

# FRONT COURT



TRINITY HALL  
CAMBRIDGE

Highlights

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Remembered](#)

[Meet the New  
Vice-Master](#)

[Fitzwilliam  
Museum &  
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Connections](#)

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Taking off to Thailand,  
the Himalayas and  
Ethiopia](#)

# Welcome

We welcome the new decade with a revitalised *Front Court* which we hope you will enjoy. Following on from comments made during this year's telephone campaign, it was suggested that more articles covering current areas of research would be appreciated and to that end we have two very interesting research articles: one, a history of the crusaders by our Schulman Research Fellow, Dr Teresa Shawcross; the other, on the decline of languages in the world by Research Fellow, Dr Stephen Pax Leonard. The sad passing of Dr Shaun Wylie is marked in this issue by an engaging look at his life written by his son, Malcolm (TH 1967). Professor Robert Cumming (TH 1962) discovers the connections between the Hall and the Fitzwilliam Museum.

*Front Court* is this year being sent out in electronic form to all of you for whom we have email addresses. If you would prefer to receive *Front Court* electronically in the future, then do please email me at [publications@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:publications@trinhall.cam.ac.uk).

## Ginny Swepson

Publications Officer

# Returning for a visit?

The College is always delighted to welcome you back even when the 'Closed to Visitors' sign is on display.

Please make yourself known to the Porters and they will let you know what is going on in College. Also, let them know your year and within an instant they will be able to produce a copy of your matriculation photo.

To enhance your visit to Cambridge further, don't forget to bring your CamCard which offers reductions

at many Cambridge shops, restaurants and hotels.

If you have not yet applied for a CamCard, or it has been mislaid, please email: [alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk) with your name, current address, matriculation year and mention Trinity Hall and they will happily send you a new one. Alternatively, contact the Alumni Relations Office at: 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge CB5 8AB or tel +44 (0)1223 332288



## 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 2011), please contact the Editors.

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

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## Master's Message

An era has closed at Trinity Hall, with the death of two of our Honorary Fellows. When I was elected as Master, a group of alumni invited me to dinner at the Athenaeum, and conversation with Alan King-Hamilton (TH 1923) turned to his participation in the General Strike. Mental arithmetic suggested that he was implausibly old for someone so sprightly – and not long afterwards, I attended his 100th birthday at the Middle Temple.

He will be remembered at Trinity Hall through the Alan King-Hamilton Award for Undergraduate Law Students, and in the legal profession for presiding over some of the most controversial trials of the 1960s and 1970s. The week he died, I attended the Aula Club dinner at the Middle Temple, and saw Alan's Coat of Arms incorporating the crescent of Trinity Hall. The life of the much loved and respected former Fellow Shaun Wylie is commemorated in *Front Court* by his son, and he was remembered at a memorial service in College on Saturday 24 April. His passing brought so many of his family, friends and students back to the Hall, where we remembered an exceptional

man who was so important to the life of the College, and to the country as a codebreaker during the Second World War and the Cold War.

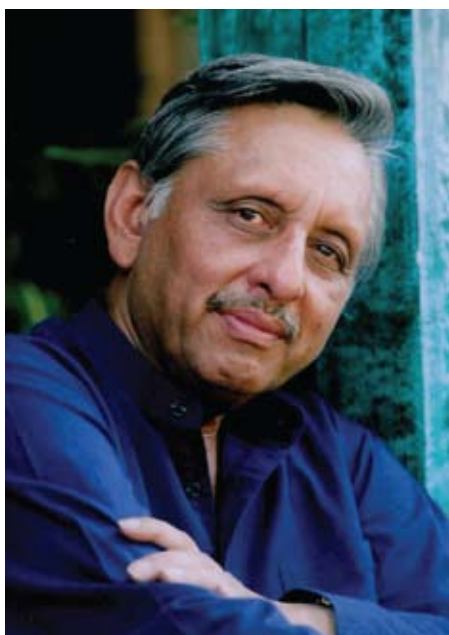
This last term, three Appeal Court Judges and Honorary Fellows – John Thomas (TH 1966), Tony Hooper (TH 1957) and Colin Rimer (TH 1963) – joined us for the annual Law Society dinner where they met with our current Law students. Such links across the generations are so important for the life of the College. I was also delighted to host a seminar and dinner in the Lodge for an alumnus who has contributed to the political life of India. Mani Shankar Aiyar (TH 1961) had a



*The Master attended the Anglo-Japanese conference of historians in Tokyo and took part in a conference on economic thought and the British Empire.*

Continued from page 3

distinguished career in the Indian Foreign Service before becoming a member of the Lok Sabha and serving in the Cabinet. He stepped down from the Lower House at the last election, but shortly before arriving in Britain to launch his two new books, he was appointed to the Rajya Sabha or Upper House. If his wide-ranging and impressive talk on Indian democracy and economic development is anything to go by, he will surely continue to play a major role in the political life of India. He held an audience of Fellows, students, and friends from his time at the Hall, enthralled by his account of the threats to democracy from economic development, and how to respond. I am delighted that Mani has now been elected an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall. Mani's constituency was in Tamil Nadu, which made me reflect on the career of another alumnus, Ambassador Dr Palitha Kohona (TH 1977). The first time we met in 2006, he had been appointed by the President of Sri Lanka to resolve the long-running conflict with the Tamil Tigers. This assignment was, I suggested, a rather dangerous one – and I was not reassured when he replied that his predecessor was assassinated. I was therefore delighted to see him at our reunion in New York last December, and to learn that he had just been appointed Ambassador to the United Nations for his part in the successful restoration of peace. In May, another alumnus, Andy Sparkes (TH 1978), who



Mani Shankar Aiyar (TH 1961).

is currently the British Ambassador to Kosovo, spoke about the role of diplomats in restoring peace to war-torn societies – something on which he has wide experience from previous postings in the Congo and Rwanda. Bishop Bateman tried to bring peace between the English and the French, so the tradition of the Hall continues.

Trinity Hall has contributed to the more peaceful arts, continuing in the footsteps of Viscount Fitzwilliam who is also remembered in this issue of *Front Court*. He would doubtless be delighted by our acquisition of a new harpsichord which sounds as beautiful as it looks. Rachel Weisz (TH 1988) has added an Olivier award as best actress to her Oscar. The impressive series of lectures in memory of Graham Storey continued with a brilliant lecture by Anne Enright on the influence of her teacher Angela Carter. The College, it seems to me, has never been so lively and exciting – and I am delighted that so many alumni return for events. But more than anything, what makes the College so stimulating are the students and Fellows. At the recent Commemoration of Benefactors, I asked an alumnus who is a senior figure in finance for his assessment of the future, and he was full of despair. But, he continued, he was confident about the future – gesturing towards the students with whom he had been speaking over dinner.

Times will certainly be hard for the next few years, and academic appointments will not be easy to secure. We have therefore been delighted that our young Research Fellows have been remarkably successful in moving on from their three-year positions to prestigious posts at King's College London, Amherst College in Massachusetts, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, as well as in Cambridge. We knew we could not keep these Research Fellows: our task was achieved in seeing them through the difficult transition from graduate students to mature scholars. Of course, we must also come to terms with the departure of more senior Fellows. Our outstanding Fellow in Law, Angus Johnston, is now returning to a post in Oxford where he



The Master and Dr Claire Daunton with Dennis Avery (TH 1980) at Wychfield. Dennis and Sally Wong-Avery recently visited Trinity Hall to attend an MCR Dinner and took the opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Wychfield and enjoy the May Bumps.

was himself a student. The Deanship of Trinity Hall has been a stepping stone to preferment in the Church and in academic life, so we were all dreading the time when Jeremy Morris would be translated to a new position. We are delighted for him on his election to the Deanship of King's College. We wish them all every success.

I recently travelled to the United States to carry out research on financial and trade politics in the archives of Presidents Kennedy and Nixon in Boston and Washington. I met with alumni in both cities, and expressed my optimism that any feeling of despair about the problems of reforming the world trade and monetary systems will be compensated by knowledge that former students of Trinity Hall continue to contribute so much to the world in so many ways. Little did I realise that my visit would be longer than anticipated: I returned to Cambridge after five additional days as a result of the volcanic ash. My plight proved what I have always known: alumni rally round and help each other in times of difficulty. What might have been a very stressful time was made enjoyable by the assistance of Hugh and Jim Taylor (TH 1962 and 1960, respectively) who had so generously hosted the alumni event in Boston.

# A New Vice-Master

Ginny Swepson, Publications Officer, interviews Professor John Clarkson (Fellow, TH 1981), Professor of Engineering Design, who took up the baton of Vice-Master in October 2009. This is a fixed four-year post and Professor Clarkson follows in the footsteps of many an eminent Fellow, including his predecessor, Professor Tom Körner (Fellow, TH 1964).

**Q: You have been at Trinity Hall as an undergraduate in the 1980s and as a Fellow since 1995, this interspersed with a commercial career at PA Consulting Group. What drew you to Trinity Hall and academia?**

A: I was initially drawn to Trinity Hall because it was a small college on the river and one of very few that might accept me on a conditional offer. I had interviews with Jonathan Steinberg and Ernest Frankl and was offered a deferred place which I took up after working for the English Electric Valve Company in Chelmsford. I had enormous fun at Trinity Hall for six years as an undergraduate and post-graduate student, after which I returned to industry as an engineer, and later manager, with PA Consulting Group. I spent seven and a half very busy years working on a range of diverse projects from medical devices to fire-training systems. While running a team of engineers responsible for designing automation equipment, I realised that I was becoming more interested in the process of design rather than in designing itself.

The turning point came when I bumped into an old friend I had studied with. He had just been offered a lectureship, and informed me that there was a post available in Design. I applied and was offered the post.

My immediate thought was to see whether I could return to Trinity Hall and was delighted when I was offered a Fellowship to start in April 1995.

**Q: What are your current research interests?**

A: Somebody asked me this question the other day and I said 'knickers to helicopters'. It is almost that diverse. My team and I look at issues associated with the design of complex engineering systems for companies such as Rolls-Royce and BP, in addition to looking at how we can facilitate the design of better products for the elderly and disabled, and better healthcare services across the UK. We share a passion for understanding and enhancing the design process and publish widely, both within the academic press and in the form of tools and guides for designers. Our work on inclusive design can be found, for example, at [www.inclusivedesigntoolkit.com](http://www.inclusivedesigntoolkit.com)

**Q: How does it feel taking over the role from Professor Körner?**

A: Very daunting. Professor Körner was Dr Körner when I first arrived as a student and well known for his mathematicians' tea parties, which I was fortunate to attend. Tom is a font of wisdom among the Fellowship and one of only a few who can remember what it was like in the early 1980s and before. It is quite strange to think that I am now part of the next generation of Fellows, where our memories begin in a later time and we are expected to provide a 'new' wisdom for the Fellows that follow us. Tom has been a very steady pair of hands over the past four years and will be a hard act to follow.

**Q: As you mentioned, we now have a young Fellowship at Trinity Hall. As Vice-Master what role do you have in mentoring them?**

A: These are exciting times. When I returned in 1995 I was surrounded by people whom I had known in the



early 1980s, but now we have a much younger Fellowship that is taking on the responsibility of ensuring this institution exists for future generations. I think that there is always a need for new Fellows to learn, as I did, that this is a significant responsibility, yet one that they can take on with confidence and enthusiasm. They are given the opportunity to work on committees, to take on jobs within the Fellowship as Directors of Studies or Tutors and generally to contribute to the life of the College. In mentoring, one of the things I can do is to encourage active participation in all these facets of College life. I also hope and trust that our younger Fellows will aspire to remain actively involved as they develop in their academic careers, following the example of Professors Körner, Denton and others, who despite being promoted carried on working within the College.

# From the Smallest to the Largest Chapel

Professor Martin Daunton reflects on the outgoing Dean, The Revd Dr Jeremy Morris, who leaves Trinity Hall after nine years to take up the post of Dean at King's College, Cambridge.

The Deans of Trinity Hall have been highly distinguished both as scholars and clerics: they have been preferred to Bishoprics in Norwich and Canterbury, and appointed to Chairs in Oxford and Glasgow. Indeed, the very title of the position honours the most eminent of all former Deans: the incumbent is the Robert Runcie Fellow generously endowed by Dennis Avery (TH 1980). In the case of Jeremy Morris, there was no doubt that one day his huge talents would take him away from Trinity Hall; the only doubt was whether it would be for a prestigious post in the Church or in the academy. Fortunately for his many friends in Cambridge, the answer is a combination of the two possibilities: he is moving to be Dean of the Chapel of King's College, exchanging the smallest and most intimate chapel for the grandest and most public. Jeremy will be able to

continue everything that he has done so well at Trinity Hall. As Dean, he has been Director of Studies in Theology, attracting able students and producing outstanding results. He has been a witty and intelligent preacher, as well as bringing in many interesting and provocative speakers to chapel on Sunday evenings. He has provided pastoral care and support for every member of the College community, whether Fellows, staff or students. And all the time he has maintained his academic work in both History (which he read at Oxford) and Theology (which he studied at Clare College). He has written about that major figure in the history of the College and of Victorian religion, F D Maurice; he has reflected on secularisation; and he is writing about the Eucharist in Europe since 1800. Jeremy has played an important role in the wider life of the Anglican community, as Vice-Principal



of Westcott House and more recently in ecumenical relations with churches in Europe. It really is an astonishing achievement to have managed so much during his nine years at Trinity Hall, as a teacher, scholar, pastor and friend. We wish him, and Alex, Isobel, Ursula and William every success at King's – and whatever else the future might have in store! We will miss Jeremy, but we know that he will be found in the 'cathedral' (as I recently heard one tourist call it) just along King's Parade.

## New Harpsichord for Trinity Hall



In November 2009, the Master and Fellows of Trinity Hall were delighted to announce the inauguration of a new harpsichord for the College.

The instrument was made by renowned English craftsman Andrew Garlick, who has been making harpsichords since 1974. Specialising in French and Flemish instruments and employing the best materials, he has achieved a wide, outstanding reputation for the clear toned, fine looking harpsichords he produces.

The new College instrument is a testament to those qualities. Modelled on the Goujon harpsichord of 1748 in the Paris Conservatoire, it offers scope for the full harpsichord repertoire, with its double manual, five octave range with

three choirs of strings and an attractive buff stop. The College Coat of Arms is featured on the decorated soundboard giving this new instrument a great sense of belonging and a hope that it may still be at Trinity Hall in 400 years' time!

This instrument was commissioned in order to fulfil both didactic and performance purposes. The purchase was made possible through the generous benefaction of numerous alumni, some of whom took part in our annual Telephone Campaign. The consultant for the project has been the College's own Director of Music, Andrew Arthur, who – together with baroque violinist Theresa Caudle – gave the inaugural recital in the College's Senior Combination Room on St Cecilia's Day, Sunday 22 November 2009, in the presence of Andrew Garlick.

## I Built my Own Harpsichord

Learning of the arrival of Trinity Hall's new harpsichord, Malcolm Gerloch (Emeritus Fellow) wrote to share with us his recollections of building his own harpsichord for his wife, Gwyneth. Visit our forum site at [THAlumni.net](http://THAlumni.net) for the full article.

Over a period of 13 months in 2003–4, which included a continuous effort of some seven months, I built/assembled a double manual, Flemish-style harpsichord. Retirement allows such excesses. Though competent as an amateur woodworker, I had no experience as an instrument maker and so bought a 'kit' from the Zuckermann company in New England, USA. Such kits are really professional instruments, provided at one stage of assembly or another. Mine began with an assembled case with soundboard in. The soundboard is decorated in traditional style. The outside of the case shows panels in faux tortoiseshell. The inside lid has free-hand arabesques within a formal border of dark red and gold.

There are three separate choirs of strings – two eight-foot and one four-foot. Altogether ten different tonalities may be selected – somewhat like choosing stops on an organ.

The touch of the instrument is light and quick from careful balancing and easing of the 112 keys, finicky carving of the quills (voicing) and clever research by the Zuckermann company.



*Gwyneth Gerloch playing the harpsichord.*

## The World's Vanishing Voices

Research Fellow Dr Stephen Pax Leonard is raising awareness of the plight of the world's languages through the establishment of a new research group.

Most people are surprised to discover that we do not even know how many languages are spoken in the world today. Current estimates range from c 5,500 to 7,000. We can be certain, however, that languages are dying out at an unprecedented rate as speakers switch to the world's major and most prestigious languages in a climate of globalisation. The current extinction of languages has no precedent in history and far exceeds the most dire predictions for biodiversity loss. With half of the world's languages spoken by a mere 0.2% of the global population and with the current trends in language shift, most linguists agree that 50% of the world's languages will probably not be spoken in a 100 years' time.

When languages disappear we do not just lose a way of speaking, but also an immense repository of cultural knowledge and intellectual wealth, efficiently packaged by millions of people and transmitted across generations for millennia. As this edifice of human knowledge vanishes into oblivion, we do not even know what it is we are losing since most of the world's languages have never been written down.

Linguists are in a race to document these vanishing voices, but anthropologists have barely begun to address the issue of the intangible cultural heritage loss that may accompany this language extinction. Domains of knowledge and traditional wisdom are being lost as many of the world's endangered languages are rich in oral literature, poetry, epic tales, creation stories and myth. These ingredients of cultural heritage exist often only in memory. There is nothing so sacred in memory that it cannot be forgotten and by allowing our own history to be erased, we are condemning ourselves to cultural amnesia.

These issues and others are now being discussed through a series of



workshops and seminars hosted by the Cambridge Endangered Languages and Cultures Group (CELC). We provide a forum for linguists and anthropologists from Cambridge and other academic institutions to exchange ideas, to raise awareness of these threats facing linguistic and cultural diversity and to support and encourage fieldwork on endangered languages and cultures.

Dr Stephen Pax Leonard is a Research Fellow at Trinity Hall and a Research Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute. Educated at the universities of Paris-Sorbonne and Oxford, he studied modern languages before working as an investment banker in London, Paris and New York. On his return to academia, he developed interests in linguistic anthropology and completed a DPhil at Oxford on social and linguistic identity construction in Iceland. When not studying, he rowed for Oxford and recently ran for Cambridge (but holds a Blue in neither). During his time at Cambridge he has become increasingly interested in the plight of the world's languages and cultures. He is a founding member of CELC.

**Main photo:** Shaun Wylie.  
**Top right:** Shaun's 90th birthday at Trinity Hall with fellow codebreaker Rolf Noskwith.  
**Bottom right:** Shaun and Odette's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

# Shaun Wylie Remembered

Shaun Wylie was a Fellow of Trinity Hall from 1939–1958, and an Honorary Fellow from 1980 until his death in October 2009. His memorial service was held in the College chapel on Saturday 24 April this year. His son, Malcolm (TH 1967), has contributed these memories of Shaun.

I was delighted to be asked by the *Front Court* Editor to write this short article about my late father, Shaun Wylie. Trinity Hall played a large part in his life, and he had great affection for the College.

Shaun was born in 1913, the son of Francis Wylie who was the first Warden of Rhodes House at Oxford University, and a distinguished classical scholar. He attended the Dragon School and Winchester College before reading Mathematics and Classics at New College, Oxford.

He then decided to specialise in Mathematics. He went to Princeton in the USA in 1934 and was awarded a PhD for his thesis in the field of Topology, which remained his main academic field.

During his time in Princeton he met fellow British student, Alan Turing. They took part together in a competitive car 'treasure hunt', which involved teams following a trail of cryptic clues as they drove around the countryside at high speed. Shaun and Turing fell hopelessly behind the others, but Shaun was able to extrapolate the missing clues and answers from the few which they had already solved, and they made a direct and triumphant return to base!

On his return from Princeton, Shaun (still plain 'Mr' for several years until

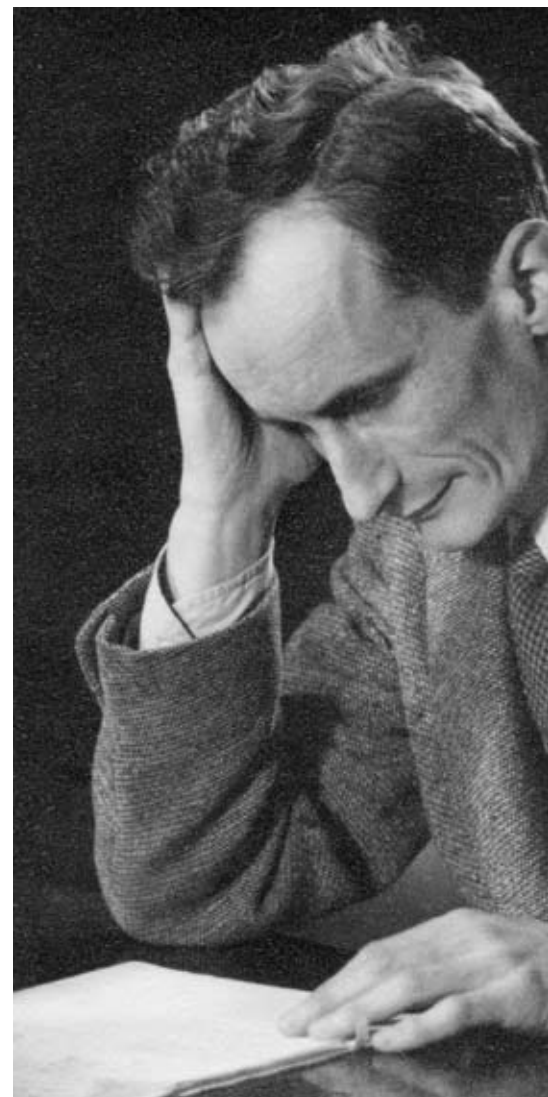
UK academia recognised PhDs from the colonies) did post-doctoral research in Aberdeen which qualified him to play hockey for Scotland against England.

He was elected into the Fellowship at Trinity Hall in 1939, but his time here was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War. From 1940 to 1945 he served as a cryptanalyst (codebreaker) at Bletchley, and played a leading part in breaking German naval codes. In one of the official histories of the work of Bletchley, one of Shaun's colleagues, the late Hugh Alexander, wrote:

**Except for Alan Turing, no-one made a bigger contribution to the success of Hut 8 than Wylie; he was easily the best all-rounder in the section, astonishingly quick and resourceful.**

During his time at Bletchley, Shaun met a WREN, Odette Murray, and they married in 1943. My sister Rowan, brothers, Keith and Bartow (TH 1969) and I were the result.

Shaun resumed his Fellowship at the Hall in 1945. During his time as a Fellow, Shaun became one of the founders of the School of British Algebraic Topologists.



He was the PhD advisor for Frank Adams, Crispin Nash-Williams, William Tutte and Christopher Zeeman. With Peter Hilton (a former colleague at Bletchley), he authored *Homology Theory: An Introduction to Algebraic Topology*, published in 1960. According to Tom Körner, writing in *The Hidden Hall*, he was also instrumental in building up the size and quality of the Mathematics student body at Trinity Hall.

I have a few childhood memories of Shaun's time as a Fellow: a stream of probably very eminent visitors to Sunday lunch but our main question was whether they were 'pesterable'!; occasionally being allowed to play with the port trolley mechanism in the SCR; learning Latin in Shaun's rooms on Q staircase; noticing how Shaun treated everyone in the College with the same interest and respect – I particularly remember Abdo, who was still around when I came up years later.



I have many stories, (far too many for this article) two of which are above, from his contemporaries and students which illustrate him as a teacher and a person.

Shaun worked at GCHQ as Chief Mathematician from 1958 until his retirement in 1973. I can't tell you anything about his work during those years because, unlike the Bletchley stories which eventually started to come out in the 1990s, it all remains a secret!

My parents were very considered about their children's education. My brother Keith was encouraged towards King's, and Bartow and I towards Trinity Hall. Shaun was strongly opposed to any kind of string-pulling. Nevertheless, he explained that his commendation to me of the Hall was partly that he thought I would benefit from the special quality of friendliness which is its hallmark (no pun intended). He was right.

On his retirement, as if drawn by a magnet, he and Odette returned to Cambridge, and he resumed his involvement with the Hall. He took on a string of supervision students in addition to his teaching at what is now Hills Road Sixth Form College. Just after his funeral service, one of his Hills Road students told me what happened when Shaun first took on his A-level maths set. To their great surprise, he started every lesson with recitation of multiplication tables and spelling tests!

He was thrilled to be elected an Honorary Fellow in 1980, and was an enthusiastic member and supporter of the College. He endowed the annual Wylie Prize for Mathematics, and took a keen interest in whatever was going on. I remember accompanying him to a couple of Feasts, one of which saw a rather merry nonagenarian returning to his home in Almoners Avenue on (and twice off) his bike. I was also with him a few years ago

#### **Maurice Smelt (TH 1943), writing in *The Hidden Hall***

I remember a Hall that was not always on its best behaviour. One evening, I was trying to shift a ladder to help someone climb in and invited a shadowy figure in the dark to give me a hand. 'Do you know who I am?' he said. Alas it was Shaun Wylie. 'Yes,' I said, 'but do you know who I am?' 'If you put the ladder back,' he said, 'I will forget that you're Maurice Smelt.'

#### **Norman Sanders (TH 1953) recalls attending Shaun's lectures:**

Shaun Wylie was by far and away the best lecturer I have ever had the pleasure of listening to. He lectured on Linear Algebra, a somewhat abstract subject for many. But his lectures were miracles of clarity and 50-odd years later I still remember his little diagrams of the undiagrammable with vast amusement. Mathematics is not perhaps the most hilarious of subjects, but in Shaun's hands, and voice, it was pretty close. One gets the feeling these days that students are a bit of a nuisance. Not so with Shaun. Whenever we were sick he would cycle over and find us, armed with books to cheer us up. He was the most human of beings.

when he gave a talk on cryptanalysis to an audience in the Master's Lodge.

Shaun often spoke about Trinity Hall colleagues and friends – Charles Crawley, Ernest Frankl, Lancelot Fleming, Bob Runcie, Owen Chadwick, Tom Körner, Graham Storey, Jack Lindsay and lots more! More like a family than an institution.

Our family has celebrated a number of events in Hall – my silver wedding, Odette's 80th, Shaun's 90th and my parents' diamond wedding in 2004. And now we are very grateful that the Master and Fellows have opened the doors of the College twice (for his funeral and memorial service) to celebrate a remarkable and a good life.

PS Those residing at Wychfield may have noticed the ginkgo tree planted to commemorate Shaun's 3,000,000,000th second in 2008 – courtesy of his student and lifelong friend Jack Lindsay (TH 1952).

# Walking in the Crusaders' Footsteps

Research Fellow  
Dr Teresa Shawcross  
whose book, *The Chronicle of Morea: Historiography in Crusader Greece*, was published last year, shares an insight into her research.

If you holiday in Greece this summer and decide to go on a tour of the ancient sites, you will almost certainly visit Olympia, the home of the first Olympic Games. The temple there, dedicated to the god Zeus, once contained a chryselephantine statue that was reckoned in antiquity to be among the Seven Wonders of the World. However, should you be able to break away from the coach and guide for a few hours, then it is worth following the winding and dusty track you see before you, for in the foothills to the east you will come across a very different kind of sacred sanctuary, dedicated to a very different patroness. Stop at a stone fountain where a woman of indeterminate age is peeling potatoes, or perhaps crocheting. Before you stoop to drink of the water, greet her humbly, as best you can. Ask her the right question, and she will direct you with a jerk of the thumb to what she calls 'the palaces' – only yards away through the undergrowth. Take a few more steps, and you will think yourself suddenly transported to another world.

Stretched out before you will lie a huge abandoned monastic complex. You will be the first foreigner to set eyes on it for several years. As you blink and then screw up your eyes, partly in amazement, partly to fight the sun's glare, you will notice that the largest building is a rectangular structure built in the gothic style, with arched windows. This is the main church, Our Lady of Isova, constructed



in honour of the Virgin Mary in the 13th century, probably by Cistercian monks. Also part of the complex, however, is a smaller church, that of Saint Nicholas, most likely built in the 13th century as well, but largely in the local Greek style, as a cross-in-square, with domes and rounded apses characteristic of eastern religious architecture. These churches are just two of hundreds of buildings, some truly monumental, others more modest in scale, that dot the landscape of the Peloponnese and attest not only to centuries of crusader occupation, but also to the contact and symbiosis between two cultures that ensued as a result of that occupation.

In 1204, a crusader army, instead of going to the Holy Land where it was expected, had detoured to sack Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, after which it turned its sights on the provinces of that Empire. Unimaginable lands and wealth were acquired by the crusaders overnight. 'Once we had succeeded in vanquishing our enemies', one of the camp poets crowed, 'we were raised from poverty and surrounded by riches – emeralds and rubies, silk and purple, cultivated fields and gardens, and handsome marble residences'. The richest prize of all was the Byzantine province of Hellas and the Peloponnese – a region whose economy, driven by the production and export of affordable luxuries such as wine, olive oil and silk, was going through a phase of notable prosperity. It was the Principality of Morea or Achaëa, whose heartland was the Peloponnese, that proved to be the most successful of the Crusader States created in the 13th century. Its ruling dynasty, according to one account, not only maintained a private guard of 'eighty knights' shod with 'golden spurs', but also presided over a court that, with 'seven hundred or a thousand noblemen always in attendance', eclipsed



*The church of Our Lady of Isova, part of an abandoned 13th century crusader monastery in Greece.*

that of a 'great king'. The members of this dynasty hailed from Champagne in northern France, but made the eastern Mediterranean their home, intermarrying with the local elite. The Villehardouin were a remarkable family. Prince Guillaume was completely bilingual, composing love poetry in French, but also achieving renown for his *bons mots* and quips in Greek. He was an enlightened ruler, showing respect not only for the western way of life brought with them by the crusaders, but also for native eastern laws, customs and traditions. At his death, he left bequests to both Catholic and Orthodox monasteries. His wife, Anna Komnene Doukaina, who was descended from Byzantine emperors, convened – during a period when she acted as regent in the absence of her husband – one of the most famous 'parliaments' of the Middle Ages, attended almost exclusively by women. The daughter of Guillaume and Anna, Isabeau, would go on to rule the Principality in her own right as sovereign. The coins she issued are a rare medieval example of a coinage struck by a female ruler in her own name.

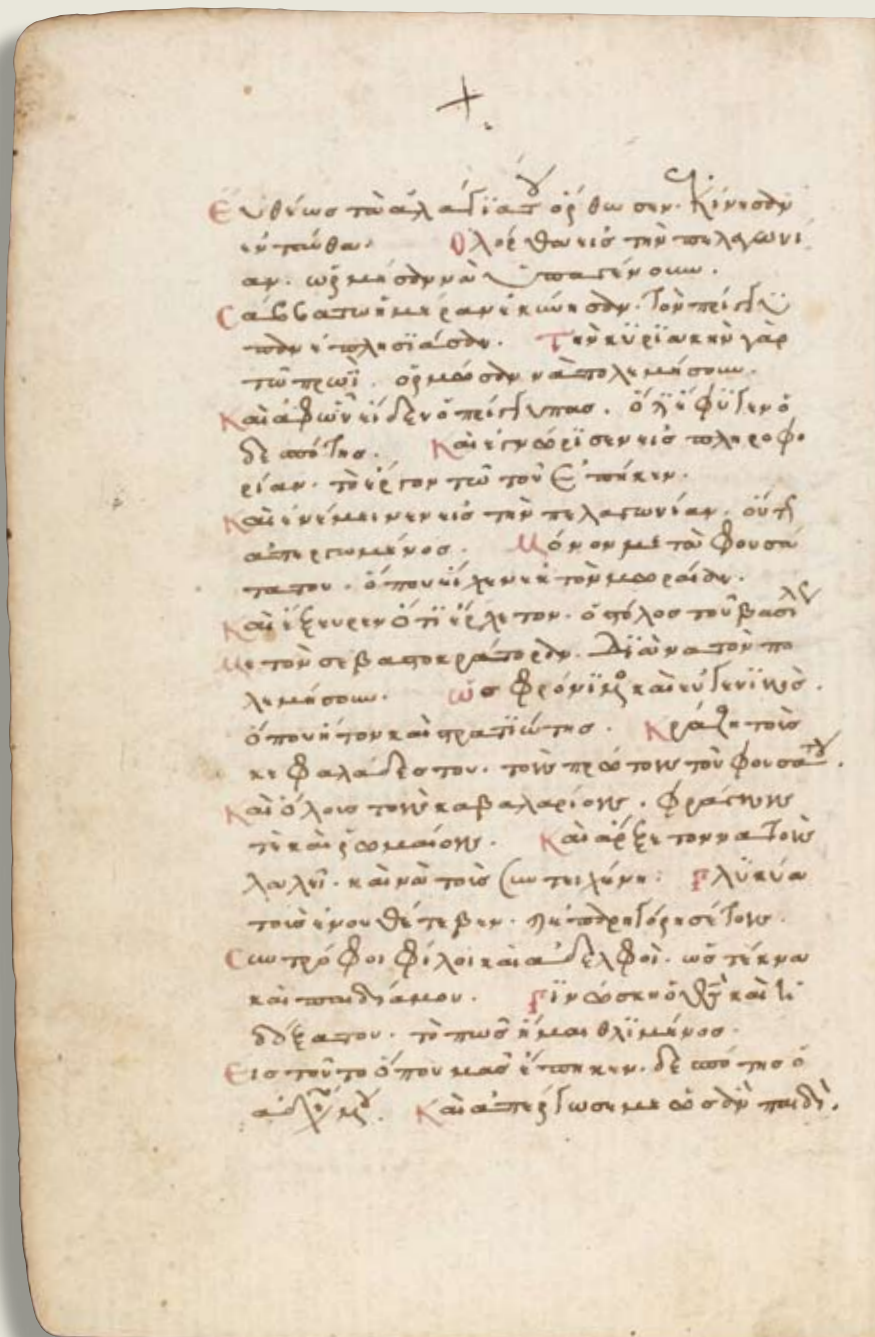
Much of our evidence regarding the formation and government of the Principality of Morea comes from a medieval work of narrative history known as the *Chronicle of Morea*. This is a text that has attracted a great deal of scholarly controversy and debate, primarily because of its survival in multiple versions in four languages: Greek, French, Spanish and Italian. My recent book explores all these different versions in order to gain a better understanding of the distinctive society of the Crusader States, as well as of the complexities of that society's interaction with the wider world. The Principality of Morea emerges from my analysis as a place where exchanges between ethnicities were redefined in the 13th and 14th centuries, resulting in radical new identities and patterns of co-existence. A political and social alliance was formed, I argue, between conquerors and conquered – between the naturalised settlers and the indigenous inhabitants. Moreover, a collective ideology was articulated in which both groups could have a share. This ideology, which

required its adherents to self-identify not as 'Latins' or 'Greeks', but as 'Moreots', was especially cherished by the knights and *archontes* who formed the new multi-ethnic elite of the Principality of Morea.

Dr Teresa Shawcross is the Schulman Research Fellow in History at Trinity Hall and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Educated at the universities of Oxford and Paris-Sorbonne, she has held positions of Departmental Lecturer in Modern Greek Literature, Language, and History at Oxford, and of Hannah Seeger Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Program of Hellenic Studies at

Princeton University. Her interests are interdisciplinary, with recent work dealing mainly with the political, social, and cultural consequences of the fragmentation of the Byzantine Empire after the Fourth Crusade. Her book *The Chronicle of Morea: Historiography in Crusader Greece* was published last year by Oxford University Press.

She will soon be leaving the United Kingdom for the United States, where she will take up the post of Assistant Professor in Medieval Mediterranean and European History at Amherst and Mt Holyoke Colleges.



A page from a 14th century manuscript of the crusader Chronicle of Morea. © Kongelige Bibliotek, Denmark.

# The Fitzwilliam Museum Trinity Hall Connections

When Robert Cumming (TH 1962) returned to Trinity Hall in the early 1970s as a mature student to study History of Art, first-hand contact with works of art in the galleries of the Fitzwilliam Museum soon became a priority for him. Only much later did he become aware of the Museum's particular connections with Trinity Hall.

In the 1970s, Michael Jaffe was the Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum and had established History of Art as a recognised academic degree subject within the University. He routinely sat his students on uncomfortable spindly gold chairs, in rows, in front of the Renaissance masterpieces which are a particular strength of the Museum, and literally bullied them into looking at these great works at first-hand, trying to teach them how to talk and write about the works based on first-hand observation. Jaffe was a connoisseur of the old school, a collector himself, for whom the individual work of art was ultimately more important than any theory. A younger member of the Faculty, Virginia Spate, taught classic Modern Art – in spite of some robust opposition from other members. An Australian by birth, she had initially trained as a painter and therefore well understood the importance of looking at works of art to see what only the naked eye can see and no reproduction can ever capture. In small groups we would cluster with her round the Museum's fine examples of late 19th century and early 20th century avant-garde art, as she urged us to look and have confidence in our own judgments. Duncan Robinson, then an assistant curator but later to return as Director, revealed to us the hidden gems of the astonishingly rich prints and drawings collection and taught us how to appreciate them aesthetically and technically. The treasures of the Fitzwilliam touched all three of them, and in turn they sought to inspire us.

So what were the connections with Trinity Hall of which I was then regrettably unaware, and to which my College never alerted me?

The creation of the Museum was the consequence of the generosity of Richard, the seventh Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion. Born in 1745 he bequeathed to the University, on his death in 1816, his superb collection of printed books, medieval manuscripts, pictures, drawings, engravings and musical manuscripts, together with the dividends of South Sea Annuities for the erection of a Museum. By the time building commenced in 1830 to the designs of George Basevi, the dividends had accumulated to more than £40,000. There is a lovely portrait of the 19-year-old Richard Fitzwilliam by Joseph Wright of Derby (*pictured right*), done when he was an undergraduate, which shows him to be a young man of fashionable 'sensibility': elegantly dressed, thoughtful, intelligent, relaxed, caring and endowed with aesthetic awareness. How appropriate therefore that he should have chosen to reside at that most 'sensible' of colleges, Trinity Hall, from where he graduated with an MA in 1764. Growing up in an age of connoisseurship and collecting, he was a man of his times, and he undertook the Grand Tour, at the relatively mature age of 27, principally to Italy and Spain, in 1772. He was blessed with considerable musical talent, going to Paris to study the harpsichord, and he became an avid collector of manuscript and printed musical material. He came into his titles and large estates in Ireland in 1776. From his mother he inherited important works of art but he also made superb purchases, notably at the sale of the Duke of Orléans' Collection in London in 1800 when he acquired Titian's *Venus and a Lutenist*, a picture much loved by Michael Jaffe, and thus unforgettable for his students.

The Hon Richard Fitzwilliam,  
7th Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion,  
*Joseph Wright of Derby, Oil on Canvas, 1764.*  
© The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

In spite of the richness and variety of Fitzwilliam's bequest and the nobility of the Founder's Building, the Museum remained essentially a provincial establishment, its treasures badly displayed and dingily lit. The man who was to turn it into one of the finest museums in the world was the memorable and legendary Sydney Cockerell.

Sydney Cockerell directed the Museum's fortunes for almost three decades, pioneering new methods of display and lighting which were to be imitated by major institutions at home and internationally, building new galleries, and shamelessly cajoling collectors to bequeath and donate major works of art. In his own words: 'I found it a pigsty; I turned it into a palace'.

To even try to succeed such a Director would seem at best daunting and at worst foolhardy. The challenge fell to a Hall man, Louis Clarke, who was appointed in 1937, at the age of 56. He had read History at Trinity Hall, graduating in 1903. Slightly built and birdlike in mannerisms and speech, he was an hospitable and easy-going man with a wide circle of friends and a popular member of the College when elected to the Fellowship in 1929. One of 14 children from a coal merchanting family, he had considerable private means. Widely travelled with a particular interest in technology and archaeology, he had been appointed



curator of the University's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in 1922. Sadly, given the time span of his tenure, 1937–1946, he had little opportunity to enjoy his new domain to the full. With the prospect of hostilities ever nearer, he was soon charged with the responsibility of moving the Museum's treasures to a safe place. Nonetheless he kept art and connoisseurship alive in Cambridge during the war years by organising over 40 temporary exhibitions. He had a particular liking for the decorative arts and objets de vertu, and he bought shrewdly for the Museum when prices were low. With no immediate descendants to be taken care of, he presented over 2,700 works of art to the Fitzwilliam and, on his death in 1960, bequeathed the cream of his library and collections to the University including superb drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, Correggio and Rubens.

Happily the Fitzwilliam connection continues into the present, for the Master,

Martin Daunton, is currently Chairman of the Syndics. They meet around a long 18th century mahogany table and no doubt the Master is aware, even if his fellow Syndics are not, that this table has a Trinity Hall connection. It belonged to, and was much used by, Louis Clarke, who in the true spirit of a graduate and Fellow of Trinity Hall – and being himself also a man of sensibility in the tradition of Richard Fitzwilliam – derived much enjoyment from sharing across its handsome surface, with many a convivial guest, the pleasures of food and wine and enlightened conversation.

Robert Cumming, who first read Law at Trinity Hall in 1962, is Adjunct Professor of Art History at Boston University, Massachusetts, and responsible for BU's Campus in London. He is a Committee Member of the Marlay Group which supports the Fitzwilliam Museum.

## MCR Green Initiatives

Since becoming MCR Green Officers in Michaelmas Term 2009, Kate Creighton (TH 2009) and Helen Coskeran (TH 2007) continue to encourage Green initiatives within the College, as they report below.

Providing MCR members with a location and facilities to grow their own vegetables has been an ongoing project. After examining various options, some graduates offered the use of their gardens and thus the 'MCR Gardening Society' was formed. As for new initiatives, in Lent Term, we ran a competition for ways in which the College could become greener. Entries were judged on their creativity, feasibility and environmental impact. The winning idea – submitted by Miriam Muth (TH 2005, 2006) – was to reduce the amount of printed paper wasted in College by putting extra noticeboards in the Porters' Lodge and banning mass distribution of flyers in pigeon holes.

We have also been working with College to examine the possibility of using eco-friendly cleaning products and have helped to run events during Fairtrade fortnight along with other MCR committee members. As a result, all MCR tea, coffee and sugar will now be Fairtrade. Other issues we are working on include the following: installing more sensor lighting around College; holding a 'Green' formal dinner every term; introducing washing lines and clothes' horses to MCR accommodation; and increasing battery recycling. We look forward to working on these and other matters in the coming months.



Kate Creighton presents competition runner-up Robert Pott (TH 2009) with his prize.

## In Bishop Bateman's Footsteps



The Old Library has been supported by many notable donors over the centuries, from our founder Bishop Bateman to our current generous benefactors. We are now launching the *Supporters of the Old Library* scheme. The aim of the scheme is to help us look after our rare and unique collections through sponsoring conservation or supporting our project to catalogue the Old Library's printed books.

The Old Library contains many treasures from the oldest manuscript, *A Life of St Martin of Tours* created in about 1050, to fine 20th century private-press books. The collection includes over 6,000 printed books and is rich in canon and civil law dating from the 16th century onwards. We are currently working on making our collections accessible to scholars worldwide through our cataloguing project. Rare book cataloguing is time consuming and involves specialist skills which are expensive to fund.

We care for our manuscripts and books with a rolling programme of conservation. However our funds are limited and there are many items in need of attention. Trevor Grigg (TH 1955), supporter of

conservation, says, 'All power to this idea of the *Supporters of the Old Library* and I am wholeheartedly in favour. I like the idea of rescuing books which would otherwise fall by the wayside. We are throwing them a vital lifeline'.

We are planning an inaugural event for *Supporters of the Old Library* on Saturday 30 April 2011. To find out more about this event or how you can help, please go to the *Supporters of the Old Library* web page on [www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/library/old\\_library.asp](http://www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/library/old_library.asp). Alternatively, please contact Dr John Pollard, Fellow Librarian, or Ms Dominique Ruhlmann, Director of Library Services, either by letter or email: [library@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@trinhall.cam.ac.uk)

# Trinity Hall Association (THA)

## THA Secretary's Report – THA Events

On 15 May 2009, the largest gathering in recent times of alumni and their guests assembled at the House of Lords for our 'London Event', thanks to the good offices of our host The Rt Hon The Lord Howe of Aberavon (TH 1948). Announcement of the event earlier in the year led to a flood of applications, and we were soon at the capacity figure of 300 for use of the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace. A cool and breezy evening meant that only the hardiest ventured onto the Terrace with its commanding view of the Thames; nevertheless this was a splendid and memorable occasion for so many alumni and a privilege to be entertained at the Palace of Westminster. Excellent short speeches were delivered by Lord Howe himself, our President, Sarah Webbe (TH 1981), and the Master. Many guests had signed up for a guided tour as well. We had assumed that this would simply take us into the House of Lords; not so – we were given a complete, intimate and expertly conducted tour of both Houses and of Westminster Hall, an experience that many of us will never forget.

Regrettably, the volume of applications resulted in a substantial waiting list. The Committee has resolved that those who were unlucky on this occasion will receive preferential treatment when the Association next holds a London Event.

On 11 September the Association held its first 'Northern Event' at Lanercost Priory, Cumbria, not far from Carlisle, thanks to the initiative and on-the-spot organisation of Committee Member Chris Angus (TH 1967) who lives only a short distance away. Choice of this venue adhered to our policy of staging events at venues that are interesting in themselves. This is amply true of Lanercost; the ancient and atmospheric buildings, set in surroundings of great beauty, have a splendid history. The proceedings began with a sung Evensong

in the Priory, at which keen singers from the alumni combined with members of the local Brampton choir to contribute to a beautiful and moving service. Drinks followed in the Priory grounds. The 45 or so alumni seemed to have a noticeably ecclesiastical bias, including several bishops and men and women in orders across a wide age range. A relaxed, happy and quite informal dinner then took place in the monastic Dacre Hall, as a result of which there were numerous requests to 'do it again'.

Two other things were particularly notable about those alumni who attended. They came from a considerable radius, extending well into Scotland in one direction and to Tyneside in the other; and, with only a few exceptions, they were alumni who do not often come to events in Cambridge or London. That is exactly what the Association is now trying to achieve.

On 26 September we once again held the AGM in black tie and lady's equivalent, followed by the Annual Dinner in Hall. This too was a sell-out, to the extent that we filled the SCR as well, and a very lively and enjoyable evening it was. The desirability or otherwise of separating dinner guests in that way is, however, debatable and the Committee is giving thought to future arrangements.

The Association is now firmly set on its course of holding events around Britain as well as in Cambridge and London. On 23 April 2010 we held an East Anglian Event at Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds, and another northern event at Harewood House, near Leeds, is planned for 9 October, each of them venues that are spectacular and exceedingly interesting in their own right. 2011 will be the year for another large-scale London Event and the Committee is actively looking for venues in parts of the country not already covered.

We are only able to do this thanks to the excellent administrative support of the Alumni Office. Events such as the one at the House of Lords involve a huge amount of work, right up to the last minute. We are fortunate indeed to have such dedicated support from within the College.

All these occasions are subsidised substantially by the Association. On a smaller scale we have also provided some financial support, on application, to several groups of alumni who on their own initiative have organised anniversary get-togethers, and we aim to continue to do that.

To all alumni: if you have an idea for an event in your area, can suggest a good venue, and think you can get enough people to make it worthwhile, please let us know. And keep on coming!

**Colin Hayes (TH 1962)**



*Sarah Webbe, THA President, at the Ickworth Event.*

# THA Awards – Taking off to Thailand, the Himalayas and Ethiopia

It gives me great pleasure to report on the second year of projects undertaken by THA Award holders. The Awards enable Trinity Hall students to participate in a wide range of humanitarian and community projects, which they find and arrange for themselves.

This year they ranged from female empowerment in a tiny village in the Himalayas in northern India, to teaching and water provision in rural northern Thailand, to a charity hospital serving the populous but scattered communities of the Ethiopian bush.

Reading the reports from the awardees, which you can see in full on the Alumni section of the Trinity Hall website, [www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni), I was struck again by the enterprise of the students in finding projects, the determination with which they undertook them and the sheer resourcefulness with which they met and coped with the unplanned or unexpected situations in which they found themselves. Training

and support was often minimal. Heidi Dobson (TH 2008), in Thailand to teach English, found herself at the sharp end in sole charge of a class of 47 8-year-old Thais of unknown ability. She survived that first hour, she says, thanks to 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. The advantages of a Cambridge education! She went on to work with classes of between six and 50, whilst living with a local family and learning all sorts of new ways of cooking rice on an open fire. Her frustration with the communication and organisation of her project reflects the realities of implementation in far-flung communities, and reliance on interpreters of variable quality.

Ruth Johnson (TH 2005) was also in Thailand with The Karen Hilltribes Trust. Like Tom Barlow (THA Award 2009) last year, she was part of a team installing a new water supply in a remote village. The similarities and differences in their project experiences are interesting. Ruth recalls that the importance of that water supply was brought home with embarrassing clarity when, at the end of their first day of hard labour in the heat, the team had a wash and drained



*Hazel Gilkes photographs a budding young doctor in Ethiopia.*

the existing tanks for the whole village. She also encountered a gender divide far sharper than the liberal state to which she is accustomed – local women were segregated socially and reluctant to form a peer group with their western counterparts. Establishing a connection with them proved more challenging than building the water scheme.

Hazel Gilkes (TH 2004, 2007) took her newly-acquired medical skills to Gimbie in Ethiopia and found herself practising hands-on medicine – literally in the case of many patients, for whom the equipment and drugs which form a large part of training for western doctors are simply not available. In her riveting account, Hazel says honestly that her clinical usefulness was enhanced by the presence of more experienced volunteers, but the sheer number of patients meant she was very much in the front line, in life, healing and death and everything connected with them.

Before going to northern India, Isobel Daley (TH 2007) had studied the gender politics and economics of the Himalayan region. She writes with strong indignation and some despair of the reality underlying the descriptions in academic research papers, when describing her experience



*Heidi Dobson with some of her students in Thailand.*

*A Karen Hilltribe village in Thailand  
(photography by Ruth Johnson).*

with the broken-down education system. Handed the key of the local school and told to run it as she pleased, Isobel established classes for English and IT for children and adults, realising over time that, whilst skills were half the battle for female empowerment, the women's own acceptance of their secondary status was also a huge barrier. Like the other awardees, she hopes to build on 'the most eye-opening experience of my life so far' in future contributions to humanitarian efforts.

Hazel sums up for all the awardees, both this year and last, when she says 'Obviously I have learnt a lot about (tropical medicine) ... but on reflection, the major learning points were not related solely to (that)'. She goes on to list learning about coping with stressful situations, prioritising, improvising resources, adapting to cultural differences and learning whom and what you can rely on.

These students have deliberately put themselves well beyond their, indeed most peoples', 'comfort zones', in order to contribute something to others. They have had to adapt, tolerate, invent, encourage, mediate, manage and work very hard in a variety of hugely challenging, sometimes very uncomfortable, situations. Each of them writes also of finding humour, warmth, friendships, hospitality, cultural diversity and positive aspects of simpler lives than ours. I am particularly pleased that the THA is able to offer alumni support to these commendable efforts.

Sarah Webbe (TH 1981)  
President of the THA

THA Awards are made annually in March and April for projects in the following summer vacation. They are open to all students. Full details are available from the Senior Tutor's office. Awardees reports are available online at [www.trinshall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/Trinity\\_Hall\\_Assoc.asp#awards](http://www.trinshall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/Trinity_Hall_Assoc.asp#awards)



## ...something new, **something Blue**

A new Blues Jewellery range for current and 'Old' Blues at Cambridge and Oxford universities was launched on 30 November 2009 at the Women's Blues Awards ceremony at the Cambridge Union. The range has been designed and developed by alumna Laura Davidson (TH 1998), now a barrister in London.

At Cambridge, Laura Davidson was President of the Cambridge University Modern Pentathlon Club, the sport in which she gained her three Half Blues and led to her two Full Blues in fencing. She was also the recipient of one of the coveted Ospreys & IBM Individual Bursary Awards for outstanding achievement in her chosen sports. Laura was also a keen rower and a lightweight trialist, and competed in many successive Bumps, rowing in two Headship crews. She was Captain of Hall's netball team in 1999 and is a member of the Aula Club. For the last five years she has competed for Northern Ireland in the Fencing Five Nations, and in 2006 she also competed for her country in the Commonwealth Fencing Games.

When Laura gained her first Half Blue – one of many – she was disappointed to discover that there was little for female athletes to purchase to celebrate their achievement. The men were well catered for with blazers, ties, bow-ties and cummerbunds, and the only truly unisex item was a winter scarf.

After the challenging design and production stage she then battled for University licensing, strongly believing that the University shield on the packaging, whilst not at all necessary, would enhance and honour women's achievement in representing Cambridge. Following a two-hour meeting with Cambridge University's Director of Sport, Dr Tony Lemons, she gained his support and enthusiasm for the

project. As a result, the Blues Jewellery range is the first range to be licensed.

The jewellery incorporates semi-precious stones inset in high quality sterling silver. The colours of the inlaid stones reflect whether the wearer has gained a Full or a Half Blue. The Cambridge range utilises turquoise and pearls to represent the colours of the University. As turquoise comes in so many different shades, ensuring the use of individual stones sufficiently similar to 'Cambridge Blue' was a particular challenge for Laura. Already available to current students, alumni from both Universities with Blues and Half Blues will be able to purchase all items from the range online from later this year at [www.oxbridgebluesjewellery.com](http://www.oxbridgebluesjewellery.com)



## Cambridge University Channel Swim 2010

This summer will see two students from Trinity Hall, Lisa Goers (TH 2006) and Alastair Kendall (TH 2009), take part in one of the ultimate University sports challenges: the biennial Varsity cross-channel relay swim. Here they describe the challenge in front of them.

The swimmers will set off in teams of six (three men, three women) from Dover to land in France sometime between 11 and



*Alastair Kendall taking a dip.*

17 July 2010. Each member of the team will swim for one hour and then hand over to the next person in a pre-determined order with male and female swimmers taking turns. When all six have completed a turn, the first person has to go again etc until they reach the French coast (previous races have lasted 8 –10 hours).

While the rest of the Cambridge team consists mainly of swimmers, we both play Varsity water polo. This is an amazing opportunity for us. It is a very tough race and we will have to deal with the cold water (14–18 °C!) without the help of wetsuits and then there are the waves, animals and ferries. And the challenges

do not just start on the day of the race. All of us (eight students including two reserves) have been training hard at Jesus Green outdoor pool since it opened in May. Also, we have not found a sponsor yet, which means that we may have to cover the pilotage and boat fees ourselves, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a very dedicated team.

For more information go to [www.cuswpc.org](http://www.cuswpc.org) and keep updated through our [Facebook group 'Cambridge University Channel Swim 2010'](#) or [Twitter 'CUChannelRelay'](#). As part of the race, we are also raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).

# The Trinity Hall Network just got Social!



The word 'phenomenon' is frequently used to describe the astonishing growth of the social networking websites. Social networking now accounts for a staggering 11% of all time spent online and the average time spent by a user on social networking sites has risen to six hours per month.

Since the advent of the first social networking site in 1997, these websites have radically shaped the way in which we communicate with each other. It has never been easier to establish and maintain connections with friends and acquaintances, share information about our lives with a dynamic network of people across the globe and actively participate in the broadcasting of current affairs.

February saw the launch of Trinity Hall's first [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) account. We are using these facilities to post news updates from the Trinity Hall community, aiming to reflect numerous different aspects of College life. So far, these have included topics as diverse as the election of JCR President James Horscroft, the nomination of alumna Rachel Weisz (TH 1988) for an Olivier award, the arrival of Liberal Democrat leader, Nick Clegg, in Trinity Hall for a Cambridge University Lib Dem Society debate and the University's dazzling 800th Anniversary Winter Finale light show.

The technology of online social networking sites has given us a new and innovative means of conversing with the legions of undergraduates, graduates, Fellows and staff who have passed through the 'comfortable and phlegmatic' Front Court and are now scattered across the globe. In this, we hope to give an immediate, real-time insight into day-to-day happenings at Trinity Hall, whether they be the election of a new University Vice-Chancellor or a greenery-laden Boat Club triumph. More importantly still, however, we aim to provide the opportunity for members of Trinity Hall to become more actively involved in the life of the College, and to connect or reconnect with each other.

We are now looking beyond [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and hoping to build a group on the professional networking site LinkedIn. We are also considering some other moves into different areas of networking – we will keep you informed of where we are appearing.

If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share, or news you would like us to relay on any of these websites, we would be delighted to hear from you.

email: [news@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:news@trinhall.cam.ac.uk)  
or tel: +44(0)1223 332567  
You can catch up with us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) at 'TrinityHallCamb'.

## The Debates Continue

Alumni were to the fore in the 2009–10 TH Forum series and particularly those from the 1970s. In October, Alan Griffiths (TH 1974), chief executive of World Media Rights, led a debate on the globalisation of television programming and the legal implications of this, particularly in relation to intellectual property rights. Alan's provocative and informative presentation gave plenty of scope for debate.

In May, Andy Sparkes CMG (TH 1978), currently HM Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, spoke about his work as a diplomat in several troubled areas of the world and how diplomacy can function effectively in areas of renewed conflict. The audience comprised those who had direct experience as diplomats as well as those involved in the academic study of politics, history, economics and the law.

For 2010–11 we are again looking to alumni for their debating skills.

On Monday 24 January 2011, Dr Walter Grant Scott (TH 1969) will be leading a debate on climate change. Arguing as a sceptic, Walter will be discussing his own and opposing views with a number of people, including alumni working in the field of energy production and conservation. This should make for a lively evening.

A Forum seminar on the art of translation is also in the planning. Refer to Alumni Office events listing for further details on this.

The purpose of these seminars is to take an area of academic work and broaden it out for discussion and enquiry. Forum seminars are open to alumni, Fellows, graduate students and interested others within and without the University.

To book for the 2010–11 series, please contact Mary Richmond, Events Organiser, at [events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk)

Dr Claire Daunton  
TH Forum Programme  
Master's Lodge, Trinity Hall

A summary of Andy Sparkes talk is available on request from the Development Office at Trinity Hall, email: [publications@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:publications@trinhall.cam.ac.uk)

## Events

### Sunday 15 August 2010

College gardens open under National Gardens Scheme.

### Monday 30 August 2010

Trinity Hall dinner in Canberra, Australia.

### Friday 3 September 2010

Trinity Hall dinner in Melbourne, Australia.

### Thursday 9 September 2010

Trinity Hall Event in Hong Kong.

### Saturday 18 September 2010

Reunion for alumni who matriculated in 1991 and 1992.

### Saturday 25 September 2010

Trinity Hall Association AGM and Cambridge Dinner.

### Saturday 9 October 2010

Trinity Hall Association Regional Event at Harewood House, Yorkshire.

### Monday 1 November 2010

The Leslie Stephen Lecture will be given by Colm Tóibín taking place in the Senate House. The title of his lecture will be *The Dark Sixteenth Century*.

### Saturday 20 November 2010

We are delighted to announce that this year's Milestones Lecture will be given by the Master, Professor Martin Daunt, entitled *History and the Financial Crisis*.

### Sunday 21 November 2010

*A Celebration of S S Wesley* will be given by the Orpheus Britannicus Vocal Consort, starting at 9pm in the Chapel.

### Lent Term 2011

An exhibition of paintings by Hughie O'Donoghue will be on display in College. The private viewing which is open to all alumni is on Saturday 22 January 2011. General opening times are Sunday and Monday afternoons.

### Saturday 8 January 2011

The Chapel Choir reunion.

### Monday 24 January 2011

A TH Forum will be given by Dr Walter Grant Scott (TH 1969) on the subject of climate change.

### Monday 7 March 2011

The Graham Storey Lecture will be given in the English Faculty by Ian McEwan.

Please contact:

Mary Richmond, Events Officer, if you are interested in attending any of these events  
email: [events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk)  
or tel: +44 (0)1223 332555.



## Alex Rushmer (TH 2002) reaches the Finals of Masterchef 2010



© Chris Ridley.

Like all gastronomically-minded undergrads, indulging my love of food was something of a challenge while studying at Cambridge. Though the delights of Monday night's famous 'Grill Hall' (where it was possible to consume a week's worth of food for about £3.00) weren't lost on me, it was only when I became a member of the Asparagus Club and discovered other food-obsessed Trinity Hallers that I started to experiment with more adventurous dishes.

I'm sure that cooking a multi-course menu for twenty-or-so refined palates using only a two-ring electric hob, a bent



Alex Rushmer cooking in the Rajasthan Desert on one of his Masterchef cooking challenges. © Shine Ltd.

pan with a broken handle and my set-mate's Breville toastie maker put me in good stead for the culinary tasks I faced on *Masterchef*. Cooking under the searing heat of the Rajasthan sun and creating a dessert for 19 Michelin starred chef Alain Ducasse was a walk in the park compared to trying to steam asparagus in a travel kettle on 'A' staircase.

Since the show finished, the number of doors that have opened has been amazing. I'm still writing about food and continue to publish on my website – [www.justcookit.co.uk](http://www.justcookit.co.uk) – as well as working on a book and hoping to open my own restaurant in Cambridge within the next 12 months. I'm also working as a private chef, consulting on menus, creating outside catering events and giving talks, cookery lessons and demonstrations. And I thought I was busy when all I had to do was lie on Latham Lawn, get to the JCR in time for *Neighbours* and turn in the odd essay.

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