Bob’s Lunch

In 2000, I was asked to take over the role of Year Rep for the 1950 matriculation group. Initially I sent out newsletters but then I asked Raman Subba Row (1950) if there was anything else I should do. He suggested organising a meal for the members of our year group.

A survey showed that the group’s preference was for a lunch in London, around mid-November. We successfully hosted our first 1950 lunch at the RAF Club in 2004.

From the beginning, ladies were always included. Obvious these days, but not so much with our vintage! About 30 of us attended the first lunch and agreed that we should do it again the following year. We did and have done every year since, even in 2007 when the College invited us to dinner in Hall!

We started to diversify by inviting members of the Alumni Office, friends from 1949 (although only two ever came), the twin brother (alumnus of Kings) of one of our members, the officers of the THA and the Master and his wife. Martin and Claire Daunton attended the lunch for six years running and when they left Trinity Hall, they were awarded The Order of the Golden Napkin. Each year the Master gives a mini ‘State of the College’ talk and last year we also welcomed a winner of the THA Awards who gave a brief account of her project (see page 19).

These lunches cover all generations and provide interesting occasions for all who attend. After a few years, and to our surprise, we were no longer the 1950 year lunch, but became ‘Bob’s Lunch!’ We were more than delighted when our new Master, the Revd Dr Jeremy Morris attended our most recent lunch, and now we are in Front Court! We hope other years and clubs will take courage from our enjoyable example and do something similar.

Bob Ely (1950)

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 (autumn 2015), please contact the Editors.

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

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Alumni Events

“Having attended Bob’s lunch, I can vouch for the fact that it is a very enjoyable occasion.”

We now organise a raft of different events from the Alumni Office, including anniversaries of matriculation, traditional reunions, lectures and concerts. If you would like to organise an event for a group of alumni, whether contemporaries, locals or subject specific, do drop me a line. To see if you are eligible for one of the events on our 2015 calendar, check the list on the back page.

I look forward to welcoming you back to College!

Mrs Liz Pentlow, Alumni Officer


Thank you to all our contributors and to our College photographer, Kiloran Howard.

Front Cover: The Jerwood Library – opened in 1998 and funded by the Jerwood Foundation.

Photographer: Sir Cam.
This issue is no exception to the usual intriguing mix of articles by and about members of Trinity Hall. For example, a series of pieces by architects reminds us in various ways of the importance of the built heritage of this and other colleges. They include a piece by Tristan Rees Roberts (1967), who designed a number of recent additions to the Hall’s buildings – most notably the Jerwood Library. They feature in Simon Bradley’s splendid and recently-published revised edition of Pevsner’s Buildings of England volume on Cambridgeshire. All of the entries have been extensively rewritten to reflect modern developments in Cambridge, and Pevsner’s own judicious combination of description and judgement is as much in evidence here as it was in the original volume. Mostly the Hall comes out of it pretty well, ‘a charming picture quite unlike that of any other Cambridge college’. But even so, this volume will be out of date soon, as the seemingly relentless pace of building in Cambridge goes on.

Our own works at the moment are a case in point. To start with, the renovation and improvement of the Boathouse continues even as I write. We have finished phase one, which covered the long-overdue major renovation work. We are near the completion of phase two, which includes building new changing room facilities and a gym. We are still some way short of the funds we need to complete phase two, and the intended phase three work, which is to provide a rowing tank which would be of use not only for our students but for the wider community.

On the other side of the river, the old St Clement’s Gardens buildings have now been demolished, and preliminary
work is proceeding towards building new accommodation on the site, to be called WYNG Gardens, in honour of the major benefaction which has made this possible. Tristan Rees Roberts is also architect for this project, which will provide over 70 en-suite student bedrooms on a prime city-centre site. You can see photos of the demolition on the College’s website www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/WYNGgardens. Currently archaeologists are on site, and assuming no unexpected finds are made, we hope building will begin in earnest during the summer.

Beyond the immediate challenge of building, fundraising and maintenance – necessary to keep the College functioning in its current state and with its current range of activities – in an election year, I can’t help but be aware that there is a lot of uncertainty around the long-term funding of higher education. Promises are being made, without much supporting detail about how they will be funded. I don’t think we’re expecting really momentous changes in the immediate future, but the fee regime established in 2010/11 cannot survive for long in its current form. Costs continue to rise and the fees [which don’t even pay half of the average cost of a Cambridge education] are pegged at their current £9k per annum level. It is the generosity and support of all of you that helps us to cover the gap, and to provide for our students what is arguably the best education on offer anywhere in the world. Maintaining that position has got to be our first and most important goal.

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The Revd Dr Jeremy Morris
The Master

Lest we forget

There are many kinds of war memorial. Lille, which, because of its location, is filled with memories of past wars, is also filled with war memorials including a splendid one to the military message carrying pigeons of the First World War.

Older memorials like the Arc de Triomphe or the Brandenburg Gate, celebrate victories without recording the costs, but, as war has grown more terrible, memorials have become simpler.

After the Second World War, the Fellowship chose a different kind of memorial. They tore down the miscellaneous collection of sheds that hid the river from view and built the present terrace.

A Latin inscription records the memorial nature of the terrace and, as we enjoy the prospect of the Cam and Clare gardens, we should, not often, but sometimes, reflect on this.

Professor Tom Körner
(1964, Emeritus Fellow)

“We adorned this place in order to honour their memory who laid their life on behalf of their country in the year 1939 and through the period of six years.”

War memorial translation

The College holds two books of remembrance in the Chapel. They contain the names of Trinity Hall members of differing nationalities who died serving their country. Last November on our website, we published the Book of Remembrance for members from our community who died during the First World War.

To see our online tribute, please visit:
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news/rememberance
University Challenge Success

I don’t know who puts together the teams for University Challenge (the approach came from ITV, who make the programme for the BBC), but once I had accepted, I was the obvious choice for team captain.

While appearing on Newsnight Review, I had briefly met Jeremy Paxman (recently characterised by Russell Brand as a somnolent crocodile, waiting with only his eyes showing above the water for an interviewee to make a false move). On University Challenge, I was the granddad of the team, having graduated a quarter-century earlier than the next oldest player. I felt like an unrepresentative student at Trinity Hall at the time, having chosen a college with a strong legal reputation so as to send a misleadingly submissive signal to my father, a judge who would have liked all three sons to follow in his footsteps (none did). Perhaps he wouldn’t notice that I started off studying Classics and that when I changed course, it was to English rather than Law.

On University Challenge, I was the granddad of the team, having graduated a quarter-century earlier than the next oldest player.

My seniority also means that I come from a different era of higher education, having graduated debt-free and at a time when a degree more or less guaranteed employment. I would struggle to build a career (or what has felt like an enjoyable non-career) in today’s highly monetised educational environment. As it is, I got my first permanent job at 58, teaching writing at Goldsmiths, and was soon made Careers Liaison Officer for my department – proving that institutions do indeed have a sense of humour.

If I gave the team a pep talk it was only to say that we would win if the audience thought we were the side it would be most fun to spend time with. Getting more points was only a bonus. Balliol, our first opponents, certainly looked like a formidable team, fielding a scientist on the human genome project, a journalist who writes on classical civilisation for The Guardian, a long-serving Lib Dem MP and a correspondent on the New York Times. If we beat the odds in that first match, and thereafter took on a certain giant-killing aura, three factors may have contributed. One was our mascot, the Golden Hatchet I was awarded for an entertainingly destructive book review in 2012, no more than an axe from a hardware store spray-painted gold. This seemed a pleasing antidote to the usual soft toys, fully as fluffy as Paxman himself – who seemed to respond favourably, rewriting his introduction to draw attention to it. The hatchet was highly visible in the first round (what better instrument for giant-killing?), even if it was tidied away more or less out of sight in the later matches.

Before recording, the teams are warmed up by a less intimidating question-master, partly to get everyone used to the buzzer system. By good luck we got both of the warm-up starter questions right, with the second set of bonuses passed over to Balliol, in what must have seemed almost an act of charity. So we had a psychological advantage even before Paxman arrived on set.

I can’t help feeling that the third favouring factor was the Valentino jacket I wore for the first round, the single most expensive garment I have ever bought (online, and much reduced). It turned out to have been blown together, one glued seam coming adrift when I put it on for the first time, and couldn’t be either hand-washed or dry cleaned with any safety. Having been much mocked by my partner Keith for this folly, I was determined to get value from the jacket. It would go out in a blaze of televised glory. I couldn’t have anticipated, and only noticed when I saw the team photographs, that when worn against the black chairs behind the team desk it produced the intimidating effect of shoulder-pads. So those are the secrets of our success, as I see it: a mascot with an edge; some luck in rehearsal; and the illusion of a Ming the Merciless shoulder-line.

Adam Mars-Jones (1972)

I am delighted to introduce some of the architects who have graduated from Trinity Hall. The College has a proud tradition of valuing students who read Architecture and has, among its alumni, many key members of the profession.

Having been the Director of Studies for Architecture for some years, I have observed changes. We now try to admit three undergraduates each year which gives a sufficient critical mass for this minority subject. Few now return to Cambridge for their graduate Diploma studies, but tend to gravitate towards the London schools or go abroad – Harvard, Princeton, ETH in Zurich and the University of Copenhagen have been recent choices. This gives greater breadth to their education.

As I am a practising architect, being a Director of Allies and Morrison, I have always encouraged our students to engage with the practicalities of realising buildings. Most go into the profession, several now running their own innovative practices. Others also teach, sculpt, make films, build pop-up structures in unlikely places, write or contribute in endlessly creative ways. I am always pleased to see what proactive people emerge from the encouraging environment of Trinity Hall.
After finally qualifying in 1990, I worked on a wide variety of buildings and practices to broaden and round out my experience.

Here’s an example: since I was keen to move on to big and complex projects, I joined a scratch team of architects and technicians assigned to reconstruct and extend St Pancras. This challenge called for a complete transformation of the complex. Millions were spent. The sprawling project included designing new stations underground and even parks and depots.

Over nine years, the team and I strategised, surveyed, invented, buckled down and toiled away, compromising and cajoling. Our ultimate goal was always to achieve the finest quality result on the ground, when sometimes few around us seemed to care.

You need staying power on huge engineering and infrastructure projects like these. But the minute the vision is revealed you are out of a job, of course!

Painstakingly, following our designs, the contractors dismantled and reassembled huge sections of the building. It was officially reopened by the Queen in 2007, as a gleaming beauty of glass, sky-blue and terracotta.

Naturally, we worked closely with English Heritage and the London Borough of Camden, as well as with large numbers of clients and other stakeholders.

The role of commercial space was a prominent consideration as part of the business case for the project, and it is handled quite well here I think. So far, official and public reaction to the refurbished complex has been gratifyingly positive.
Our first large job for the College came in 1990 with a new Bursar, Joanna Womack. She asked me to modernise the Boathouse, with special emphasis on improving the facilities for female rowers, creating a workshop, an office, a gym and a better clubroom.

Following this she asked me to find a site for a new library, which resulted in the Jerwood Library (funded by the Jerwood Foundation). The project involved not only creating a library, but also modernising the rooms on Q Staircase, creating the computer room in the attic and creating P Staircase Seminar Room.

Her successor, Susan Pope, who had seen the Library through to completion in 1998, then commissioned a report on the development of the College and this led to a succession of projects, probably one a year over the next ten years. Of these, the most notable was probably the Graham Storey Room, with its new WCs and the new lift and stairs, providing easy access to the Old Library for the first time, and to the first floor College public rooms.

We also created a new I Staircase, linking the Master’s Lodge directly with the PA and alumni team offices.

When John Pegler became Bursar, he asked us to improve the sports pavilion and squash courts at Wychfield, providing a gym room and generally bringing the pavilion’s facilities up to modern standards.

His successor, Paul ffolkes Davis, commissioned a new report with special emphasis on the quality of bedsitting rooms and whether students and fellows should be mixed on staircases, or whether fellows would be better sited in a ‘teaching’ area. The existing architecture helped determine the outcome and we created fellows’ rooms in D and E Staircases, whilst modernising the Porters’ Lodge at the same time.

After this, and most recently, our attention has turned to St Clement’s Gardens with the new building due to start in spring, and to be completed in the summer of 2016. It will provide 72 en-suite student rooms, two seminar rooms and a good common room. Although I retired at the end of January, I know this building is in good hands within the office, and I look forward to seeing it finished.

Trinity Hall has provided many of the highlights of my professional career and I have been lucky to work with a succession of wonderful people connected with the College.

Tristan Rees Roberts (1967)

I studied Architecture at Trinity Hall between 1967 and 1972, with a year out in an office in India in 1971. When I was a graduate student I was given my first job for Trinity Hall, which was to convert two rooms into what is still the SCR. I then lost touch with the College whilst involved in family affairs and building up our practice, Freeland Rees Roberts, with my partner Henry Freeland.

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Trinity Hall has provided many of the highlights of my professional career and I have been lucky to work with a succession of wonderful people connected with the College.
I am currently working with Assemble, an architecture studio formed by a group of friends, many of whom I studied Architecture with at Cambridge.

Our first project, ‘The Cineroleum,’ was a self-initiated scheme to transform a derelict petrol station in Clerkenwell into a temporary cinema. We have since completed a wide range of projects, from Blackhorse Workshop in Walthamstow – a genre of library with tools rather than books as the central resource, to The Playing Field – a 450-seat outdoor festival theatre in the centre of Southampton. The varied projects that Assemble colleagues are working on now include our first housing scheme for a community land trust in Toxteth, Liverpool.

At the moment I am working on the design of a new public art gallery for Goldsmiths, University of London. As a new centre for the arts in South London, the gallery will be a critical testing ground for the University, a space for local and international artists to exhibit their work, and a cultural resource for the public.

The Goldsmiths gallery is being created from a series of remarkable spaces found within the former Victorian bathhouse at Laurie Grove. It will comprise an ensemble of varied spaces, each offering unique opportunities for the display of art. The bath’s cast iron water tanks have a powerful materiality which will be preserved and amplified, whilst new top-lit galleries will be inserted to provide a rich spatial counterpoint.

Assemble is based at Sugarhouse Studios, a complex of studios and workshops which we built and manage. Last year we constructed an adjacent building, Yardhouse, which reflects our practice’s interest in hands-on involvement in architecture, including conception of the brief, material prototyping, final construction and delivery. The building offers affordable workspace for artists, designers and craftspeople, resonates with our ethos, and supports the work of other creative practitioners in a collaborative and stimulating working environment. It promotes a visible presence for the arts and provides an enjoyable sense of community for those who work there.

Read further alumni stories online at the Trinity Hall website, www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/architects

Andrew Gibbs (2008) has worked on schematic designs for several projects across Europe and Asia whilst based in Switzerland. However, after three years in the studio, he has returned to full time study.

Emily Greeves (1997) writes about her focus on house design in London and has worked closely with the Greater London Authority regarding setting standards for housing design and space standards.

Kate Grose (1977), an architect with Tiger Hill Ltd, has recently redesigned the College Boathouse. For further details and photos of the refurbishment see: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/boathouserefurb

Mellis Haward (2001) has worked on a variety of different projects from farms to hotels, and recently her timber flower kiosk was nominated for the New London Architecture Small Projects award.

Dr Arthur Lyons (1961) moved from studies in Natural Science to teaching Materials Science to students of Architecture. Now in retirement, Dr Lyons is writing books on building materials and architecture.

Sam Potter (1996) tracks his career as an architect over the last decade against the changing socio-economic climate from state funded nurseries in Dagenham to global financial headquarters in the City of London.
Painting Conservation

Over the course of a week, intensive work was undertaken on site in the Boat Club rooms of Trinity Hall (figure 1). Treatment was carried out by staff members, interns and students of the Hamilton Kerr Institute, a department of the Fitzwilliam Museum that specialises in the conservation of easel paintings for public and publicly shown collections, as well as by members of the Museum. The portraits were initially surface cleaned, removing accumulations of dust, soot, and – perhaps not too surprising in a dining hall – bits of old food now and again, while other necessary treatments included consolidation of flaking paint, re-varnishing and infilling and retouching of losses. The physical and aesthetic condition of 24 paintings was significantly improved. Conservation re-framing of all the portraits was also a priority, while more extensive work on some of the frames in poor condition was undertaken by expert frames conservator, Jonathan Miles.

Some paintings that needed more in depth treatment were brought to the Institute. The pigment used in the red robes (vermilion) on Samuel Halifax, Bishop of Gloucester and Sir Edward Simpson, presented intense signs of degradation, resulting in the red robes turning grey. Both treatments addressed these alterations, giving them back some of their former colouristic splendour (figure 2a before the work and 2b after).

The portrait of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, hanging pride of place behind the High Table in the Dining Hall, was in a very unstable condition after suffering water damage. This resulted in considerable shrinkage of the canvas and severe delamination of the paint and ground layers (figure 3 and 4). The challenging treatment to restore this important portrait took a full year, but the painting was finally reinstalled for Michaelmas Term 2014, in a newly gilt, architectural frame setting (figure 5).

Figure 1: Conservation framing in progress in the College Boat Club rooms.

Figures 2a and 2b: Samuel Halifax, Bishop of Gloucester, before (a) and after (b) conservation treatment.
Figure 3: Portrait of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. Raking light detail photograph showing the extensive flaking of the paint layers before treatment.

Figure 4: Portrait of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd receiving conservation treatment.

Figure 5: Portrait of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd after treatment.

Figures 1–4 © the Hamilton Kerr Institute

Joana Moura Devesa has an MA in Conservation of Art, specialising in easel paintings, from the New University of Lisbon, Faculty of Science and Technology. Since September 2013, she has worked as a painting conservation intern at the Hamilton Kerr Institute in Cambridge.
Graduates – a question of access

Cambridge is a world-class research university and a key part of that is a talented and diverse graduate community. Trinity Hall has an active MCR of around 250 members studying for Masters and PhDs; around 50% are from overseas.

However, graduate students are faced with the obstacle of financing their studies. Government funding for graduate courses has dramatically reduced. There are concerns that those with the potential to benefit from graduate study feel unable to afford it and risk losing the ability to train new researchers, make important discoveries and refresh the academic community. Graduate admissions is becoming a question of access.

Graham Virgo, pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University, has said: “Last year, from the 176 doctoral students eligible for University funding, 92 received the highest ranking (with marks of 27 or above out of 30). 27 or above out of 30. Of these, only 17 received awards. Without fundraising, the University will not be able to fund home doctoral students”.

At Trinity Hall, we spend around £250,000 a year supporting our graduates, on top of the £2,000 that we subsidise each graduate student each year. Some of this is through named endowed funds, but regular donations to student support also play a key part. We typically raise £40,000 for general student support through our telephone campaign and mailings during the year. A proportion of this is used during the following academic year to enable graduates to attend conferences and present their findings to a wider academic community, to further their research. Recent examples include: enabling a PhD student in economics to attend a summer school to discuss his research with three Nobel Laureates; an engineer developing collaborative research activities as a result of a sustainability in energy and building conference, in Cardiff; enabling a research trip to Washington to interview scholars in think tanks advising the US government on Middle East policy; and supporting medics on their elective in developing countries.

Example of costs for a full-time PhD student in the sciences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UK/EU student</th>
<th>Overseas student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Tuition fee per annum</td>
<td>£7,362</td>
<td>£19,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College fee per annum</td>
<td>£2,547</td>
<td>£2,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living costs per annum</td>
<td>£12,200</td>
<td>£12,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost per annum</td>
<td>£22,109</td>
<td>£33,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost for three years</strong></td>
<td><strong>£66,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>£101,292</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The University fee covers the cost of supervisions received from the department.
- College fees cover the costs of providing a variety of domestic and pastoral services.
- Travel and field work costs are not accounted for.

Graduates can also apply for hardship funding from the College if they face unexpected financial difficulties.

The University piloted a new scheme this year which offered matched funding from the Newton Trust, for colleges to help
The ESA-ET funding supports research into industrial waste management and global sustainability technologies such as bioenergy. It allows early stage researchers such as myself, to study and contribute to this exciting new field.

John Hervey (2014)

We are grateful to the Environmental Services Association Education Trust who have helped support a second PhD student at Trinity Hall, in conjunction with the Department of Biochemistry. Following Robert Pott’s (2009) research into the production of hydrogen from the waste products of biodiesel manufacture by a bacterium, John Hervey [2014] (pictured below) is determining the ability of the bacterium to grow on other waste streams, and generate other resources, which could potentially be used for power generation.

Thank you to all of those who have supported our students – it has truly made a difference.

Dr Rachelle Stretch is our Development Director. For more information or to learn how you could make a difference, please contact Rachelle on +44 (0)1223 766345 or development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk or see www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/supporters/fundraising
‘With tender regard to the memory of our Benefactor’

Walter Hewke (died 1518), Master of Trinity Hall 1512–1518

Walter Hewke entered Trinity Hall in 1490 and received a Doctorate in Canon Law in 1495. He was elected Master in 1512, and one of his first acts was to have the College Chapel consecrated, for although services had been celebrated there since 1366, the building itself had remained unconsecrated. Significantly, this enabled burial within College for the first time. Hewke made his will in May 1517, writing the document (preserved in the College archives) himself and noting that he had already purchased his gravestone.

Many readers will know Hewke’s impressive monumental brass, now set in the ante-chapel. The Latin inscription at the foot translates as: ‘If there be any fame in the schools, praise of arts or other exceeding vain things of the world, let them fare well. My only hope is Jesus. Lift up Walter, good Jesus, at the end of days’. This inscription is appropriate for a pious medieval scholar, and similar to one in King’s College Chapel. The date, however, is incomplete, Hewke presumably expecting this to be added after his death. One of three scrolls on the monument has the English inscription ‘Of your Charete pray for ye sowle of Master Walter Hewke Doctor of Cano’, possibly so that it could be understood by non-academic visitors, servants, and young students. The circumstances of Hewke’s death are unknown, but he was buried before the high altar and his memorial remained there until the 18th century.

The terms of Hewke’s will also established a fellowship for a scholar-priest: he was to be ‘vertiouse, good and abyll in wyt and manners’, and to obtain a Doctorate within ten years. Preference was given to a Cambridge graduate and, in order to facilitate his studies, he was not to serve as a curate or College steward. Master Walter bequeathed property in Cambridge to support his scholar-priest, but problems soon arose: the deeds of purchase were mislaid – an embarrassment for the lawyers’ college! To secure the bequest, the fellowship was therefore obliged to collect sworn depositions confirming Hewke’s ownership of the properties, recorded on a roll (24 feet long) now in the College archives. This document provides a fascinating snapshot of life in early 16th century Cambridge, and is currently being prepared for publication by the author and Dr Claire Daunton.

Within 20 years, Hewke’s scholar-priest and monument were endangered by the upheavals of the Reformation, but both survived; the fellowship because it was for Civil as well as Canon law, and the monument under the protection of Stephen Gardiner (Master 1531–51). In the 1640s the memorial was again threatened, this time by the puritan William Dowising. In the event, no mention was made of its Catholic inscriptions, and it is tempting to speculate whether these were covered – perhaps by the feet of a conveniently placed scholar – during the iconoclast’s visitation. Hewke’s memorial was moved during the 1729–30 refurbishment of the Chapel, at which point William Warren, Vice-Master and Hewke’s Fellow, hoped to find in the grave evidence confirming the date of Walter’s death. He uncovered only bones, but from these concluded that Hewke was unusually tall. The remains were then reburied with ‘decency & tender regard to ye memory of our Benefactor’.

Hewke’s Fellowship continued into the 20th century, but in 1915 the Governing Body decided that its funds should be transferred to support student bursaries. Thus, after 400 years, Hewke’s dedicated endowment ceased.

The story of Master Walter provides fascinating insights into the life of Trinity Hall. His monument is a testament to the memorialisation of benefactors, while his endowments reveal the persistence of charitable works. Perhaps it is now time to take Warren’s advice, and reconsider ‘with tender regard’ the memory of a generous benefactor.

Dr Elizabeth New is Lecturer in Medieval History at Aberystwyth University, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the Royal Historical Society. She works on aspects of the social and religious history, and the material and visual culture of later medieval England and Wales.
Thomas Preston: A Tale of Two Women

The brass of another former Master, Thomas Preston (from 1585–1598), lies near that of Walter Hewke. The inscription at the foot of Preston’s brass contains two women’s names, Alicia and Elizabeth. Who were they and what role did they play in his life?

Thomas Preston has the distinction of being the first married Master of Trinity Hall and Alicia was his wife. He was educated at Eton and King’s College, Cambridge (from 1556–81) and it seems that he resigned his fellowship at King’s in order to marry Alicia. It is not clear whether Preston lived with his wife in Trinity Hall. According to Crawley’s Trinity Hall: the history of a Cambridge College, 1350–1975, ‘The fact that Preston was buried in the ante-chapel does not prove that he resided in College, but his widow at least ensured that she would not be forgotten, for the inscription on his monument begins with her name ALICIA, alone on the first line’. The brass leaves us in no doubt about the importance of Alicia’s role!

Elizabeth, the other woman mentioned in the inscription, was in fact the Queen of England! Preston first came to the Queen’s attention as a young fellow of King’s at the time of her stay in Cambridge, in August 1564. He impressed Elizabeth I with his ‘gracefull gesture’ and ‘propernesse of person’ in a disputation on the subject ‘monarchy is the best form for a state’ – he had the delicate task of speaking against the motion! – in his role in the play of Dido and in his oration at the Queen’s departure from Cambridge. She was so taken with him that he was called ‘her scholar’ and gave him a substantial pension of £20 a year. The Queen did not forget him. Many years later in 1585, when the Mastership of Trinity Hall fell vacant, the fellows were instructed by royal mandate to elect Thomas Preston! The brass, which records that Elizabeth I called him ‘her scholar’, pays tribute to the importance of royal patronage in Preston’s fortunes.

As Master, Preston is best known today as the author of the play Cambises King of Persia which was lampooned by Shakespeare through the words of Falstaff in Henry IV, part I. Today, his name lives on in Trinity Hall’s drama group, the Preston Society.

Dominique Ruhtmann
Director of Library Services

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations to Professor Körner (1964, Emeritus Fellow) on his quinquagenary

Mathematics Fellow, Tom Körner, celebrated his 50 years at the College with a good number of parties and with a change in role to Emeritus Fellow. Former Master, Professor Martin Daunton, said in his tribute to Tom that ‘few people can have been so long in College – and no one will have made a greater impact. Tom is an outstanding scholar’. He also added that “generations of fellows have learned from his wit and wisdom over dinner conversations, and through interventions in Governing Body”. Tom’s colleague, Dr Tadashi Tokieda (Körner Fellow and Director of Studies in Mathematics), wrote in his tribute about Tom’s “knack of writing interesting books that nobody else could imagine writing” and gave an example of how popular Tom’s best known book, Fourier Analysis, is with the international audience. He described, “One day in Paris, I mentioned to a roomful of French academicians and Fields medalists that Körner was my senior colleague and the person I learn from most in Cambridge. They did not catch the pronunciation at first, but when I added Fourier Analysis, they exclaimed: ‘Ah oui, Corre-nerre!’ and all stood up with arms raised toward heaven. They spent the next half hour saying one of the happiest things that could happen to mathematics was that ‘Corre-nerre’ should write more books. It is a feeling shared by all good mathematicians...” The full tributes from both Professor Daunton and Dr Tokieda can be read on the website www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news.

Pride of Britain Awards
We are very delighted to report that Honorary Fellow Professor Sir Roy Calne received a lifetime award at the Pride of Britain Awards, held at the end of last year. The award was for breakthroughs in transplant surgery.

The Theory of Everything
The very moving early life of Professor Hawking (1962) was depicted in this amazing Oscar and BAFTA winning film which was released at the beginning of this year. Trinity College was represented as Professor Hawking’s college in the film. However, we can verify that Trinity was just the stand in and he actually did study for his PhD here, at Trinity Hall, matriculating in 1962.

Goodbye Sir Nicholas (1974)
All our very best goes to Honorary Fellow Nicholas Hytner as he steps down from the National Theatre at the end of March. Please visit our website to read about when student Will Bordell (2012) interviewed Sir Nicholas.

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

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Trinity Hall Boat Club pulls together and raises over £30,000 from its sponsored ergothon. Congratulations to the team!

At midday on Saturday 25 October 2014, the Master led the countdown and THBC began its 2014 sponsored ergothon. Rowing through the night as British Summer Time slipped back to GMT (hence 25 hours instead of 24!), a dedicated team of rowers kept two ergs in continuous use until midday the following day. By the end, 27 rowers, rowing in 20 minute slots, had completed a distance of 646.1 km. Some even took on the challenge of their very own groundhog day, rowing the 1am to 2am slots the first time round and then again an hour later.

The turnout was splendid, with both current and former THBC members taking part to raise money for the Club’s chosen causes. Setting the pace were two former Olympians – Tom James (2002), Olympics 2004, 2008 and 2012 and Kate Grose (1977), Olympics 1988 and 1992 – but spectators were rewarded with the sight of other notables taking to the ergs, including THBC Senior Treasurer Graham Pullan (fellow and 1993) and Boatman of over 40 years Martin Fordham.

The proceeds, raised from sponsorship and collections on the day, were split between Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), a charity offering help, support and counselling to affected families and of which Tom James is a patron, and Trinity Hall’s Boathouse refurbishment project. The College’s riverside Boathouse is in the process of a major overhaul, modernising and extending the facilities, to ensure continued access to College rowing for future generations of students and, hopefully, the nurturing of more rowing talent. The generosity of alumni and THBC members is playing an enormous part in bringing the project to completion. You can read more about both causes at: www.c-r-y.org.uk and www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/boathouserefurb

THBC would like to thank the Captains for their help in organising the event and also a huge thanks to everybody who took part and supported this amazing achievement.
A Career in Science

Insight from a Woman

I am Professor of Molecular Biophysics in the Department of Chemistry and a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow. What has always fascinated me most is: how do living things work, particularly at the molecular level?

To answer this question, I use the tools of physics, chemistry and molecular biology. Cambridge University, with its unique Natural Sciences tripos, has recognised for years that science cannot be placed into neat clean boxes.

My area of study is protein folding. Proteins perform most of the vital functions in your body – they give you structure and movement, they control all the chemical reactions in your cells, they provide defence against disease (antibodies are proteins) and they act as sensors. To perform their functions, each protein has to fold to a specific three-dimensional shape. Proteins are polymers made up of a sequence of 20 different, simple building blocks called amino acids. They join end-to-end in a linear chain in an order dictated by our genes. Each protein has a unique sequence and, remarkably, all the instructions for how to fold into a particular three-dimensional shape, as well as how the protein then performs its functions in the body, is contained in that sequence. The human genome project thus set a massive task for protein chemists: we know the sequence of all the proteins in the body, is there a way we can predict the shape of these proteins from their sequence? Can we predict what they do and how they work?

These are big questions and it is only by combining molecular and structural biology tools with physical measurements and computational studies that we begin to understand the molecular mechanism of how proteins fold to the correct structure and how this structure gives the protein its function.

This research underpins our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of disease. Mutations in genes change the sequence of these proteins – can we understand what goes wrong [to cause diseases such as cancer, for instance] and can we design chemical tools to reverse the effects of these mutations? Cells have natural quality control mechanisms, so if proteins fail to fold correctly, misfolded proteins are cleared from the cell. But as we age these quality control systems begin to fail and misfolded proteins may accumulate and become toxic. Diseases of old age, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, are the result of protein misfolding. As the population ages, understanding how we might prevent misfolding, or prevent misfolded proteins accumulating, becomes an increasingly important area of research.

My career is somewhat unusual. After several years teaching science in comprehensive secondary schools, I changed track and started a PhD at the age of 40 with Professor Sir Alan Fersht [who is now Master of Gonville and Caius College] in the Medical Research Council Centre for Protein Engineering in Cambridge. I am indebted to him for giving me the opportunity to step back into the laboratory when others thought I was too old and that my family commitments would get in my way. Indeed, one member of the biochemistry faculty [who is no longer in Cambridge] asked me how I would manage to care for my children before turning me down! My answer is to point to my career. I am a Professor of Chemistry here in Cambridge [only the third woman to have been elected to such a position] and do leading edge, world-class research, funded by the Wellcome Trust, a world-leading biomedical research charity. I am highly committed to encouraging more young women to stay in science beyond undergraduate level. Being a research scientist is a wonderful career and I have demonstrated that it can be happily and successfully combined with being a mother [and grandmother too!]. When I look around me I see that little has changed since I was an undergraduate – there are still too few female academics in all areas in Cambridge. I cannot tolerate the idea that when my granddaughter (aged 2) goes to university, things will hardly be any better.

This may mean we have to alter our perception of what ‘success’ looks like – Cambridge University recently published a book entitled, The Meaning of Success: Insights from Women at Cambridge that I would encourage you to buy, or read online at issuu.com/uni_cambridge/docs/the_meaning_of_success_final_revise (you might even find more of my story in the book!).

Led by the Vice-Chancellor, the University is committed to supporting and encouraging women in Cambridge to succeed and Trinity Hall is currently undertaking an audit of our own policies and practices to see how we can play our role – about half our undergraduates are women. We need to enable the best and the brightest to reach the top of their chosen professions, whatever their gender.

Professor Jane Clarke (Fellow)
Immediately prior to the 2014 AGM held in College on Saturday 27 September, Alex Taylor (2011) and Georgia Ware (2012), two recipients of the 2014 THA Awards, gave members a presentation on their involvement in humanitarian work in India and Tanzania, and fielded questions from a very appreciative audience.

At the AGM which followed, Nigel Chancellor (1990) stood down as President, to be replaced by Colin Hayes (1962) who had served as Vice President to Nigel for the last three years. Colin, on behalf of the Committee, presented Nigel with a framed photograph looking through the screens to Front Court and Main Gate. This very atmospheric black and white view had been taken and printed by Roger McKinlay (1979) who was elected to take over from Colin as Vice President. Chris Angus was re-elected as Secretary for a further term. A proposed change to the rules of the Association was carried, to permit the Financial Officer and the Secretary to be re-appointed for a third term in office. This change allowed the members present to re-elect Martin Ansley-Young (1985) to serve for a further two years as Financial Officer. During the course of this year, we will need to identify a suitable successor to allow for an orderly handover. Michael Womack (1966) and Juliet Day (1990) were both re-elected to the Committee for a second term.

In presenting the statement of accounts for 2013–14, Martin Ansley-Young outlined the key points: overall income and expenditure were remarkably similar to the previous year with a surplus on the year of nearly £6K; we had doubled the amount made available for the THA Awards from £2K to £4K. The value of our endowment had risen by a most satisfactory 12.6% over the year.

Immediately after the AGM, we adjourned to the Master’s Lodge for drinks followed by a splendid dinner in the newly-refurbished Hall. The Cambridge dinner was the last THA event to be attended by Martin and Claire Daunton, the President paid tribute to the great contribution they had made both to the College and to the Association. We shall miss them.

Three weeks later, on Saturday 18 October, we were in Bath for a South West dinner in the Pump Room. The evening started with drinks around the pool and a tour of the Roman Baths before sitting down to a really fine dinner. There was a good turnout from across the years with representation from each of the last six decades. We were delighted to welcome back the Revd Dr Jeremy Morris who responded with a very well received discourse on the College, the future, and the role of the alumni. We look forward with great pleasure to working with Jeremy in the years ahead.

The New Year started off in fine form with some notable TH alumni trouncing all-comers in the Christmas University Challenge – our congratulations go to Tom James (2002), Emma Pooley (2001), Adam Mars-Jones (1972) and Dan Starkey (1996) (see report on page 5).

Looking forward, we hope to welcome many of you to the London event, to be held in the august surroundings of Lambeth Palace on the evening of Thursday 28 May. In the autumn we are planning a North East dinner at a splendid venue on the banks of the Tyne.

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 all the administrative tasks.

The THA is your Alumni Association – let us know what we can do to help you.

Dr Chris Angus (1967)
THA Awards 2014

The Committee of the THA decided to double the amount the Association could provide for THA Awards. As a consequence, in 2014 we were able to support four students taking part in humanitarian projects abroad.

Georgia Ware (2012), second year Engineering, spent six weeks in Tanzania working with the newly formed Cambridge Development Initiative. She took part in a programme for students from the University of Dar es Salaam on social entrepreneurship, mentoring them on the development of small-scale business projects; one such was the creation of a desalination system for the owners of wells in slum areas to improve clean water supply.

Lea Benk (2013), first year Behavioural Sciences, spent five weeks in Southern Bolivia with a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working with severely disadvantaged young children in a society where half the citizens are below the poverty line. She tutored the children and did a range of administrative tasks in the local centre, culminating – quite unexpectedly – in nurturing an abandoned newborn baby for a week until its young mother returned to claim her.

Alex Taylor (2011), third year History, spent two months in India as an intern with the Centre for Equity Studies, an NGO involved in research and advocacy for the most marginalised communities in India. His project involved research into the victims of communal violence, the social distress and recurring issues faced by survivors, and the support needed to help them rebuild their lives.

Louise Ashwell (2011), also final year History, spent eleven weeks as an intern with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva. She worked, in her words, “in a department whose role was to supply communications products, spanning every single health issue which the WHO works on”. Her internship coincided with the outbreak of the Ebola crisis, throwing her into the thick of the action in disseminating vital information about the disease and how to prevent it.

These four examples demonstrate the range of activities that the THA is able to support, of lasting value in themselves and life-enhancing for the students. Full, illustrated reports (and those from earlier years back to 2008) can be viewed on the College website at: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/associations/trinity-hall-association/awards.asp

Photos taken at the Pump Rooms in Bath in October.
Events

9 April 2015
New York dinner

11 April 2015
San Francisco dinner

14 April 2015
Toronto dinner

18 April 2015
Supporters of the Old Library
Concert in the Dining Hall
Choir and Orpheus Britannicus
Conductor: Andrew Arthur

19 April 2015
Choir Reunion

2 May 2015
Marshall McLuhan Symposium

28 May 2015
THA London event at Lambeth Palace

13 June 2015
Last day of May Bumps
Boathouse opening

4 July 2015
Reunion for up to and including 1958
Inc 60th Anniversary lunch for 1955
Alumni Family Day at Wychfield (see below)

11 July 2015
50th Anniversary dinner (1965)

5 September 2015
25th Anniversary dinner (1990)

12 September 2015
Year reps conference
40th Anniversary dinner (1975)

15/16 September 2015
Hong Kong dinner date TBC

19 September 2015
Reunion for 1985, 1986 and 1987

26 September 2015
THA dinner [inc 1960 55th Anniversary]

25–27 September 2015
Alumni Festival

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
+44 (0)1223 332567

Enhance your social calendar at Trinity Hall

As spring gathers apace, now is the perfect time to get some social dates in your diary for the year ahead. Why not take the opportunity to return to Trinity Hall with friends and family? We can accommodate smaller dinners for as few as 10 people, as well as larger scale parties and celebrations to mark weddings, anniversaries and other achievements. We can offer you a range of rooms and spaces from the intimate Robin Hayes Room, to the grandeur of the Graham Storey Room and our magnificent Dining Hall, or drinks and canapés on the River Terrace and games on Latham Lawn. We have an outstanding selection of seasonal fine dining menus as well as a superb selection of wines and cocktails to complement your event.

Don’t forget that we offer a 5% discount on all bookings made by alumni and we can offer B&B accommodation on a much wider scale out of term-time. If you would like to discuss any potential events please do not hesitate to call the Conference and Events team on: 01223 764444 or email: conference@trinhall.cam.ac.uk. We are on hand to ensure you have a wonderful time with us at Trinity Hall, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!

Trinity Hall Choir’s Debut CD

‘Come Down, O Love Divine’

Recorded in two acoustically stunning basilicas in Brittany during the Choir’s most recent tour and directed by our Director of Music, Andrew Arthur, the CD features a wide repertoire of highly attractive choral and organ music ranging from medieval plainchant to the present day. It includes works by Cavazzoni, Tallis, Buxtehude, Bach, Quesnel (1995), Fauré, Duruflé, Tournemire, Brahms, Bruckner, Ives and Arthur, some of which are première recordings.

In addition to their accompaniment of the choir, the organ scholars, Charlie Hubbard (2011) and Sebastian Gillot (2012), are heard as soloists playing on two exceptionally fine instruments.

If you would like a copy of the CD, please contact the Alumni and Development Office by email: alumnioffice@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Price £10 from the Porters’ Lodge or £11.50 inc p+p (UK), £12 inc p+p (overseas)

Save the Date: Alumni Family Day

4 July 2015, Wychfield, 1.30pm until 4.30pm

This year we will be launching Trinity Hall’s first ever family day event, suitable for all ages! From live music to face painting, to children’s craft, it’s an event not to be missed.

http://alumni.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/family-day