is alive and well. At a time when University finances are undergoing the greatest change in a generation, and as we emerge from the worst recession in two generations, the activities of students, staff, Fellows and alumni are celebrated and valued.

Professor Martin Daunton
The Master, Trinity Hall
Reminiscences – Professor Colin Austin FBA

Topun Austin, on behalf of Mishtu and Teesta

My Dad had a deep understanding of the fragile transient nature of life. But he also believed that your life extends beyond the living body you inhabit – and within these pages you will read about his scholarly achievements, the many people whose lives he has touched and the generations of students he taught.

It is appropriate that we are here in Trinity Hall to celebrate his life. He always regarded Trinity Hall as his second home, and indeed it has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. So I would like to thank all the Masters, Fellows and Staff, past and present, for making this College such a special place for my Dad and for his family, and for publishing this special tribute to him in Front Court magazine.

From Professor Sir Roy Calne, Emeritus Fellow in Medicine

Colin and I were appointed Fellows at Trinity Hall on the same day in the Autumn of 1965 and in 2005, also on the same day after many years, we were dismissed from our cherished jobs as Wine and Food Stewards. In 1965 there were 20 Fellows, the College Fellowship had a family-like atmosphere. With such a long association we had a strong bond of friendship, meeting regularly at the Kitchen Office Lunches, not only between Colin and myself, but also with our wives and the Kitchen and Buttery staff.

He devoted his whole life to extraordinary painstaking detective reconstruction of papyrus fragments to be identified, translated and restored to poetic script. His academic work was a life of scholarship, an example and a beacon to all of us not blessed with such patience and single mindedness. Like an eager puppy he grasped the bone of Menander fragments when he was still a student and ran with it, continuing working on this difficult task until his last day. He bore long periods of severe pain and multiple operations with optimism alternating with disappointment but always with enormous courage. I am honoured and delighted to celebrate Colin’s life, his work and his devotion to Cambridge and Trinity Hall.
From Professor Guido Bastianini

Guido Bastianini is Professor of Papyrology at the University of Florence.

I first met Colin in 1996. When I shook hands with Colin for the first time, I was fully aware that I was standing in front of one of the major living scholars in the field of papyrology and Greek literature. I was in the reading room of the Papyrological Institute “Vitelli” and had in front of me the photographs and transcriptions of the ’Posidippus roll’. A few days later Colin wrote me a card (dated to the 26th of April 1996) in which he thanked me for having showed him “un peu du nouveau Posidippe” : “Comme Polyphème, je suis devenu un aipolikos dyseros du nouveau papyrus” … I still jealously preserve that card.

I like to think that Colin and Mishtu felt a particular affection for their Florentine friends. From 2002 onwards Colin has been a most important and constant presence at the papyrological conferences organised in Florence every June.

Our collaboration has been one of the most beautiful and important experiences of my whole life. Colin made everything easy: but it was an ease, a sense of effortlessness which had deep roots in Colin’s extraordinary knowledge of the Greek language and its literature. The technical expertise of a papyrologist [that is one who reads papyri] is a necessary requisite but it is nothing if one cannot see ‘beyond’ what it is written on the surface of the papyrus.

I cannot separate Colin the scholar from Colin the man, a person gifted with a deep sense of humanity and kindness. For this reason I remember Colin as the composer of elegant Greek poems: many of you certainly know and love Colin’s end-of-the-year poems, always accompanied by Mishtu’s paintings, so full of a sense of colour and vibrant creativity. Poems and paintings were always perfectly complementary to each other in their grace and beauty, just like their authors, Colin and Mishtu.

From Professor Richard Hunter

A former student of Colin, Richard Hunter is the present Regius Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge.

Even before Colin became my supervisor in Michaelmas 1975, I went to his lectures on Textual Criticism. What surpassed his easy mastery of these Masonic mysteries – and that they were in French clearly delighted Colin – was his genuine admiration for those who had, in his view, improved the text by conjecture, and his beaming pleasure when he thought that he had got there before anyone else; this triumphant smile, the same grin of knowing more than his audience with which he presented the accounts to the Philological Society annual meeting for 40 years.

Colin would, I think, have been the first to acknowledge that he could get carried away (he famously described papyrology as an elixir whose magic transported one into a lost world of a new reality). This was of course because Colin’s knowledge of Greek and how Greek worked was second to none: Colin thought in Greek rhythms, as the splendid collection of poems on show today reveals. Prose was for him simply less enchanting: he once told me that reading Plato gave him a headache, and it’s not easy to know exactly what sort of joke that was. Colin lived by the texts he loved and which he did so much to make readable, and that link between the Mozartian Menander and Colin’s whole outlook on life is fundamental to understanding him.

I have mentioned Colin’s smile on more than one occasion and which seems to me most characteristic. Well, just like a love story, then, Menander, who knew how to tell a love story, ends more than one play with a plea to ‘laughter-loving Victory’ and it is that spirit embodied in Colin that we remember and celebrate.
The path from a theological college on Jesus Lane to the Chapel of Trinity Hall is well trodden. Both my immediate predecessor, Jeremy Morris, and Robert Runcie took up the Deanship at Trinity Hall following periods on the staff at Westcott House; Launcelot Fleming moved to the position of Chaplain straight from ordination training. In my own case, the journey from Jesus Lane has taken me a little further, from Wesley House on the opposite side of Jesus Lane and from the Methodist Church to the Church of England.

I first came to Cambridge in 1987 to undertake postgraduate study in theology and to train for ministry in the Methodist Church. I arrived a month after returning from Tanzania, where I had worked in a leprosy village; it took a while to get over the shock of full supermarket shelves and gentrified society. My doctoral supervisor, Nick Sagovsky, was Dean of Clare College and it seemed to me even then that the way he combined pastoral care of the college community and the life of the chapel with a commitment to serious scholarship represented an enviable pattern for ordained ministry.

I left Wesley House in 1991, becoming a minister in Hammersmith. I was responsible for two churches in East Acton and Shepherd’s Bush, and was Chaplain to a 100-bed Methodist Hostel for international students in Bayswater. Shepherd’s Bush was an immensely exciting place to live and work. My church had members from more than a dozen nationalities with a high density of young families. The church in Shepherd’s Bush served one of the most deprived electoral wards in London, but neighboured Holland Park, one of the wealthiest. I worked with refugee families in temporary accommodation, as a Police Chaplain, and took ‘contract’ funerals for the Local Authority (once, memorably, of a man fished from the Thames whom Police were unable to identify: the only funeral service I’ve taken where there was just the coffin and me).

After four very happy years, partly on the strength of my knowledge of continental Protestantism gained as a research student, I was appointed Europe Secretary of the British Methodist Church. Now married to Kirsty Smith, a Charity Director, we lived in Acton and I joined commuters on the hateful Piccadilly line. As Europe Secretary, I was responsible for a budget supporting mission initiatives from Portugal to Vladivostok, for half a dozen ‘mission partners’ serving on the continent, and for building relationships with other churches. I spent about ten weeks of the year travelling, mainly in the East and in the Balkans where, in the 1990s, there was plenty to do, for example, developing a chaplaincy service in Russian prisons, where there had been none in communist times.

I returned to Cambridge as Director of Studies and Senior Tutor at Wesley House in 2001. Wesley House is part of the Cambridge Theological Federation and most of my students were Anglican, with some Reformed, Catholic or Orthodox. I also taught theology and ethics in the Divinity Faculty. In 2008 I took a one year appointment as a lecturer at Durham University, returning to my ‘old’ job in 2009.

My roots in British Methodism are deep and I retain huge respect and love for that tradition. But over a number of years I had come to feel personally out of kilter with British Methodism, partly on narrowly theological grounds and partly on cultural grounds. I was already in conversation with the Ely Diocese about offering as a candidate for Anglican orders when Trinity Hall advertised the post of Dean. I was appointed from 1 October 2010 and will be ordained as an Anglican Priest in the College Chapel this September.

The life of the Chapel has proved a delight. Sunday attendance both morning and evening is good relative to similar colleges. Music has always been an important part of College life. For me, having a professional musician, Andrew Arthur, as Director of Music makes a great difference. I had never sung Evensong as a Methodist; Andrew coached me expertly! I love the Chapel building, which combines 18th century Anglican sobriety with a dramatic splash of Counter-Reformation colour in the Manzuoli picture of the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary (Luke 1:39-56) on the east wall. Being a Chaplain takes patience, as relationships take time to develop to the point where one is trusted. It has been a joy to take baptisms and weddings again, something theological college tutors rarely do.

The academic side of the job is very similar to my old role and I am teaching familiar Tripos papers. But the teaching load in a university setting is much more humane than in the teaching-intensive environment of training for ministry. There is often time during the working day to write or edit, even during term. My main project is a book on theology and international development, due next year. But I’m also writing on Methodism and politics, on ‘modern theology’, and on the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

At my interview it was pointed out to me that Trinity Hall has had a number of distinguished Deans: what was I going to do to live up to their legacy? I have no idea now how I answered. All I can say is that few of my predecessors can have enjoyed their first year as Dean more than I am doing.
Congratulations to internationally renowned ceramicist, Edmund de Waal (TH 1983), for his award-winning book, The Hare with Amber Eyes, which won the prestigious Costa Biography Prize earlier this year. His book charts the life of his family living through tumultuous events in Paris and Vienna. De Waal’s inspiration was 264 small Japanese carvings that he inherited from his uncle and which had been in the family for over a century. The Hare with Amber Eyes is now out in paperback, published by Vintage Books. For more information visit Edmund de Waal's website: www.edmunddewaal.com/news.html

Thinking of studying Law at Trinity Hall?

The Law Fellows and Admissions Office have produced a brochure outlining our traditional strengths in Law, with a view to encouraging applications from talented students from schools across the country, particularly those that might not have sent students to Cambridge before.

A copy of the brochure is available online: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/uploads/TH Law Brochure Low Res RGB.pdf

Award-winning ...

Congratulations to internationally renowned ceramicist, Edmund de Waal (TH 1983), for his award-winning book, The Hare with Amber Eyes, which won the prestigious Costa Biography Prize earlier this year.

His book charts the life of his family living through tumultuous events in Paris and Vienna. De Waal’s inspiration was 264 small Japanese carvings that he inherited from his uncle and which had been in the family for over a century.

The Hare with Amber Eyes is now out in paperback, published by Vintage Books.

For more information visit Edmund de Waal’s website: www.edmunddewaal.com/news.html

Building on this initial celebratory issue, CLR has broadened out to include philosophical, historical and political material from writers and academics around the world. Issue 3 was a ‘translation’ special issue, and explored many different interpretations of the act of translation in its poetry, fiction and essays.

Now issue 5 is about to appear, and our continuing health, both in terms of the writing we publish and our increasing sales, is largely thanks to the home we have in Trinity Hall.

College has been a very warm and supportive base for the CLR and not just because of the parties: the Porters deal with our huge amounts of post (congratulating or commiserating appropriately, depending on whether it is a cheque or a tax demand); the Tutors’ Fund subscribes for each and every English undergrad; the Jerwood Library also subscribes; and we get encouraging emails from Fellows when we’re mentioned in the TLS (remarkably, this has happened five times in total: one very nice, two snide, and two letters from us).

We have also printed material from members of College: Avery Slater (TH 2006) had three poems in issue 1, including ‘Wychfield’, an evocation of the beautiful grounds and gardens during the construction of the New Build, written while she lived there; and the forthcoming issue contains a contribution from the current Visiting Poetry Fellow, Peter Gizzi, ‘Eye of the Poem’.

More information can be found at www.cambridgeliteraryreview.org, including samples of content from all issues, and how to subscribe. Copies can also be found in a variety of bookshops such as Heffers, England’s Lane Bookshop, the London Review of Books Bookshop, the Tate Modern and Book Thug Nation (New York).
Cadenza at the International Championships of A Cappella

Ben Russell (TH 2009, current JCR President) sings in Cambridge University’s premier a cappella group, Cadenza. He writes of the group’s recent success in the UK and ensuing invitation to participate in the International Championships of A Cappella in New York.

Cadenza is a 12-strong mixed a cappella group from Cambridge. We sing a wide variety of contemporary music arrangements that push the boundaries of unaccompanied singing. Established in 1997, Cadenza has progressed throughout the years, becoming one of the best known groups on the Cambridge music scene. In March this year, we competed in the National UK University A Cappella Championships, and against tough competition from five regional rounds, we went on to win the title of UK University A Cappella Champions. This is the first time that a non-Oxford group has ever won this title.

As a result of this success, we were invited to participate in the International Championships of A Cappella (ICCA). This is the first time in the 14-year history of ICCA that a Cambridge group has represented the UK. The competition, which took place on Saturday 16 April, was very competitive and very high profile. Participants in this competition have gone on to launch international tours, record albums and run outreach workshops with schools and colleges. Who knows what will be next for Cadenza, but the 2011 ICCA competition presented Cadenza with a unique opportunity to burst into the international music arena.

Living with the Inughuit

Research Fellow in Linguistics, Dr Stephen Pax Leonard, is currently spending a year living with the Inughuit or Polar Eskimos of north-west Greenland. Living in the most northern permanently inhabited settlement in the world, the Inughuit are the last Arctic hunters to travel by dog-sledge and hunt narwhal from kayaks, using harpoons. Their ancient way of life is now immediately threatened by climate change and hunting restrictions. With rapidly rising temperatures, the sea ice which is their basis for hunting is now only there for six months of the year, compared to ten months just thirty years ago.

Living with this community of 800 people spread across four settlements, Stephen has had to overcome the challenges of three and a half months of darkness, temperatures as low as -42 degrees, starving polar bears and a range of linguistic and social obstacles. He is learning their language, Inuktun, and documenting their culture and oral traditions of story-telling and drum-songs, some of which are inextricably bound to a life on the rapidly disappearing sea ice. As the prospects for hunting on the ice diminish, a large pool of indigenous knowledge regarding ice conditions, weather systems, place names and the habits of sea mammals may be lost without record. By recording some of this knowledge, it is hoped that the voices of the last Arctic hunters will not vanish completely with the ice.

His research is funded by the British Academy and the World Oral Literature Project.

See his blog at: www.guardian.co.uk/profile/stephen-pax-leonard
New student accommodation at Trinity Hall Wychfield wins prestigious Architecture Award

An architectural award, set up over 20 years ago by Cambridge City Council in memory of the former City Planning Officer David Urwin, was awarded to the new student accommodation at Trinity Hall’s Wychfield site as the Best New Building to have been built within Cambridge in the last five years.

The award was received by the architects R H Partnership whose design provided en-suite student rooms, Fellows’ flats and various reception rooms in an intimate landscaped environment. It was this “garden community” that particularly impressed the judges, along with the empathy of the building and quality of materials used.

Wychfield is very popular and now houses over 274 students and Fellows as well as providing a well-equipped gym, excellent squash courts and playing fields.

It is not only those who live and work at Wychfield who get to appreciate the imaginative gardens.

Each year, the grounds are open under the National Gardens Scheme, most recently on Sunday 10 April, when over 100 visitors enjoyed a warm day with guided tours and delicious teas from Head Gardener, Andrew Myson, and his team.

The gardens on the historic city site will be open under the NGS on Sunday 21 August 2011.
Sarah Lebrecht (TH 2007) reports on French Connection UK

In the first week of the Easter vacation, around thirty-five young French teenagers descended upon the College to join Trinity Hall Chapel Choir in the first leg of this year’s exchange with the choir from the Centre de Musique Sacrée à Ste-Anne d’Auray, Morbihan, Brittany.

THCC’s relationship with the French choir, which we hope will be a long and fruitful one, is founded upon two existing connections: their director, Richard Quesnel (TH 1995, Organ Scholar), and our old chapel organ, replaced in 2006. The old organ has found a happy home in the 12th century parish church of Guégon, Morbihan, which, not 40 kilometres from Ste-Anne, is one of the numerous rural churches served by the unique organ ‘school’ attached to the Centre de Musique Sacrée. Trinity Hall Chapel Choir look forward both to visiting and singing in this church, amongst others, when we travel there on tour in the summer.

opportunities to hear the chapel choir:

Trinity Hall Chapel Choir will be travelling to Brittany between Wednesday 24 August and Monday 29 August 2011. Two concerts have been scheduled (see below) and other performances are under discussion. The Choir would be delighted to see Trinity Hall members in the audience.

- Concert in La Basilique Notre-Dame du Roncier, Josselin: Saturday 27 August (pm)
- High Mass in La Basilique de Sainte-Anne-D’Auray: Sunday 28 August (am)

Closer to home, following on from the Choir’s successful evensong in Ely Cathedral in March, THCC will be giving a lunchtime recital in the Lady Chapel, Ely on Thursday 16 June.

Further details of the Choir’s concerts and Chapel programme are available from the website: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/about/chapel.asp

sporting a range of Cambridge University hoodies in various lurid colours, we all looked forward to seeing and singing with them again in their home environment on our return visit.

The week in Cambridge was a voyage of discovery for both choirs. As well as quickly becoming enamoured of our beautiful town, blessed that week with sunshine, the French singers were given a first-hand introduction to the Anglican choral tradition with the chance to attend Choral Evensong, sung by THCC in the College Chapel. In return, they presented to us a beautiful programme of music ranging from the traditional Breton to the more familiar Baroque, and a modern work specially commissioned for them.

As well as consolidating our connection, the purpose of their visit was to rehearse together with us in preparation for a joint concert to be performed in the Basilique Notre-Dame du Roncier, Josselin in late August. The programme will concentrate on an exploration of early repertoires, the specialism of our Director of Music, Andrew Arthur, with a particular focus on settings of the Magnificat and other Marian repertoire. The Chapel Choir savoured the opportunity to experience the unfamiliar fullness of sound inevitably produced by a choir 60 rather than 24 strong.

Our musical programme necessitated even more linguistic adventurousness than was already required by inter-choir socialising: as well as the familiar English, we mastered settings of the Magnificat in both German and Latin, making for a suitably diverse pan-western European programme.

It is a Briton’s lot to be vastly outdone in linguistic attempts by our European neighbours: aside from Katia Knight (Newnham 2009), our token Parisian, and a couple of linguists, we were left shamefully behind by the French choristers in our attempts to render ourselves understood! Yet while the resultant hodgepodge of languages would not have passed any exams, it was indicative of a genuine enthusiasm and willingness to connect with one another which characterised the whole trip. As the French choir departed,
I’m often asked how I choose topics and speakers for the TH Forum series, the main aim of which is to examine diverse areas of academic interest from a broad perspective. In truth, there is, on occasion, a certain amount of serendipity attached to the programme. Ideas for the current series arose, unexpectedly, out of dinner-table conversations; serendipity is serving the programme well this year.

In late January, between snowfalls, we had an excellent debate on the subject of climate change. All three speakers were TH alumni. Dr Walter Grant Scott (TH 1969), a highly successful businessman and climate sceptic, engaged in lively debate on the subject of climate change with Professor Sir Brian Hoskins (TH 1963), a leading climatologist and meteorologist. The debate was lively indeed and masterfully chaired by Dr Tim Lunel (TH 1983), Chief Executive of the National Energy Foundation. There was no disagreement on the basic premise that the climate changes, but by how much, over what period and by what agency, there was significant debate and disagreement. The participation from a well-informed, capacity audience made for a most interesting evening. Renewed thanks to our speakers, and also to Mary Richmond, Events Officer, and her colleagues who managed the challenge of marshalling a large audience with great skill!

In May we entered calmer waters – into the realm of public places and landscape. The topic was the landscape of the London Olympics’ site – ‘Designing for the Olympics with the Future in Mind’ – and our speaker was John Hopkins, project sponsor for parklands and public realm at the Olympic Delivery Authority. The session was chaired by our Director of Studies in Architecture, Di Haigh. The area now occupied by the site for London 2012 was once wasteland to the east of London, and considered a deprived zone of the country. Much hope has been held out for the economic and physical regeneration of this area, and some scepticism expressed at how much will be achieved. Even at this early stage, however, the improvements to the physical environment have been welcomed. John Hopkins, architect of urban landscape, is a master of his trade and his expertise is sought worldwide so we were delighted and privileged that he was able to come and inform us, with first-hand knowledge, of the master plan, design and delivery of the Olympic Park, one of the most important aspects of the London 2012 games.

From the former marshy wastelands east of the capital to the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, the Forum talk in January 2012, to be given by Professor Simon Wessely (TH 1975), will look at the effects of sustained combat on mental and physical health. He will present the latest facts, from recent studies of the health of UK Forces, concerning the psychological and social costs of warfare. Simon Wessely is a leading authority in the area of post-conflict stress and the devastating effect this has on lives. He works closely with the Ministry of Defence, with the US army and with individuals caught up in conflict. He holds an academic post at the Institute of Psychiatry (King’s College London) where he is currently head of the outstanding department of psychological medicine. A gifted speaker and man of many parts, his contemporaries at the Hall remember Simon as an historian of art, before he was enticed into medicine.

Into what corners of academic engagement and areas of interest will the Forum series for 2012–2013 stray? Keep an eye on the TH website:

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events

Dr Claire Daunton
Master’s Lodge
Trinity Hall Undergraduate Elected CUSU President

Gerard Tully (TH 2008) recounts the excitement of the CUSU hustings and his successful campaign.

It was a Tit Hall-dominated affair in this year’s elections to Cambridge University Students’ Union! The Presidency was contested by three people – myself, Sam Wakeford (TH 2007) and a Robinsonite. This had been the first year in many that there had been a serious contest, and we all set off on the campaign trail with refreshingly different slants on where our Students’ Union should be heading.

Campaign Week was an incredible flurry of activity – dozens of willing campaigners, hundreds of posters, thousands of flyers, T-shirts for the very keen among us and over a dozen college hustings to attend. For me, the latter is what it’s all about – getting around so many different colleges, really listening to what people think are the important issues, and being tested on our policies and our experience. As usual, Trinity Hall really got into the spirit – with two of the three presidential candidates, we probably had more people than any other college actively campaigning. As if all this wasn’t enough, we had the pleasure of a two-hour live televised debate, streamed online for every student in the University to watch (and hundreds did!).

My campaign message in one word was ‘engagement’. These are testing times for students in, and attempting to enter, higher education, and I feel it’s massively important to make sure a body like CUSU is responsive to the new issues and challenges Cambridge students are facing. This year we had a record number of candidates standing for all positions, and well over 4,000 students voted, which is fantastic and means we are already one of the most active students’ unions in the country.

When it was all said and done, we had the nerve-wracking results night. As ballot boxes trickled in from every college, it was clear turnout was very high, and things initially looked too close to call. Fortunately for me, I had a decent lead on the first count, and was able to maintain it to the end. Elation doesn’t even describe the feeling of winning after all that effort – for a better idea, try looking at the front page of The Cambridge Student who somehow snapped a photograph of my celebrations!

As candidates, we had a good deal of camaraderie, and I can happily report the election was clean, fair and good-natured. From a Tit Hall perspective, I fully expect when the full stats are released that we will have the highest turnout in the University. Having been second or third highest for some years running, this confirms that Trinity Hall is still punching well above its weight in the world of student politics.

It’s also worth noting that second-year Jimmy Murray (TH 2009) was elected to the part-time position of CUSU Chair. I believe this is the first time in years that the CUSU Chair and Presidency have been held by the same college. When you take into account another Tit Haller (Francesca Hill – TH 2009) is President of the ‘other union’ – The Cambridge Union Society – Trinity Hall is the place to be if you want to be a student politician!

Asparagus Club celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2011

Founded in 1931, the Asparagus Club continues its tradition of termly “Eats”, culminating this year with an 80th anniversary dinner to be held on Friday 23 September 2011.

The current committee say of this High Eat that it will "put the astronomical back into gastronomical. There are historical menus to be unearthed, a double-figure’s worth of courses to be created, and whole tapestries to be woven from asparagus.”

Asparagus Club from the 1970s
The Association continues to develop its programme of arranging events for alumni around the UK. The fifth regional event of this kind was for alumni in the Yorkshire area and was held at Harewood House near Leeds on Saturday 9 October 2010. Once again the choice of venue was determined by choosing a site of intrinsic interest, and Harewood House, perhaps the most complete example of Adam architecture and Chippendale furniture in the country, proved a source of great delight to the alumni and their guests who gathered on a fine evening for a tour of the premises, followed by an excellent dinner in the Old Kitchens.

The next event, at the time of writing, will be a large-scale London Event in the form of a Reception to be held at the Mansion House on Friday 3 June. This too reflects the Association’s policy of holding a major event in London on alternate years, at splendid venues which we believe many alumni will not have visited before and which should therefore be very attractive.

Two years ago the event at the House of Lords sold out early and many applicants for tickets were disappointed. We have honoured our promise by offering priority booking for the Mansion House to those who missed out last time, and expect this to be another memorable occasion.

Further ahead and afield, plans are in place to hold an event at the beautiful Signet Library in Edinburgh on Friday 28 October this year, and we have booked the National Museum in Cardiff for Friday 20 April 2012.

The 2010 Annual Dinner, preceded by the Association’s AGM, was held in College on Saturday 25 September and was once again a sell-out. THA President Sarah Webbe’s (TH 1981) speech, her last as President, was thoughtful and moving, even by her high standards, and received prolonged applause. We decided to go for a more ambitious menu than in previous years, with just a slight increase in ticket price. Reactions from alumni indicate that this was much appreciated, and post-prandial conviviality in the Aula Bar went on into the small hours. This year’s AGM and Annual Dinner will be held in College on Saturday 24 September, with similar arrangements. Do apply in good time if you wish to come!

All of these activities, including smaller private gatherings organised by alumni on their own initiative, are subsidised to a greater or lesser extent by the THA. At the same time the Association’s finances are very sound. This is made possible by the extremely valuable endowment of the Association some years ago by Dennis Avery (TH 1980). Dennis’s domicile in California makes it difficult for him to attend THA events in person, but his generous spirit is always with us.

Officers and Committee Members
The current twelve month period will see a series of significant changes. Sarah Webbe’s term as President comes to an end in September this year. Her impact on the Association, creative thinking, and hands-on dynamism has been far beyond the call of duty and an inspiration to us all. Most of what is new in the THA’s activities is a consequence of her leadership. Last year Dr Nigel Chancellor (TH 1990), former Domus Bursar and Fellow of the College, joined the Committee, and the Committee will propose to the membership that he should succeed Sarah as President at the next AGM. Nigel’s expertise and wide-ranging experience both inside and outside the College make him exceptionally well qualified for the role.

My own term as Secretary also expires in September. I have enjoyed the role immensely, but it is time for a new person with fresh ideas. Dr Chris Angus (TH 1967), who has already contributed handsomely to the Association in recent years, has happily volunteered to take over and members will be asked to endorse his appointment. In view of the increased activity and workload of the THA, and to support the incoming President, it is also proposed that I should become Vice-President for a time, a role I should be honoured to undertake.

Tim Nixon (TH 1999) has relocated to East Asia and with much regret has had to resign from the Committee. Tim has made a terrific contribution to the THA, especially in his advocacy of the younger alumni, and we shall miss him very much indeed. With youth on his side we hope he can return to the Committee one day. Meanwhile we look for a replacement from the same generation.

I must ask all alumni to join the Committee in our appreciation of the staff of the Alumni Office for what they do for us. The THA simply could not carry out its current range of activities without their whole-hearted and efficient administration. It’s all in a common cause, but a huge thank you from us all!

Colin Hayes (TH 1962)
THA Awards – embracing five continents: Africa, South East Asia, India, Australasia and Europe

As the THA Awards enter their fifth year, the variety and richness of the awardees’ experiences is outstanding. The Awards, which offer up to £2,000 a year to support students undertaking vacation projects with a humanitarian or community purpose, are open to UK as well as overseas projects but the majority of applicants so far have chosen to go overseas. Originally conceived as a single bursary, the Awards have become part of a patchwork of funding, often the final enabling grant in a package put together by an individual student. Not only does this spread the Awards’ effect but rightly or wrongly it mirrors the processes by which advanced degree funding must be stitched together and the patchwork way many projects are funded in commercial and not-for-profit organisations – valuable experience for later life.

The rules are simple – the project must be at least a month long, organised through a valid organisation (preferably directly with an established charity or NGO), involve the majority of a person’s time in that month and be of humanitarian or community benefit. There are agencies which broker vacation projects – some charging high fees to students to secure placements, which are of questionable use to student or beneficiary. The THA will not fund these agency fees and awardees have proved innovative in finding projects directly or through university groups. The THA is also cautious about funding any project in a region or country designated as dangerous for travel by the FCO – students should be intrepid but it would not be right to fund them to put themselves in harm’s way or burden disaster recovery efforts with unskilled amateurs. As the growing body of awardees shows, there are plenty of places to be both intrepid and useful which are not currently in a war zone, subject to volatile civil unrest or recovering from a major natural disaster.

The Awards require a formal report on the project. They are made without benchmarks for success – how being intrepid and useful is rated is entirely up to the awardee. These reports make fascinating and informative first-hand accounts of living and working in developing countries, often in remote places unsupported by anything more than a local contact and often without a common language. However, without exception, in the huge variety of projects undertaken, the resourcefulness of TH students and their determination to contribute shines through.
The intensity of these experiences, from the outrage at cultural and political oppression to the pragmatism of which life to save, to the realisation that a project will revolutionise a whole community’s daily existence clearly has an enormous impact on the awardee and indeed, on the reader. Published in full in the THA section of the College website, the reports are refreshingly open about the good, the bad and the occasional ugly aspects of their experiences. Most awardees encounter scarce resources, cultural barriers, oppression, lack of organisation and infrastructure and have to adjust fast to fending for themselves. They do hard physical work on subsistence diets, devise teaching aids from thin air and childhood experience, practise hands-on medicine with only basic equipment and drugs, improvise structures, schedules, incentives and objectives, all whilst constantly reassessing and readjusting their previous understanding of “normal”. Across five continents from Africa to South East Asia and India to Australasia, even, last year to Eastern Europe, they draw a multitude of lessons for themselves while working hard to do what they can to improve, assist and enrich the lives of those they have gone to help. Awardees are clearly affected far more deeply than perhaps they expect to be by the bare simplicity of others’ lives, a new meaning of hard work, the isolation of many communities, the apparently cavalier attitudes to life, the lack of social conscience and the disparity of natural beauty and abundance with the poverty of their hosts and their host countries. What also shines through is the respect for others engendered by these experiences. Awardees are a modest lot – they travel without agendas, simply hoping to help. They return full of amazement at the welcomes they received, the huge generosity of people with so little material wealth, the relationships they have managed to build and the friendships offered and given. Most travel on in the country after their work finishes, more open to what they see. They clearly form new judgements, make new benchmarks and challenge their own preconceptions. Some promise to return, or to make a positive difference in another way; some undoubtedly will.

“A THA Award, not for being good but to be useful.” The results of that original idea far exceed our expectations and we look forward to the next generation.

Sarah Webbe (TH 1981)
President of the THA

2010 Awardees:
• Teaching in Nepal, Hannah Capek (TH 2009)
• The Temi Community in Georgia, Lauren Arthur (TH 2008)
• Dreams Project in New Zealand, Ashleigh Lamming (TH 2007)

The full texts of the 2010 reports and all the THA Award winners to date are on the College website at:
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/trinity_hall_assoc.asp#awards

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday 24 September 2011
Trinity Hall Association Cambridge Dinner

The popular THA Cambridge Dinner is likely once again to be an oversubscribed event. Invitations with details of the programme and a booking form will be sent out by email in June.

Prior to the Dinner, the THA AGM will be held at 6.30pm (papers will be available online nearer the time).

The dinner will cost £48.00 per head for alumni who matriculated in 2002 or earlier, and £38.00 per head for those who matriculated in 2003 or later. Alumni may bring one guest each at £48.00 and £38.00 per head respectively. Single B&B accommodation is also available at £34.50 per room.

If you would like to reserve a place in advance of receipt of the invitation, please contact Mary Richmond on:
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 332555 or Email: events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk
Trinity Hall Boat Club had the best club performance on the river in Lent Bumps 2011, moving up a total of 16 places in 20 Bumps races. All five of the Trinity Hall crews racing caught and ‘bumped’ at least two crews ahead of them, whilst no Trinity Hall crew was ever in danger of being caught themselves! We wish them well in the Mays.

The Men’s II boat did especially well and was awarded discretionary blades for going up a total of five places. They caught Fitzwilliam II, Robinson II (who were three places ahead) and Clare II, rowing over on the second day when the crews in front all bumped out. The Men’s I boat caught Clare and Jesus, to finish seventh, whilst the Women’s I boat caught St Catharine’s, Clare and Caius, to finish eighth. We still have a little way to go to become Head of the River again, but THBC is definitely moving in the right direction!

Information on how you can continue to support the Club can be found on the Boat Club website, www.trinityhallbc.co.uk, along with more in-depth race reports, results, photos and videos.
Further Tales of Lent Successes

Martin Rogers (TH 1950) recalls success in the 1951 Lents, recently celebrated at a Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Lunch.

Four members of the 5th Lent boat crew from 1951 met on Tuesday 22 March to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the winning of our oars: Geoff Noel (3) (TH 1950), Martin Rogers (4) (TH 1950), Anthony McMurtrie (5) (TH 1950), and David Harle (stroke) (TH 1949). Charles Cory (Bow) (TH 1950) was unfortunately prevented from coming by the urgent need for a back operation. David Rees (2) (TH 1949) lives in Yorkshire and found it too far to come. We were unable to get in touch with A H Sears (6) (TH 1949) or A K Pirie (7) (TH 1950). Sadly, Crispin Nash-Williams (TH 1950) died a few years ago.

Anthony McMurtrie had arranged lunch at the ‘City Flogger’ restaurant in Fenchurch Street, City of London, which we found to be an excellent restaurant with good food and plenty of character. He arranged for special table mats to be provided which incorporated a picture of our oar. It turned out that we all still had our oars, made into standard lamps, hung on walls or even in a garage.

We met at 12.30 pm and did not stop talking until we left after 2.30 pm. Everyone was on very good form and conversation covered our experiences at the Hall, our families (not least the number and special qualities of our grandchildren!) and what we had been doing since we left the Hall. Our different experiences gave us different perspectives but we were in remarkable agreement on our general beliefs about life.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and I would encourage anyone who has a Hall occasion to celebrate and has a similarly eccentric imagination to do the same. Maybe a Golden Jubilee would be even easier to organise!

“"If only we had another 10 minutes we would have won”

Malcolm Pearman, one of Trinity Hall’s Porters, was coach to the Women’s Football 2010/11 teams. They narrowly lost promotion having lost their final match, as he recounts below.

When asked by this season’s captain Renie Spranger if I would coach them for the 2010/11 season, I didn’t have to think twice. I was delighted with the way training went – there was so much enthusiasm and potential. Our first game was a tough match, and we unluckily lost 6-2. I was proud of the team and told them they would bounce back. Bounce back is exactly what they did by beating Robinson & Selwyn 1-0 in a close fought match. The last game before the Christmas break saw us at home in Cuppers to Newnham who are a division above us. Newnham, bolstered by at least two Blues players, turned up expecting to steam-roller us. But we pressed them at every opportunity, ending normal time with a score of 2-2, which resulted in extra time.

Before resuming play, I gave them a quote from Sir Alf Ramsey when he was talking to his England players as they were going into extra time in the World Cup final of 1966 – also at 2-2: “You’ve won this game once; now go out there and win it again!” I didn’t need to say any more, as within the first 6 minutes, Anna Daunt received the ball just on the edge of the penalty area and with great control and composure, she struck the ball into the top right hand corner of the net. Her goal turned out to be the winner!

After the Christmas break things got a little frustrating, with injuries and matches postponed or cancelled due to bad weather. Our biggest challenge was our match against Corpus. We had to win. If we did, we would be champions and get automatic promotion, whereas a draw or defeat would see us in third place. Corpus, like Newnham, boasts two Blues players, but our team held them off until the final minutes of the first half when we suddenly found ourselves undeservedly 3-0 down. My half-time talk encouraged them to turn it round. The second half began with us getting straight on top and pressing Corpus like there was no tomorrow and it soon paid off. With us 4-3 down and under ten minutes left of the game, my voice was getting hoarser by the minute and our support on the lines remained tremendous. But … we ran out of time and the game was lost.

The team had performed magnificently, everyone should be proud of what they had nearly achieved, and, as one of the squad said, “if only we had another 10 minutes we would have won!” I have been asked if I would continue to coach. Well of course I will – it will be an honour to do so!
A Geologist in Cameroon

Julia Hall (TH 2005) graduated from Trinity Hall with an MSc in Natural Sciences (Geology) in 2009. She spent just over a year working and travelling (including New Zealand, Gambia and Cameroon) before starting her current job at Risk Management Solutions in London. She shares with you a snippet of her experiences in Cameroon.

35°C; following a track through the Cameroonian rainforest; a heavy woven basket laden with cocoa against my back, secured by a strap over my head. “La blanche porte le panier” – a local had spotted me across the forest as he sprayed his cocoa trees. A little seen phenomenon in these remote parts was a white person. Surreal? Yes, definitely, especially considering, a year on, I am travelling by tube into the bustling city to work.

I had always had a fascination with the continent of Africa, with its rich diversity of cultures, languages and landscapes. After gaining a Masters in Natural Sciences in 2009, I arranged my trip, hoping to use some of the skills I had picked up from university – whether it was my organisational skills honed at Cambridge University Air Squadron, my sense of dealing with the unknown (thanks to Cambridge exams), or the skill-set gained from my degree. Turns out I used all three!

After leaving Trinity Hall, I worked for a few months in order to finance my adventure. I first went to the Gambia for two weeks to help with a scout development project. The next two and a half months were spent in the Cameroon, mainly in a remote part of the rainforest 80 km from the Congo border. I was staying with a group of Cameroonian nuns, living alongside Bantu and Baka (pygmy) tribes.

Life in the rainforest was tough – it was not a holiday by any means and was a constant battle of trying to explain to people that I don’t have an army of servants back in the UK or an endless pot of gold … and all in French [mine is GCSE standard at best]. So, naturally, I was leading a class of 50 hyper children in a rendition of English songs within the first couple of days. As well as the basic primary school, which only some could afford, the village had a dispensary – unusual in this region. A nun, with two years’ training, was delivering babies and treating malaria on a daily basis.

I joined a number of ambitious vaccination programmes, which attempted to span an area 100 km along the road and deep into the forest either side. This is impossible without their moped and rickety car, which very nearly did not make a number of journeys whilst I was there. One free government scheme aimed to reach all children aged one to five to vaccinate against polio. Another use of the car was for visiting villages to carry out HIV tests, distributing anti-worm tablets, checking newborns, diagnosing ad-hoc medical problems and of course for getting supplies from the nearest town … a two hour drive away.

As a geologist, I wanted to make the most of my knowledge. I can’t say that I have used it to the benefit of these African tribes but they have taught me more than I could have ever learnt in a classroom.

I would be glad to hear from anyone interested by this article at: juliamaryhall@googlemail.com

For more tales, please see: http://juliamaryhall.wordpress.com (password: anotherworld).
This charming manuscript was produced in England in the early 14th century and is decorated with red and blue initials, some of which are ornamented with lively pen flourishes. Unfortunately, it had been re-bound in the 19th century, making the volume hard to open. The first stage of conservation is now complete: the manuscript has been dis-bound and the vellum leaves were placed in a humidifier to flatten and relax them. This is the first item to be conserved with funds raised from our current Supporters of the Old Library scheme. We have had an excellent response to the scheme so far and have raised over £6,400 towards conserving and cataloguing the Old Library’s rare books. This sum includes a generous donation from the Golden Wedding celebration of alumnus Richard Ferens (TH 1957), which took place in College last September.

The generosity of alumni has also been helping to fund the Deputy Librarian’s work cataloguing the 18th century books in the Old Library.

The project, which is partly supported by an allocation from last year’s Telephone Campaign, is uncovering a wealth of unusual items in the Old Library. For an amusing look at the progress of this project and an insight into some of the wonders of the Old Library, take a look at our blog: www.oldlibrarytrinityhall.wordpress.com/

Edward Cheese of the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium shows alumnus Colin Colston (TH 1958) the progress of the conservation work.

Conservation in progress

The Old Library’s Medieval manuscript, the Summarium capitulorum Genesis ad Job [MS.28] is currently undergoing conservation work which has been kindly sponsored by Colin Colston (TH 1958).

Revising by the River

The Jerwood Library provides a relaxing but stimulating environment for study and revision, especially vital in the exam period when much needed refreshment is provided by library staff in the form of juice and cookies.
Events

Saturday 2 July 2011
Volunteers Meeting.

Saturday 16 July 2011

Sunday 21 August 2011
College Gardens open.

Friday 9 September 2011
1951 – 60th Anniversary Dinner.

Saturday 10 September 2011
2001 (UG) – 10th Anniversary Dinner.

Friday 16 September 2011
1971 – 40th Anniversary Dinner.

Saturday 17 September 2011

Saturday 24 September 2011
THA Cambridge Dinner and AGM.

Friday 28 October 2011
THA Regional Dinner, Signet Library, Edinburgh.

Wednesday 16 November 2011
1950 lunch at the RAF Club.

Saturday 19 November 2011
Milestone Lecture to be given by Dr David Runciman, Fellow in SPS: Politics and the London Olympics.

Thursday 8 December 2011
Varsity Rugby, Twickenham.

Monday 23 January 2012
Trinity Hall Forum: Professor Simon Wessely [TH 1975]. The mental health consequences of recent conflicts on UK Armed Forces.

March 2012
The Graham Storey Lecture by Allan Holinghurst.

Saturday 24 March 2012
MA Ceremony and Reunion Dinner for 2005 UG.

Saturday 14 April 2012
Boat Club Regatta and Anniversary Dinner.

Friday 20 April 2012
THA Regional Dinner, National Museum, Cardiff.

Saturday 30 June 2012
Celebration of Sport.

Saturday 7 July 2012

Saturday 15 September 2012

Saturday 22 September 2012
THA: Cambridge Dinner and AGM.

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Something to celebrate? Conference to organise? Looking for a venue?

Over the last year Trinity Hall has hosted a number of special events for alumni members including golden anniversaries, weddings and milestone birthdays. If you have a special occasion coming up and would like to find out more please do contact us (details below).

Types of events we can offer:

- Garden parties: these can be held on the River Terrace or at Wychfield.
- Dinner parties: ranging from an intimate dinner for 10 in the Chetwode Room to a Gala dinner in the Dining Hall.
- Weddings: we offer the complete package, which can include a civil ceremony.
- Corporate bookings: including residential conferences, day meetings and workshops.
- Christmas parties: book your company party with us and enjoy a festive dinner followed by drinks and dancing in the Aula Bar.

We invite you to take advantage of our 5% alumni discount. This applies to any booking you may make and can include not just celebratory events but also conferences, day meetings and accommodation.

Are you hoping to go and watch the Olympics in London?

We are pleased to offer accommodation at our Wychfield site with special rates for alumni members. Keep an eye on our website for further details.

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/conferences/index.asp

Interested in attending a College event?

For further information visit:
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events
or contact Mary Richmond.
Email: events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or Tel: +44 (0)1223 332555

Information correct at time of going to press.