Highlights:

Exploring Afghanistan

The Nano Nose – diagnosing diseases through smell

An Australian Ambassador in Trinity Hall
Twenty Years of Year Reps and Front Court

The first ever Year Rep Conference took place in December 1995 and was celebrated the following year in the first ever edition of Front Court. My original idea for a Year Reps scheme was that I wanted to do something special during my term as Vice-Master from 1990 to 1994. I got the idea from Harvard where each class, on graduation, elects a class agent. I adapted it to matriculation. That’s all the entrepreneurial ingenuity the scheme required. The College gave me lists by year of matriculation. I wrote to everybody I knew or whose name I had heard. They all said, “Yes” and most of them came to the first meeting. They accepted the idea with enthusiasm and many of the first Year Reps have served for two decades.

Why did it succeed? Certain dates give our lives coherence: birthdays, anniversaries and in particular the date that we become members of our college. Unlike birthdays, we share our matriculation date with roughly a hundred strangers who at the matriculation dinner in Michaelmas Term, become partners on the twisted roads of our lives; they become our year. Year Reps help us to share our common fates and common mortality, a modest but important task.

Professor Jonathan Steinberg
(Emeritus Fellow)

To view a list of current Year Reps, please login to www.THAlumni.net

About Front Court

Front Court keeps members and friends up-to-date with College and alumni news.

Front Court is produced twice a year. If you have any suggestions or articles for the next issue (Spring 2016), please contact the Editors.

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

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Front Cover: General Admission, 2015
Photographer: Kiloran Howard

You can keep in touch with us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Tumblr @TrinityHallCamb
Like many of my colleagues, I dread the arrival of exam scripts for marking. It feels rather daunting to have to weigh up scripts against the marking criteria, as if you were weighing destinies in the balance. This rhythm of study, assessment, marking and finally graduation, is of course a centuries-old routine, seemingly unchanging (though in practice it has changed a lot), like a longue durée of university life.

In practice we also have to live with a great deal of short-termism and with the immediate impact of events. The recent general election outcome has left us with a little more clarity about the future of university funding, though only a little. We now know that the £9k fee will not disappear, at least for now. But whilst the idea of reducing it to £6k has gone – something that would have been good for students, but bad for universities overall, unless the gap was properly funded – the financial squeeze remains: costs are rising, the £9k fee is fixed, and the gap between the two is growing year on year. That’s why we as a College, have to work constantly to bolster our fundraising, but also to renew and improve our facilities.

The archaeologists are due to move into the former St Clements site any day now. If they find no bodies (fingers crossed), we hope to be able to begin building the new WYNG Gardens accommodation in a few months. We’re also hoping to resume the programme of staircase refurbishment on Central Site soon.

The other project on Central Site that is going to occupy us for the next year is the refurbishment of the Master’s Lodge. There are several aspects to this. It is many years since the Lodge had a major overhaul, and its electrics, plumbing and above all heating, need to be completely renewed. At the moment, three separate heating systems – all of different ages – converge on the Lodge, causing immense difficulties for maintenance as well as for routine use. This need for refurbishment, as well as the opportunity to create more family space on the first floor, which is essentially a one-bedroom flat at present, is the trigger for the forthcoming works. But the College is also seizing the chance to turn the top floor, ‘W’ staircase, which is no longer part of the Lodge and has a separate entrance, into a floor dedicated to guest rooms, with lift access. This will enable us not only to improve the Lodge itself but also to make much better provision for College guests than we have been able to do in the past. Trinity Hall is a very hospitable place, but this will make us even more hospitable.

Jeremy Morris
An Australian Ambassador in Trinity Hall

This Easter Term, Matthew Neuhaus (1985) took a break from being an Ambassador and took on the role of Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre, Cambridge. We took this opportunity to ask him to write about his time as Australian Ambassador in Zimbabwe and he was able to provide us with a story paved with Trinity Hall connections.

Trinity Hall is still, as Henry James put it, “one of the prettiest corners of the world.” There have been excellent improvements in the 30 years since I was here as a graduate student – in graduate accommodation, sporting facilities and the magnificent Jerwood Library, so well placed on the Cam.

My visit coincided with the Centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915, taking place during World War One. Australia’s most distinguished Trinity Hall alumnus and the only Australian Prime Minister to date from Cambridge (there have been a few from Oxford, including our current Prime Minister) is Stanley Melbourne Bruce (who matriculated in 1903). Bruce served at Gallipoli (ironically with the British Forces) and won a Military Cross there.

For Australians the Gallipoli Campaign, the first in which the new Australia New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs) served, has become a seminal national event, symbolising bravery and commitment to duty. The day of the landings – 25 April – is celebrated each year as Anzac Day, our Memorial Day. My own great uncle the Revd Vivian Gregg-MacGregor, was at the landings with the Anzacs and won a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his bravery with the Field Ambulance that day. He survived, spending his last days here in East Anglia as a parish priest.

So it was a great privilege for my wife and I to be able to make a pilgrimage to Gallipoli in April for the centenary and join the commemoration. When you see those cliffs, and understand the murderous fire faced by the Anzacs from the Turks who are now such good friends, the essential futility of war and wasted young lives hits you. But this takes nothing away from the bravery and sense of duty of those sent so pointlessly to their deaths.

I should note that Bruce is not Trinity Hall’s only alumnus to be a Head of Government. More recently Dr Guy Scott (1962) served as President of Zambia, the first white man to be President of a black African country. As High Commissioner to Zambia this gave me a special link, as did our mutual love for Private Eye.

Having just served as Australian Ambassador in Zimbabwe – with accreditations to Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo – in Cambridge my research, writing and seminars have focused on peace building in Africa. I have been analysing UN and regional efforts, and the reform of the Commonwealth Secretariat, a London based international organisation working for conflict resolution and development, and where I worked some years ago. The value of this study is brought home when you stand on the shores of Gallipoli, vowed to avoid such conflict again. Trinity Hall and Cambridge has given me a wonderful respite and time for reflection before returning to the real world, and a diplomatic career where such challenges remain central.

One extra piece of work I have enjoyed is writing a book review of Dr Harshan Kumarasingham’s Constitution Maker; Selected Writings of Sir Ivor Jennings (CUP, 2015). Jennings, Master of Trinity Hall from 1954–1965, assisted as the foremost constitutional lawyer of his time in negotiations for the independent nations emerging from the British Empire. The fact Trinity Hall gave him the space for such important work was itself a contribution by the College to international peace.

The book review is available online at: www.dx.doi.org/10.1080/00358533.2015.1054121

His Excellency Matthew Neuhaus (1985) Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe and current Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge.
THE GATES SCHOLARS AT TRINITY HALL

The Gates Scholarship programme is a graduate programme designed to offer some of the world’s most gifted and talented international students the opportunity to come to Cambridge to continue their studies.

The programme was set up in October 2000 by a donation of US$210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge; this is the largest ever single donation to a UK university. Students are selected on both their academic and leadership ability and must demonstrate a passion to contribute to the improvement of society. Here at Trinity Hall we have a total of seven Gates Scholars within our graduate community. Three of our Gates Scholars, Hanna Ajer (2014), Rachel Robertson (2014) and Farhan Samanani (2013), report here on their research.

Hanna Ajer (2014)

My love for languages has guided all of my studies and has brought me to Cambridge from my hometown of Oslo, taking me to London and Alexandria along the way.

Studying for a BA in Arabic and Linguistics at SOAS, University of London, provided me with the opportunity to explore the theoretical questions regarding how human language is structured, at the same time as learning another language. During my year abroad in Alexandria in Egypt, I had to put my Arabic skills to use in daily life.

The generous support of Gates Cambridge has allowed me to continue my studies of linguistics here at Trinity Hall, where I’m currently writing an MPhil thesis in Arabic linguistics and will go on to do a PhD. My PhD research will focus on a language closer to home; the endangered language Lule Sami, spoken in Northern Norway and Sweden. The Sami are the people indigenous to this region, and due to a long period of forced assimilation, their languages are facing an uncertain future. It is typical that it is the most marginalised communities which are in danger of losing their languages, and I want to do my part to rectify this injustice through my research.

Rachel Robertson (2014)

I am studying for an MPhil in Philosophy as a Gates Scholar here at Trinity Hall, and I’m excited to be continuing on at this College for a PhD on Kant and the human person.

As an undergraduate [inspired by lectures by Trinity Hall’s very own Dr Craig French!] I became fascinated with questions about persons. Do we have selves which persist through time? Are we animals? As one of my first year essays asked: Could I be 1) two people 2) disembodied 3) a parrot?

I now research how Immanuel Kant answers these sorts of questions. I argue that Kant gives us the resources to move towards a theory of a person as living, social and embodied. Kant’s breadth of vision is astounding – he considers everything from ethics to extraterrestrial life! I’m currently writing about the bodies of animals, aliens and angels. Previous research into the biological notions of species and organisms lead to unexpectedly practical questions, such as which notion of species to use in conservation legislation. All this overlap with other subjects makes me even more grateful to get to draw on the learned communities of Gates and Trinity Hall!

Farhan Samanani (2013)

I am interested in how complex cultural and national identities can be – for example, that being British can mean very different things to different people, and that these meanings will themselves transform, over time. What this means is that difference is not innate, not a product of your race or nationality, but something psychological – driven by cognitive processes which shape how we understand the world and connect to those within it.

My work draws together Psychology and Social Anthropology to ask how people come to understand the concept of community and feel affiliated to [or alienated by] particular communities. I am studying a neighbourhood in London to look at how these understandings develop and change in a place that is so diverse and rapidly-changing that the idea of community as a single unity cannot be taken for granted. At the same time, contrary to some more pessimistic views, people are not isolated and insular – but aware of, attuned to, and connected with each other in countless small ways – and I trace these different forms of moral interconnection in people’s everyday lives. These sorts of insights will not only allow us to build stronger communities, but hopefully to better develop the sense of interconnection we need to better ensure global issues resonate and motivate people on a local and daily basis.
Trinity Hall Front Court

FEATURE

Afghanistan by the Back Door

Travel writer and broadcaster John Pilkington (1968) writes about the appeal of a trip to north-east Afghanistan.

High in the Pamir Mountains, Afghanistan meets its northern neighbour Tajikistan on the banks of the thundering Panj River. For most of the last century this marked the southern limit of Soviet Central Asia, and there’s still an outpost in the form of a Russian-speaking village with a single narrow bridge across the river. I crossed that bridge and stepped back a hundred years. On the Tajik side were cars, electric lights, piped water and central heating; on the Afghan side donkeys, candles, water buckets and smoky yak-dung fires.

From here a finger of Afghanistan goes east for 350 kilometres, separating Tajikistan from Pakistan. This is the so-called Wakhan Corridor, a relic of the 19th century ‘Great Game’ between Britain and Russia. It leads to the High Pamir, where four separate mountain ranges come together in a tangle of peaks and glaciers.

As a place for a relaxing holiday I’d definitely advise against most of Afghanistan, but this north-east corner is different. The Taliban never gained a footing here, and for several years now a trickle of tourists have been going up into the Wakhan Valley and have found it to be a little Shangri-La.

These are the lands of the Wakhi and the Kyrgyz. The Wakhi live in rough stone houses; the Kyrgyz are semi-nomadic and prefer big round tents which they call ‘yurts’. In the lower valleys I found the Wakhi busy harvesting the all-important barley crop. Higher up, the Kyrgyz were herding sheep and yaks across endless mountainsides, making the most of the summer pasture. Apart from these shepherds with their animals, the only creatures you see in the high valleys are marmots, vultures, and – if you’re really lucky – a faraway glimpse of a snow leopard.

I can’t speak either Wakhi or Kyrgyz, so I found myself an interpreter called Yar Mohammad and he in turn came up with two splendid horsemen, Shogun and Amin Bek. I’d brought a tent and was intending to be self-sufficient, but in the villages people instantly came out to greet us with rounds of bread, and bowl after bowl of freshly made yak’s-milk yoghurt. If you haven’t experienced yak’s-milk yoghurt – well, it’s tangy, it fizzes on the tongue, it’s rich in Vitamin C and it’s very addictive. We were also offered cups of salty and slightly rancid yak-butter tea, but somehow I never found this quite so tempting.
I was aiming for a place called Bozai Gumbaz, and an appointment with a famous British character from the days of the Raj. In 1891 Captain Francis Younghusband was arrested by Cossacks here, and frogmarched out of what they said was now part of Russia. In London this seemed horribly like the prelude to an invasion of British India. In the end there was no invasion and no war – but this so-called ‘Pamir Incident’ led directly to the peculiar boundaries that we see today, with the Wakhan Corridor made part of Afghanistan to prevent British and Russian forces from ever again having to meet.

I wanted to mark the 120th anniversary of the incident by giving a nod and a wink to the officers involved, who actually behaved with impeccable courtesy all round. (The Cossacks even gave Younghusband a haunch of venison.) But crossing the river to Bozai Gumbaz I somehow managed to fall off my horse. One moment it was wading happily across; the next it was on its knees and I was tumbling over its head. Luckily my foot caught in one of the stirrups, so instead of being swept away I was dragged by the horse foot-first through the freezing water, and dumped on the far bank.

So my salute to the Pamir Incident wasn’t quite as intended. My dripping figure must have looked a bit pathetic compared with the smartly uniformed officers puffing out their chests all those years before. But at least I didn’t nearly start a war.

Back in Eshkashim, the tiny town at the Corridor’s entrance, I recovered in a little guesthouse with the razzmatazz of the bazaar nearby. Eshkashim’s people are working hard to make things easier for visitors, and they’d like to welcome more of us. Adab Shah, who recently started up a travel company, told me, “The main problem is getting people up into the Corridor. It’s expensive and very uncomfortable, because the road is so bad.”

Well I’d bounced and jolted up that road myself, and I’d say his assessment is spot-on. But roadworks apart, what are the chances that this unlikely experiment will succeed against all the odds? It’ll depend, of course – like so much in Afghanistan – to what extent President Ghani’s government can maintain law and order. So if you enjoy mountains, and if you’ve got a taste for yak’s-milk yoghurt, I’d say, “Go while you can.”

John Pilkington (1968) is often described as “one of Britain’s greatest tellers of travellers’ tales”. Originally a travel writer, he went on to present adventure travel programmes on BBC Radio 4. But it’s for his thought-provoking illustrated talks that people know him best. He has spoken to over 1,000 audiences in five countries, and holds the Royal Geographical Society’s Ness Award for popularising geography and the wider understanding of the world.

Read more about John’s travels at www.pilk.net.
The Nano Nose – diagnosing diseases through smell

Owlstone, a University of Cambridge spinout company, co-founded by Trinity Hall alumnus Billy Boyle (1997) and Cambridge alumni David Ruiz Alonso and Andrew Koehl, has created a cancer breathalyser. Owlstone’s LuCID (Lung Cancer Indicator Detection) project – a consortium made up of a number of leading academic institutions and clinical partners – aims to diagnose lung cancer at an earlier stage when survival rates are dramatically better. The LuCID project is researching the early, non-invasive diagnosis of lung cancer by measuring volatile organic compounds in patients’ breath and we are delighted to report that Owlstone have won £1 million funding from the NHS in the UK to develop this technology.

Using leading-edge nanofabrication techniques, Owlstone has developed a complete chemical detection system on a chip; a ‘dime size’ Field Asymmetric Ion Mobility Spectrometer (FAIMS), with the ability to rapidly monitor a broad range of chemicals at very low quantities with high confidence.

Phase I of the LuCID project is already completed: 12 markers of lung cancer were shown to be detectable by Owlstone’s FAIMS technology which co-founder Billy Boyle believes is a cheaper and smaller alternative to existing detection technologies. The new funding for Phase II will be targeted towards the delivery of a breath sampler – a customised breathalyser suitable for use in a doctor’s surgery or hospital, and clinical validation of the method.

The vision is to save 10,000 lives and save the NHS £254 million by 2020, through an increase in the early stage detection rate for lung cancer.

Billy Boyle said stage 1 lung cancer had a 75% survival rate compared to just a five per cent chance of survival for stage 4 victims.

As stated by Billy: “If you could change only one thing in the fight against cancer of others is something that makes me walk into the office every day. It puts an extra spring into my step. We have a real opportunity to try and improve the lives of patients.”

Billy Boyle (1997)
Co-founder of Owlstone

To find out more about Owlstone Medical and how you can help, go to www.owlstonemedical.com

This article originally appeared in the University of Cambridge, Department of Engineering newsletter.
Much of my time as an academic lawyer is spent in dusty archives, reflecting on original material that may shed fresh light on how copyright law was understood and debated in the past. My first book – which I am currently completing before I leave Trinity Hall later this year – will be the first major study to consider these questions in relation to copyright protection for the visual arts. Scholars so far have focused on copyright protecting literature, the subject of the first copyright Act passed in 1710. Yet the extension of copyright to the visual arts was far from a transposition of the case made for books to new subject matter. The visual arts raised new challenges and I explore these in relation to copyright protection for painting, drawing and photography, from the mid-19th to the early 20th century.

In doing so, I bring to life past struggles over the shape of copyright, which help us to question our assumptions about what copyright has always been about. For example, artistic copyright is usually thought to concern the protection of artists. Yet 19th century battles between collectors and painters reveal a perspective on copyright long forgotten today: the view that copyright’s purpose was also to restrict artists’ freedom to replicate their own work, so as to protect the economic interests of collectors. Further, struggles between celebrity portrait photographers and ‘pirate’ photographers (who issued cheap unauthorised copies), reveal that 19th century photographic copyright operated as a right protecting the commercial value of the celebrity image, rather than the photographer as author. History, therefore, helps us to think again and to think critically. In freeing us from assumptions about what the law has always been about, history helps us to approach legal questions today with a fresh eye.

It is a privilege to be a Research Fellow at Trinity Hall, and I know that when I leave later this year, to join the CREATe Copyright Centre at Glasgow University, many fond memories of the College will remain. I will always be grateful to the Fellowship for their unwavering academic support, as well as to Peter Orton CVO whose generous bequest funded this very special time in my academic career. [Peter Orton was a fellow commoner from 2006–2007 and a British media entrepreneur and a friend and donor to the College.]

Dr Elena Cooper is the Orton Research Fellow in Intellectual Property Law.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...
the MCR President

First, a bit about me: I’m a PhD student investigating the links between individuals’ online behaviour and their happiness. I’m also the Trinity Hall 2014/2015 MCR President, where I work with a dedicated team of around 20 other MCR volunteers to facilitate the livelihoods of the College’s 4th year, graduate and post-doctoral communities.

In the following couple of paragraphs I’m going to tell you a little bit about a day in my life. I’m going to focus on a very special day for the MCR; Friday 22 May – the day of our Annual Dinner.

Like most weekdays, my day started in the lab at around 9am. First, I cleared a few of my emails, which are generally either to do with my PhD studies or relate to the MCR. On that day I was discussing the College’s various housing options with an incoming member of the MCR and talking with the Master, Jeremy Morris, about the speech he would give at that evening’s dinner. After that I went on with my PhD work. Although it might sound glamorous, my PhD involves a lot of staring at a computer screen crunching numbers. I was pretty happy to knock off early – around 4pm – to prepare for the Annual Dinner. I strolled into College in my black tie around 5pm to help set up for the evening. Unbeknownst to me, our effervescent Internal Events Officers, Alina Kozlovski (2014) and Nando Szymczak (2014), had already decorated the Dining Hall and set up the Terrace Room for the night’s casino-themed after party. I was left to check in with Vincent Fusiello and Giancarlo Salmeri in the buttery to make sure the wine was ready and the schedule finalised. Alas, Adam Jaroš (2014) and Rob Gard (2014), our Stewards, had already done this! Meanwhile Julie Ji (2013) and Johan Henriksson (Post-Doctoral Research Associate), our Academic Officers, had seen to the timely arrival of our dinner guests. I was left to pose in the traditional pre-dinner MCR Committee photo and be social!

The Dinner itself was a real success. The Master gave a warming speech and then handed over to our guest speakers for the evening: Victor Dillard (2011) and Edward Perello (2011). Victor and Ed met in 2011 whilst at Trinity Hall and in residence at Wychfield. Thereafter, they founded a company called Desktop Genetics, which provides software to help engineer DNA and cells. Their speech was insightful, motivating and friendly. After that, we forewent the traditional port and retired to the Terrace Room to gamble and drink Martinis. Alina and Nando felt inspired to hand out fake money emblazoned with an awful photo of my face. I promptly gambled mine away and went behind the bar to help serve drinks. I finished just in time to sing some karaoke and dance with all my friends. Overall, the Annual Dinner was another great success, and made especially memorable by our wonderfully dedicated MCR Committee. It was a crowning moment in another year that has flown by far too quickly.

Matthew Samson (2013)
MCR President
Trinity Hall’s TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN
Easter 2015

671 conversations with alumni

2½ weeks

Over £190,000 raised

We are very grateful to all alumni who took part in this year’s campaign. The students greatly enjoyed speaking to so many of you, sharing experiences and discussing life in College then and now.

“During the Telephone Campaign, I enjoyed working with my friends to reach out to our alumni. Perhaps one of the most remarkable things is how, regardless of whether they graduated 10, 20, 30 or even 50 years ago, the people I spoke to all had endless tales of their fond memories at Trinity Hall. One such story involved a particularly adventurous group of alumni finding a disused TH punt in the River Cam, refurbishing it with a motor and then deciding to head to Oxford and back in what must have been the longest “punt” ever! In many ways, the campaign showed me the warmth of our alumni, who have generously supported our students, our fellows and our staff, making Trinity Hall the fine, strong and friendly College it is today.”

Ethan Quek, 2nd year Chemical Engineer

We are delighted that collectively our telephone campaigns have raised more than £2.4 million.

Money raised is added to the Trinity Hall Fund and is spent during the following year to directly benefit students. Support from alumni helps us to increase the amount available to offer as hardship grants to students who experience unexpected financial difficulties, thereby ensuring that they can continue their studies; and to assist graduate students to attend conferences to further their research. The money donated also helps support College teaching and maintain and improve the College buildings in order to ensure that Trinity Hall remains an inspiring place in which to live and work. Additional funds enable student societies to flourish, thus enabling students to fulfil their potential. This year’s campaign has enabled us to purchase new furniture for the student bedrooms in Bolton House. Every gift makes a real difference to the Trinity Hall community. Participation is the key to the success of the Trinity Hall Fund and we encourage all members to be involved in whatever way they can, to help preserve the excellence of the College. We are grateful to everyone who supports us – thank you!

For further information see: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/supporters/fundraising/ or contact James Adamcheski-Halson email: development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk tel: +44(0)1223 332563
Supporters of Trinity Hall Chapel Choir

ANDREW ARTHUR, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

From my own perspective and experience, it is difficult to quantify the life-long benefits that singing in a choir can offer. Whether in terms of cultivating an enduring awareness of, and love for music, building personal confidence, leadership and teamwork or instilling a strong sense of commitment, singing in a chapel choir is surely one of the most rewarding and profitable experiences which Cambridge’s collegiate life has to offer.

Admired throughout the world, the English choral tradition is a unique part of our heritage and many Oxbridge colleges offer a universally respected training ground for choral singing at the highest level. Trinity Hall is committed to maintaining this magnificent tradition by providing first-class musical training and opportunities for students who wish to partake in the musical life of the College Chapel. In recent years, an increasing number of Trinity Hall Chapel Choir members have taken up professional lay-clerkships and organist posts in cathedrals and other major churches, and have won graduate places at major music conservatories.

In the wake of Trinity Hall Chapel Choir’s exciting debut CD release earlier this year, the College recently launched the Supporters of Trinity Hall Chapel Choir scheme, a campaign aimed at supporting this fantastic cornerstone of musical life at Trinity Hall, raising funds for further development and educational opportunities and ensuring the longevity of the College’s current provision for Chapel music for many future generations of students. The scheme offers opportunities to help fund an organ or choral scholarship, concerts, and to assist students in financial difficulty with the costs associated with master classes and choir tours.

Andrew Arthur is Fellow, Director of Music and Director of Studies in Music at Trinity Hall. Alongside his College responsibilities, he is also an Affiliated Lecturer in the University’s Faculty of Music, Associate Director of The Hanover Band, Musical Director of Orpheus Britannicus and Principal Keyboardist at the Carmel Bach Festival, California.

To find out more about the scheme or ways to support other musical activities at Trinity Hall, please contact Dr Rachelle Stretch or James Adamcheski-Halson:
Email development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0)1223 766345 or +44 (0)1223 332563
The Supporters of Trinity Hall Chapel Choir pages can be found on the College website at: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/about/music/chapel-music/

Purchase a copy of the choir’s debut CD ‘Come Down, O Love Divine’ at www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/about/gift-shop/

Follow the Choir on Twitter: @TrinHallCC

The Supporters scheme was launched at a concert on 18 April in the Dining Hall with Orpheus Britannicus and the College Choir, pictured here. Middle left photo: the CDs for sale in the window of Heffers bookshop.
THE TABLE TRANSFORMATION

Luke Hughes® was commissioned by the College to redesign Trinity Hall’s dining furniture as part of the general refurbishment of the Dining Hall.

Amongst the challenges of the refurbishment was to retain the intimate feel of the space whilst making it much easier for the catering team to move the furniture around, set it out for formal and informal dining, music performances and lectures or, indeed, clear it away altogether for buffet functions. The greatest challenge was to increase seating capacity from 96 to 140 (46%) in the Dining Hall and a further 16 in the gallery, without cluttering the space.

This was the first major renovation of the Dining Hall in a century and has been designed to see the College through for another century or more. The College’s forebears had built it to last. One of the great advantages of having selected high quality materials is that they can almost always be restored and revived. The dining tables, with good turned oak legs, had endured a century of abuse from students, staff, and the maintenance team. Well-meaning steel straps screwed to the underside of the tops had prevented the normal rhythm of expansion and contraction between winter and summer, leading to bad cracks. Nevertheless, most of the oak was of high quality and was perfectly seasoned. The table bases were therefore redesigned, the legs repositioned and the tops cut down to a size that could allow every sitter to get their knees beneath the top without straddling a table leg. All the legs were found to be reusable as well as about 70% of the tops. The linking beams between the legs were refashioned to incorporate a quick-release linking wedge system that allows the bases to be quickly taken down and stored in a former cleaning cupboard under the stairs. The tops can now be slid into special racks, tucked into the corridor by the Senior Combination Room (SCR). The two high tables were also remade to reduce the width and increase capacity.

It was clear that the old benches had had their day. Although viewed with affection by some, they were felt to be no longer suitable for modern expectations of dining in comfort (especially for the important conference trade outside College term). These were auctioned to alumni which raised over £10,000. The money raised was then invested back into the refurbishment of the Dining Hall. It was agreed to replace the benches with the same solid oak-frame and leather-upholstered stacking chairs, that have been used in the Graham Storey Room and the Senior Combination Room for the last fifteen years or so.

The greatest challenge was to increase seating capacity from 96 to 140 (46%) in the Dining Hall and a further 16 in the gallery, without cluttering the space.

People often ask me “what do you do for a living?” I used to say blandly, “I’m a furniture designer.” Now I say that my company specialises in “furniture in architecture” and for me it is immaterial whether this is furniture for a busy college dining hall, a romanesque cathedral like Ely or the Sainsbury Botanic Institute (designed by Stanton Williams and winner of the Stirling Prize in 2012). It is less the style of the furniture that matters and more the impact it has on those who work in and inhabit these impressive public spaces, and what one can do to improve that. It has been a great pleasure to apply some of our experience to one of the most welcoming and now beautifully restored college halls in both Oxford and Cambridge.
Brief background to Luke Hughes®

Luke Hughes, is one of the UK’s leading furniture designers, who studied History of Architecture at Cambridge University. He and his Covent Garden based team have concentrated on designing furniture for architecture over the last 30 years. 80% of his clients are academic institutions, including Oxbridge colleges, as well as Yale and Harvard. He designed the furniture for both the UK Supreme Court and Westminster Abbey (used in the Royal Wedding in 2011).

In 2010, he was a winner of a Walpole Award for British Design Talent for ‘outstanding achievement in design, craftsmanship, business and culture’. In 2012, the Botanic Institute in Cambridge, for which he designed all the furniture, was awarded 14 architectural prizes including the UK’s most prestigious award, the Stirling Prize.

For more information, see: www.lukehughes.co.uk

TASTE

It is not too late to name one of the chairs, which will reside in our newly refurbished Dining Hall, for yourself or a loved one. The inscription is placed on a brass disc, 31mm diameter, on the back of a chair. This provides an opportunity to mark a special occasion or to remember a loved one in memoriam for years to come. Donors are invited for a thank you lunch or dinner where you will have an opportunity to sit on the chair which bears your inscription.

If you are interested in ‘taking a seat’, please contact our Development Officer, James Adamcheski-Halson, email: development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or visit the website: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/takeaseat
Cycling

by Tony Purnell, Fellow-Commoner

Today British cyclists rule the world, Cambridge University’s cycling team rules the varsity scene, and in turn Trinity Hall’s two cyclists Felix Barker (2013) and David Hewett (2013) regally led the University team home to victory in the University team time trial, held over a hilly course near Bath last May.

Just to establish Trinity Hall’s domination, the following week Felix, a second year engineer, had the ride of his life to win the individual time trial championship on a 25 mile course close to Cambridge. This was a remarkable achievement for the 20 year old as he beat some very accomplished riders. Second place went to another Cambridge man who is now a full-time professional rider selected specifically as a time trial specialist. Felix rarely competes in this type of event, much preferring road racing, making his victory all the more remarkable. He spent last summer racing in Italy with a semi-professional U23 team. This put him in the highest standard U23 racing series globally, and without question the breeding ground for future Tour de France riders. A Trinity Hall man in the Tour one day? Never say never. Emma Pooley (2001) has already set the bar rather high as Trinity Hall’s best rider to date, but she’d be the first to say that Felix is in with a shout.

It could be noted that Trinity Hall has British Cycling’s Head of Technology as one of its fellows, so no doubt Felix and David had some decent tips.

Women’s football report

By coach, Malcolm Pearman, Trinity Hall Porter

Finally, the women’s football team have done it and gained promotion: winning the 3rd division championship by two points!

Such achievements can only be accomplished if you have the players, and those players possess the ability to play football. We have been lucky, as this squad of women and the squads before them have certainly had the ability as well as a togetherness, determination, passion and belief that has been second to none.

Two plate wins: the first in 2012, again in 2013, and now the 3rd division championship. What a fantastic achievement.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Congratulations to the women’s netball team who this year moved up to the 1st division, also to the pool team who won Cuppers. We are also delighted to report that George Anegg (2012) and Dom Dathan (2011) are representing team GB in Ultimate Frisbee.

Well done to all for a fantastic year!
Some 220 alumni gathered together on a delightful summer’s evening on Thursday 28 May to enjoy the hospitality of Lambeth Palace on the South Bank of the Thames. It was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome alumni with matriculation dates falling in each of the last eight decades, with an especially good showing from people who matriculated in the 1970s.

We had originally planned to hold the event in the Guard Room (the Great Hall is currently in the middle of a significant and ongoing refurbishment and so was not available) but demand proved such that we decided to also make use of the State Drawing Room – with its wonderful views across the gardens of the Palace (gardens that were redesigned by Rosalind Runcie in 1986). The Guard Room is hung with portraits of more distant Archbishops of Canterbury, but the corridor running between the State Drawing Room and the Guard Room boasts portraits of more recent Archbishops, including a twice past President of the THA: the Most Revd Robert Runcie (1948) (one of his terms as our President was during his time as Archbischo). A plentiful supply of good wine and splendid canapés throughout the evening helped fuel the ‘buzz’ that we have come to expect at THA events – it is always a great delight to talk to people across the generations and the conversations certainly flowed. Many people commented on how in the Palace itself, you didn’t feel that you were in the centre of London.

We had been helped in organising the event by an ‘insider’ in the person of the Revd Cortland Fransella (1967) who, as Lambeth Awards Officer, is responsible for administering the various schemes by which the Archbishop of Canterbury makes academic and non-academic awards. These include the Archbishop’s Examination in Theology whose Director is our own Master, Revd Dr Jeremy Morris. Cortland Fransella, who has another role as assistant priest in the Chapels Royal at HM Tower of London, welcomed everyone to the palace and gave a brief introduction to it.

The President, Colin Hayes (1962), welcomed the Master to the event, who updated us on some of the challenges facing the University and the College, as we look to the future and the problems of funding education of the highest calibre.

I think that most agreed that Lambeth Palace made a superb venue and we are very grateful for the privilege of being allowed to hold our event in such a unique setting.

As always we are incredibly grateful for the support that we receive from the Alumni and Development Office in organising our events around the country, and in handling most of the administrative tasks; it was good to see the team at Lambeth.

We are looking forward to welcoming members to the AGM and Cambridge Dinner on Saturday 26 September and to the North East Event planned for 24 October 2015.

We are your Alumni Association – let us know what we can do to help you.

Dr Chris Angus (1967)

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Reunion at Lambeth Palace

*Ancient halls different yet the same*

wrapped in the warm gaze of ancestors

buzz and burble with dialogues decades old,

young faces glimpsed through fading veil of age,

some familiar, some vaguely recalled.

The scented breath of May, heavy with wine,

that once imbued youth’s giddy aspiration

drifts through life’s landscapes, now revisited and revised

with self-knowledge, achievement, loss, consolation.

Generations mellowed by fate’s tricks and turns,

re-united in a time and in a place,

relish gratefully and indulge once more their

bountiful mother’s keen and comfortable embrace.

JJ Hiscock (1980)
The wet weather certainly did not dampen any spirits as around 60 donors met by the river for the official re-opening of the newly refurbished Latham-Scott Boathouse on 13 June.

After a few words from the Master, the opening ribbon was cut by Dr Walter Scott (1969) who has been a generous donor to the project and a long-standing supporter of THBC. Guests were able to tour around the newly refurbished Nightingale clubroom, coaches’ room, erg room and gym, and enjoy lunch on the extended balcony. Phases one and two have been completed and we are now looking towards phase three in order to provide our crews with a unique training facility on the river. Phase three involves extending the Latham-Scott Boathouse to the west to include a four-person indoor rowing tank, thereby allowing training in times of bad weather and no light.

If you are interested in supporting the project, please contact Dr Rachelle Stretch, email: development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or see www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/boathousserefurb.

WYNG GARDENS UPDATE

In June this year, the archaeological team moved into the site which will become WYNG Gardens. Building work will commence at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. If you would like to support this project, providing up-to-date rooms for our students, please contact Dr Rachelle Stretch, Development Director, email: development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or visit the website www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/wynggardens.

Looking Forward

Next year we are celebrating 40 years since the admission of women. If you would like to be part of these celebrations, please register your interest with Dr Rachelle Stretch, email: development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.

Meet the Boss

Students enjoyed two career seminar opportunities in the Easter Term: the annual Nicholson Careers Seminar organised with the help of the THA and the Nicholson Fund (set up in 1995 in honour of Nick Nicholson (1943)); together with a careers event focused on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry.

Joy Nicholson (Nick’s widow) was in attendance at the Nicholson Careers Seminar which was chaired for the seventh year by Andrew Burr (1977) on behalf of the THA. On this occasion, Andrew brought together a panel of alumni working in finance, a civil servant, patent attorney, consultant and scientist. This year’s seminar saw the highest turnout of students so far, with a great mix of undergraduates and graduates in a range of subjects. They engaged in a lively question-and-answer session before moving on to supper and then night caps in the Aula bar. If you are interested in being involved in this seminar programme, please contact James Adameschi-Halson, in the Development office, email: careers@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.

The second seminar was organised by fellow commoner, Dr Lutz Jermutus, with the help of graduate student, James Horscroft (2008), and alumna, Samantha Johnson (2010) (now working at GSK). Undergraduates, graduates and post-docs turned out in great numbers to attend this new seminar on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. Students were treated to some interesting and thought-provoking talks from a panel of scientific and business leaders offering advice on everything from boosting a CV to balancing work and family life. Lutz, James and Samantha are hoping to organise similar events in the future and if you would like to be involved, please contact Lutz Jermutus, via the Development Office, email: careers@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.
We’ve got Christmas covered at Trinity Hall

With the summer holidays just behind us, many people are already starting to plan their Christmas celebrations with family and friends.

Beat the crowds and take the headache out of your party planning by calling on our friendly and experienced Conference and Events team at Trinity Hall. With a range of festive options available for dining and drinks parties from 10 to 156 people, we will ensure that your celebrations start with some sparkle, fizz and a little bit of Christmas magic.

Don’t forget that we offer a 5% discount on all bookings made by alumni and can offer accommodation for you and your guests.

Family Day

This year we hosted our first ever Alumni Family Day at Wychfield which was a huge success. We were joined by over 150 people, including alumni and fellows with their families, who spent the afternoon catching up with friends, listening to live music, practising their circus skills, participating in a magic show and, of course, enjoying unlimited ice cream; all of which took place with the sun shining and the smell of a BBQ in the background! What better way to spend a sunny afternoon. Thank you to everyone who joined us – we look forward to seeing you next time.

"We enjoyed the event very much. Such a beautiful setting and very fortunate with the weather, and we caught up with some friends and their little ones which was great fun. It was a lovely introduction to Trinity Hall and Cambridge for our two young children.”

Catherine Barham (1997)

“Thanks for a great afternoon on Saturday – the whole family had a great time.”

Steve Wooding (1991)

Fellows’ Awards

In June we were delighted to announce that Trinity Hall Fellow, Dr John Bradley, was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s birthday honours for his services to health research. Dr Bradley has been instrumental in research carried out across the Cambridge University Hospitals, fostering exciting and productive working relationships with the University of Cambridge, other NHS trusts and industry partners.

We are also pleased to report that Fellow, Jane Clarke, Professorial Fellow in Natural Sciences (Chemical Biology), Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Molecular Biophysics, has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Chain Reaction

The phenomenon of the Chain Fountain was explored on BBC’s One Show in June this year. Dr John Biggins (Walter Grant Scott Research Fellow) together with Professor Mark Warner from the Cavendish Laboratory, explained how and why a chain flowing from a pot defies gravity and rises up into the air before falling to the ground. It’s fascinating to watch and if you would like to see it in action, please visit the research section of the Trinity Hall website.

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news/research

For further details or to make a booking please contact the Conference and Events team on: 01223 764444 or email: conference@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.
### Alumni Events at Trinity Hall

More than half our alumni have attended a Trinity Hall event, either in the College itself, in London or overseas.

For many, the first official event will be the MA ceremony three or four years after graduation, followed by group reunions every ten years or so. We now also celebrate anniversaries of matriculation: primarily 10, 25, 50 and 60 years after you first arrived at Trinity Hall. The reunion schedule is planned well in advance and you can see when your year is next due back at www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion-schedule. If you live overseas, how about planning a trip to the UK to coincide with your reunion?

Programmes for the College reunions follow a similar pattern – alumni can meet up in the afternoon before the more formal group photograph, drinks reception and dinner. Single accommodation is available in College for the majority of our events.

Year Reps are always involved in events relating to their year, so if you have any thoughts about the programme for your next College event, do get in touch with your Rep.

If you are due back for a reunion or anniversary, a ‘save the date’ message will be sent out in the autumn before the event, with invitations sent out in the following January/February.

Other events that we organise in College include the annual Milestone Lecture, a regular reunion for the Chapel Choir, and this year we held our first Trinity Hall Family Day. We also get involved in College events that alumni are invited to, including termly concerts, the annual Law Society dinner and the MCR dinner. Outside Cambridge we work with the Trinity Hall Association (THA) to organise regional events, we host city events in London and arrange the TH gathering at Varsity Rugby.

After an event, we send those on email a short survey asking for feedback. We do appreciate hearing from you as it helps us to improve our alumni programme. We share feedback with all the departments in College that are so vital for the smooth running of our events.

All upcoming events are listed on our mobile-friendly website at www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events along with links to further information and online booking. We can also take bookings by post and over the telephone. Our 2016 event calendar will be mailed to all alumni at the end of the year.

“I have been the Alumni Officer at Trinity Hall since 2002 and through my job have had the privilege to meet so many of our alumni. I have been responsible for many different aspects of the alumni programme over the last few years, but it is only through my involvement in the events that I get to put the faces to the names I deal with on a daily basis. When you next come to a Trinity Hall event, make sure you say hello!”

Liz Pentlow, Alumni Officer

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Information correct at time of going to press. For further information visit www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events or contact Liz Pentlow: events@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 332567. For University events go to www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/events

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**Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 October 2015</td>
<td>Nathanael Lloyd and Take a Seat dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 October 2015</td>
<td>THA North East Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 November 2015</td>
<td>Careers seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November 2015</td>
<td>Milestone Lecture, Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 December 2015</td>
<td>Varsity rugby, Aula club dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 January 2016</td>
<td>Parents’ Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 January 2016</td>
<td>Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 February 2016</td>
<td>Commemoration of Benefactors (by invitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 February 2016</td>
<td>Law Society annual dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbc March 2016</td>
<td>MA for 2009 undergraduates, Aula dinner, Graham Storey Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbc March/April 2016</td>
<td>TH events in New York and Boston</td>
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<td>16 April 2016</td>
<td>Supporters of the Old Library</td>
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<td>11 June 2016</td>
<td>Last day of May Bumps</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
<td>1350 Society garden party</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbc July 2016</td>
<td>TH events in San Francisco and Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 July 2016</td>
<td>Reunion for 1997 &amp; 1998 undergraduates</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 July 2016</td>
<td>25th Anniversary dinner (1991)</td>
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<tr>
<td>tbc September 2016</td>
<td>TH events in Hong Kong and Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 September 2016</td>
<td>50th Anniversary dinner (1966)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 September 2016</td>
<td>University Alumni Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 September 2016</td>
<td>THA AGM and dinner</td>
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