Building work continues apace

With Wychfield new student accommodation about to come online during Michaelmas term 2006, the first Milestone Regeneration project has started in Front Court with the refurbishment of rooms in D & E Staircases, and the enlargement of and improvements to the Porters Lodge. Further details of the Milestone Projects are included in the enclosed Milestone magazine.

Bob Clarke, Eastern Regional Director, Amec, gives a brief history of the tradition behind the Topping Out ceremony

Long ago, Europe was covered by vast forests and the primitive people depended on the forests for their survival. There was even belief in Scandinavia that people originated from trees and the souls of their dead returned to the trees giving each tree a spirit of its own.

Not surprisingly, people built their simple shelters from tree wood and branches but before cutting the branches they would address the forest, showing respect to the trees. When their shelters were built the upper leafiest branch of the nearest tree would be cut and placed on the roof as a symbol of completion. There is also evidence that there was a simple ceremony to allow the tree spirit to enter the home.

There is further evidence that the ceremony then changed to consider fertility of the land and the home to provide for the family within.

Today the ceremony continues to mark the completion of the uppermost or significant part of a building being finished. This tradition seems to have been revived in the last few centuries, particularly in the western world. The ceremony also has revived the spiritual aspects of those primitive people, although now the wish is to banish any evil spirits that may have entered the building through any openings such as windows, chimneys etc. This explains the use of a symbolic upper leafy branch today by use of a tree such as the laurel tree used at the Trinity Hall Topping Out.
2006

Dr Alison Liebling has been appointed Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the Institute of Criminology, from 1st October 2006. Dr Liebling read for her PhD at Trinity Hall and became a Fellow in 1991. She will be the first woman Professor on the Fellowship of Trinity Hall.

Dr Anne Murphy is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow attached to the Cambridge Mellon Sawyer Seminar in Debt, Sovereignty and Power. Her research focuses on the early development of London’s financial markets. She joins Trinity Hall as a Fellow-Commoner.

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Mr Heiko Ziebell joins us from Gonville and Caius College as Gott Research Fellow in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University. She joins us as Research Fellow in the Arts.

Junior Research Fellows

Dr Teresa Shawcross studied at Oxford University and the Université de Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle. Her interests are interdisciplinary, covering the fields of both Medieval and Modern Languages, and Modern History. She has held the position of Lecturer in Modern Greek Literature, Language and History at Oxford and is currently the Hannah Seeger Davis Fellow inHellenic Studies at Princeton University. She joins us as Research Fellow in the Arts.

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Dr David Moore

Dr David Moore (Fellow in Engineering from 1984) passed away on Friday 17 February 2006. Tragically, David suffered a heart attack while cycling back to Cambridge from Madingley. There was a memorial service for David at Trinity Hall on 29th April.

The Master’s Address

One of the last times I saw David was with Christina at another memorial service for Graham Storey. Before the service started, we talked about how much David and Christina had enjoyed the guest night on the previous evening. We talked about the pleasures of Trinity Hall. David and Christina added to the enjoyment that we all had of Trinity Hall. David always seemed to be here but we also know that he also seemed to be in the laboratory and in his own home. He was here for musical events as president of the Music Society – and I know that the students are aiming to dedicate a concert to David’s memory. He was here for last year’s June Event and I remember looking out of my study window at students building a papier mâché dragon, with David photographing it and giving advice on its construction. I still have the photographs that David took of that wonderful dragon. He was personally very supportive to me as I came as a new man into the College. He was also full of good and wise counsel. One thing which I learned very soon was that David had time for everyone – students, Fellows and staff. When David died, we were astonished to learn how much teaching he was doing – it took three Fellows to cover the range of his interests. On his death, one of the porters – Don – wrote me a letter to suggest one way in which we could have a permanent memorial of David in the college – a light to illuminate the college shield in Front Court. As Don said, this could be called the ‘Moore light’. And that is entirely appropriate because it is what David did. He brought more light into our lives.

Professor Martin Daunton

Tribute from the Vice-Master

Every Tuesday evening the Fellows of Trinity Hall dine and gossip together. Next Tuesday they will also count the number of baked beans in a standard tin to settle a rather incautious bet. There will be some sadness since David Moore, who formed part of a lively audience when the bet was made, will not be with us to see it settled. But there will be more pleasure in recalling an enthusiast for ideas and a lover of the College.

A college is a meeting place of disciplines. The historian will recall that the tin was invented many years before the tin opener, the mathematician will consider the problem of packing beans in a four-dimensional tin, the economist will ask whether it is cheaper to fill the tin with tomato sauce or with beans and the engineer will admire a structure which retains its integrity under a variety of foreseen and unforeseen conditions whilst remaining substantially cheaper than the contents it protects. David delighted in ideas wherever they came from.

His enjoyment was not passive. He played with ideas as a child plays with soap bubbles. Why do we do things this way? What would happen if we changed this? And, unlike some persistent questioners, he always listened carefully to the answers and thought about them too.

Such a man could hardly fail to be a superb teacher, the more so since he appreciated people as people. Most of us have no difficulty in recalling our best students, many of us look back with some fondness on the more remarkable scallywags – David was interested in all his students. He organised and enjoyed dinners to meet old students and followed their careers with great interest.

David was loyal to the College, not as an abstract institution, but to the College as it is – to its students, Fellows, staff, to its gardens and music. It was David who persuaded the Fellowship to pay for the strawberries at the May week concert.

At meetings of the Governing Body, when the honeyed words of the Master or Senior Tutor had lulled the Fellows into somnolent acquiescence, a question from David would remind them of alternative points of view. His love of the College rendered him, like Mr Gladstone, conservative in everything but the essentials.

I have spoken about David and Trinity Hall, but no one who knew him could doubt that, much as he loved the College, his work commanded his higher loyalty and, much as he loved his work, his family came first in everything. The lives of all of us have been made richer by a remarkable man.

Professor Tom Körner

Postscript:

A new gate has been commissioned for the entrance to Front Court.

It is thought this might be a fitting memorial to David. If you would like further details, please contact the Development Office.
The death of Graham Storey in November 2005 deprived the Hall of one of its most distinguished scholars of the last century, and for many Hall students, colleagues, and staff, an inspiration and much loved friend. So it was no surprise, that Holy Trinity Church, Meldreth, near Cambridge, where Graham's parents had worshipped, was full for his funeral on 14th November 2005. His life long friends, Owen Chadwick (Fellow 1947–1956, Honorary Fellow), Patrick Carnegy (1960), and Jeremy Trafford read poetry and spoke movingly of Graham's special qualities of rigorous scholarship mixed with self-effacing humour and universal gentility.

The memorial service was held on Saturday 11th February 2006, and presented the college with the inevitable problem of how to deal with a large public acknowledgement of Graham's stature as a scholar, as well as his contribution to the Hall as a Fellow and teacher. In the event, nearly 200 people attended, which was itself a milestone in numbers for a memorial service in College. This was made possible by using the vacant organ gallery (see 'Organ goes to Brittany' p6), the ante chapel, and the hall, where a ten foot square video link screen brought the service in the chapel to an extended congregation, who sang lustily and by all accounts felt thoroughly engaged, with the aid of some skilful work by the camera operator.

Tributes to Graham's contribution to English in the University, and his status as a scholar of international standing were made by Professor Derek Brewer, and Dr John Harvey. They pointed to the significance of Graham's magnus opus, the editing of twelve volumes of the letters of Charles Dickens, his calming influence as chairman of the Faculty Board during the particularly turbulent period of reform in the 1970's, and his benefaction to the University by endowing a bi-annual Lecture, which will be known as 'The Graham Storey Lecture'. The Master and Fellows have agreed to make a substantial contribution to this lecture fund in memory of Graham, and anyone who would like to make a personal donation to the fund is asked to contact the Development Director for details. Extracts from Graham's own works; his preface to Bleak House, and a commentary on the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, were read by Jeremy Trafford and Patrick Carnegy.

At a more personal level, Magnus Linklater (1961) gave an account of his own experience of Graham as a teacher and a friend, which movingly portrayed Graham's ability as an inspirational and rigorous teacher, coupled with disarming humility and an impish humour that denied pomposity at any level. He recalled that as a Fellow and Senior Tutor, Graham's unfailing courtesy and individual concern made him greatly loved and respected by members of the College staff. A full transcript of this can be found on the Trinity Hall website (www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk).

The Master concluded the tributes by recalling that, in addition to his achievements as a teacher and scholar, Graham was also a substantial benefactor to the Hall. It was from his legacy of over £1 million that the previous College library had been transformed into the principal public reception room in the college, and named accordingly 'The Graham Storey Room'. It was here that Graham was presented to the Queen during her visit in 2000.

This memorable day celebrating Graham's life and work, ended fittingly in a reception in the Graham Storey Room under the irrepressible management of the Manciple, Joseph Risino and his staff. Friends from many parts of the world, together with former pupils, past and present Fellows and members of staff joined together for an excellent party, which Graham would certainly have enjoyed : not least Ged Pilsworth, the Clerk of Works' account of his first job, aged sixteen, filling and carrying a bucket of coal up to light Mr Storey's fire at 6.30 am!

Dr Nigel Chancellor

A Tribute from the Trinity Hall Association

Graham Storey was Senior Tutor from 1958–1968 and Cambridge Secretary of the THA from 1951–1991. He was subsequently President 1991–2. I was doubly privileged because Graham was my Tutor from 1959–1962 and I was London Secretary for the last 16 years of his tenure as Cambridge Secretary. Graham conducted the Committee meetings with great efficiency and was very much in control. He would come armed with the names of next year’s President, Officers and Committee members and all we had to do was to agree, which we unfailingly did because Graham always got it right! He would take us through the business of the day clearly and concisely but consulting and listening as we went along. His life was centred on the Hall and his delight and keen interest in the THA was just one facet of the wonderful devotion to College of this most modest of scholars.

Barry Lewis 1959 (Secretary THA 1975 – 2005)

Graham Storey OBE LittD 1920–2005

Graham Storey in front of his much loved house in Caxton
The Master and Fellows of Trinity Hall are delighted to announce the Dedication of a new pipe organ for the Chapel. This instrument – the first to be built in the UK by the firm of celebrated Danish builder Carsten Lund – has been made possible through the generous benefaction of an alumnus of the College.

The consultant for the project has been the renowned international recitalist and teacher David Sanger. Together, Lund and Sanger devised the specification, which comprises 17 stops and 3 transmissions split across 2 manuals and pedals. The brief was to produce a mechanical instrument based on sound historical principles, but which would be flexible enough to fulfill its principal function of accompanying the liturgy, and for Organ Scholars to practise a wide range of repertoire.

In order to allow the instrument to speak well into the body of the Chapel, the solid panels of the gallery have been removed and replaced by an iron and oak balustrade with bronze details, designed by architect Tristan Rees-Roberts and specially made for the college by Chris Topp & Company Wrought Ironworks from Yorkshire.

Since establishing his firm in 1966, Carsten Lund has gained an enviable reputation throughout Scandinavia for the quality and individuality of his organs, most notable among which are those in the Bragernes Kirke, in Drammen, Norway; St Knud’s Cathedral, Odense; and his magnificent free reconstruction of the 1724 Kastens instrument in the Garnisons Kirke, Copenhagen. His choir organ in Copenhagen Cathedral, can be heard every morning on Danish radio in the broadcast daily service.

The organ will be blessed by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, in a Service of Dedication on Sunday 15 October 2006, after which David Sanger will give the inaugural recital. Two specially commissioned pieces of music will be performed to mark the occasion: in the service, an anthem for choir and organ by Richard Baker (the College’s Director of Music); and in the recital, a new work by Canadian organist and composer Julian Revie.
The former Chapel Organ brings music to Brittany

Thanks to the generosity of a benefactor, a new organ now graces the Trinity Hall chapel. However, what has become of the organ that accompanied services and concerts for many years? The instrument has found a new home in the beautiful 12th century parish church of Guégon, in the Morbihan département of Brittany, France. How did it make its way over the Channel, and why?

On graduating from the Hall in 1998, where I was a former organ scholar, I moved to France where I work as choir-master and composer-in-residence at the Centre de Musique Sacrée, an important cultural institution attached to the basilica of Sainte-Anne d’Auray. Alongside the Centre’s activities as a choir-school and as an institution responsible for frequent conferences, recordings and a regular series of concerts, it is also the pioneer of a unique project: sending highly qualified organists into rural communities to enable the inhabitants – particularly children and adolescents – easy and reasonably priced access to individual instrumental tuition.

The village of Guégon is a new member of the growing list of villages proud to propose this educational opportunity. On hearing of the installation of the new organ, I approached the College, and discussions took place as to whether and how the old organ could be moved to France.

Happily, the organ was safely installed on the 23rd April, blessed by Father Robert Daniel, vicaire général of the Cathedral of Vannes and inaugurated by Michel Bourcier, international recitalist based in Nantes. A wonderful occasion, honoured by the presence of the Master of Trinity Hall, the Dean, the Domus Bursar, the senior organ scholar and four college choral scholars in the company of the Vice-President of the Conseil Régional du Morbihan. After the morning mass, the dignitaries signed documents bearing witness to the gift of the organ to the village and sealing a pact of friendship between Cambridge and Guégon, Great Britain and France. A celebratory meal was followed by a concert featuring the college singers, who joined forces with a number of local choirs. Thanks to the generosity of Trinity Hall, and the continued action of the Centre de Musique Sacrée, hundreds of children will start their musical lives on a real organ. Perhaps one day the College will even have an organ scholar from Brittany...!

Richard Quesnel (1995)

Thank you…

…to everyone who took a call during the recent Telephone Campaign. Over £170,000 was raised for Trinity Hall, which will be spent mainly on IT facilities and Student Bursaries. A full report on the campaign is included in our new fundraising magazine, Milestones; in the meantime, thank you once again to everyone who made a gift to Trinity Hall!
Fancy a Punt on a Punt?

Many of you may have noticed that the condition of the Trinity Hall punts has been in sad decline over recent years. This has caused concern to the entire Trinity Hall community. The Domus Bursar and Head Porter were keen to rectify the situation and together they have established a new system that will ensure efficient booking and a robust maintenance programme.

Already one punt has been beautifully refurbished and restored to its former glory by Don Dawson, one of our Porters. We now want to do the same for the other two Trinity Hall punts but there is a cost involved. In recent years the JCR budget has held the responsibility for the punts. This has provided a good stream of income, but the repair costs are too high for them to bear.

In the future, it is proposed that the punts are held under a central College budget, with net income (after annual repairs) remaining with the JCR, and with bookings handled entirely by the Porters Lodge.

If you would like to help with the cost of the restoration of the two remaining punts, and earn the opportunity to name the punts, please get in touch with Jocelyn Poulton, Development Director, +44 (0)1223 332567. development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Old Lawns Turfed Out of Front Court

The lawns of Front Court have had a particularly hard year. Usually able to cope with the demands of May Week and the occasional shortage of rain (thanks to the expert care of our wonderful gardening team), this year unbelievable damage was caused by an attack of Chafer beetles. The Chafer beetle lays its grubs in grass roots, providing easy pickings for the birds, whose appetite caused irreparable damage. The lawns have therefore been re-seeded, and as we go to press, growth is looking good.
Mention the Peddars Way – Norfolk Coastal Path walk and there springs to mind an image of two indefatigable figures ahead of me, running up the grassy inclines on the top of the Sheringham cliffs.

Running, for heaven's sake – when it's raining, again, and we've already trekked nearly 90 miles. Well, let them run. Me, I'll just keep on plodding on, because frankly, I'm knackered. I am neither ex-military nor non-smoking, unlike the virtuous pair in front: Head Porter Mr Carl Hodson (Royal Army Ordnance Corps) and our colleague Bernie Millard (Royal Marines). I mean to say, running . . . and uphill . . . Bernie, by the way (I hope he won't mind me saying) is 68. So he only has 15 years on me.

At that stage, on the fourth and last day of our "walk" – which we hope will have netted about £2,500 for Cancer Research UK – there were just the three of us left. We had intended to be seven, but Tutorial Office's Jackie Harmon and the Bursary's Michael Scott had both had to pull out; so it was a party of five – the others being Law Fellow Mr David Fleming and porter Don Dawson – who had set out in bright sunny weather on the previous Thursday morning from Knettishall Heath in Thetford Forest.

The country around there (and actually for most of the route) is pretty flat, so it was easy going at first. As we walked we began recalling favourite bits from "Dad's Army", scenes of which were filmed in the forest. Gradually this developed into a joke-telling fest, by turns ribald and groan-worthy in about equal measure; but it's good to hear laughter in the woods, and it was FUN!

There were a few disappointments later that day, however: finding that a pub clearly marked as such on the map had become a private residence, (we did manage a pub stop a few miles further on, though). And a sign indicating "such-and-such-a-place 2 miles" – clearly a gross underestimate when we still hadn't arrived at wherever it was nearly two hours later. And, more seriously, the start of the blisters that would force both Don and Mr Fleming to abandon the walk later on.

The high point of the day for me, though, was simply stopping at the end of it – a hot bath, fresh clothes, a meal and a drink. I am eternally grateful to Trinity Hall alumnus Sir John Guinness (TH 56) and his son for their kindness, at short notice, in arranging my stay at the son's cottage in Castle Acre. If you've never been there, it's a lovely village, and had we been less tired after a 27 mile walk, a good look around the castle and abbey ruins would surely have been worth the effort.

After a full breakfast on Friday, we had rather mixed weather, getting thoroughly drenched a few times, and then gently steaming dry. In terms of distance this was a much easier day, though averaging 3mph it still involved a good seven hours of actually walking. And again, the signposts were only accurate as to direction – but in the country one has to expect to go a country mile (or 3!).

Another niggle was the Peddars Way guidebook, which spoke of "breasting a series of rises" after the inevitable hollows, until, at some indeterminate crest, one looked at last out upon the sea. Who writes this rubbish I wonder, because that wasn't our experience. Never mind, we were glad to get to Holme-next-the-Sea, with about half the total distance covered, and a welcome pint or two at the end. Better still, the hot bath afterwards. Aside from basic necessities (water, food, good boots and socks, waterproofs) the two things you absolutely need on long-distance walks are a cooked breakfast at the start of the day and, at the end, a hot bath – a shower just doesn't cut it – to soak the aches away.

Saturday, the third day, began well and we were at Brancaster before we knew it. Then it was on to Burnham Overy Staithe, where Pledge colleague Ian Andrew joined us for a drink and to wish us well at a pub appropriately named The Hero.

And then there were four, as Mr Fleming had to leave for a previously-arranged engagement and was unfortunately unable to rejoin us, his blisters having become too severe.

Beyond Overy, the tide being out, and the sand looking firm, we decided beach-walking was the way to go. There were a few dogs being exercised and we found a soggy, sorry-looking, abandoned, neon-yellow tennis ball and kicked it about and ahead a bit; before we in turn got fed up with the thing and abandoned it ourselves. World Cup fever was then only on the horizon . . .

Shortly after this, under lowering clouds, with the sea churning up spray to the left and Holkham Forest looming darkly across to our right, the wind strengthened and a peculiar thing happened.

I was a little way behind the other three when, looking up, it seemed to me that their legs had all been chopped off below the knee and looking about me, it did seem to be getting rather misty on the shoreline. Now, the beer at lunchtime had been good, but not so strong nor taken in sufficient quantity to induce hallucinations. In fact, it was the dried surface of sand being whipped up and...
blown along, in a swath a couple of feet above the ground, that created the illusion. And it didn’t last, because then the rain came, and both the sand and ourselves were soon soaked again.

Eventually, cutting into the woods, we reached a car park near Wells-next-the-Sea, to be met by The Man Who Helps Make it Happen, relief porter Mr Harry Human, with his wondrous wagon/minibus/ambulance/morale-booster.

At this point it should be made quite clear that we really could not have done very much without Harry: he took three of us from Cambridge at the start; each evening he ferried Don to Quy and back again next day; he carted our kit to each day’s finishing point; he baked us celebratory cakes; he made us rolls; he made us laugh out loud; he found three of us rooms, at short notice, in Wells; and he was apparently tireless, driving 900-odd miles on our behalf – he was STALWART, was Harry SuperHuman. When next I hear “you just can’t get the staff …” then I’ll reply “you can’t have met Harry H”.

Anyway, while HH drove off to secure our beds, we carried on to Stiffkey. While not exactly the toughest bit of the walk, the six miles or so to Stiffkey – pronounce it how you like – proved, for me, to be the low-point of the whole endeavour. I can’t properly explain why, but once again, the distance-posts seemed over optimistic; the paths seemed forever to be slipping down the hill and winding interminably about the slopes; we couldn’t see our objective and we just didn’t seem to make any progress. I can only put it down to a low personal ebb, since none of the other three seemed as depressed as I was when we finally got there.

So, not my finest hour; and I hereby apologise to Bernie, Carl and Don, who still managed to raise some laughs in the face of adversity: grace under pressure; pressure which Don, in particular, was feeling at that point; his blistered feet hurting and nursing a knee injury, which hadn’t deterred him from joining the venture.

At the Wells car park earlier, we had half entertained the notion of all going back to our various homes that night, and then returning on Sunday morning, courtesy of Harry’s wagon, to complete the last stretch of the trek. Thankfully Harry found us excellent berths in Wells – though Don had to return to Quy, there to remain. Had I gone back to my own bed in Cambridge I cannot be at all sure that I would have come back on Sunday. As it was, the BnB was perfect, the guest house owners were kindness itself – and even gave us a donation to Cancer Research.

In the morning, after another fine breakfast, I felt ready for whatever. Again it was a fine start, walking the in-and-out dune path to Blakeney and on to Cley-next-the-Sea, where we had a fantastic break.

We can only be supremely grateful to Trinity Hall alumnus the Revd Giles Hunt (TH 48) and his wife, who met us at the approach to Cley with a terrific spread of sandwiches, sausage rolls, tea and beer, to fortify us for the remaining miles. Thank you, again.

Thereafter it got a bit tougher. Shingle, you’ll know if you’ve negotiated it, is taxing. Having to watch your footfalls against twisting an ankle means you can’t enjoy your surroundings. But that had been a factor over the whole walk for me – perhaps I was too afraid of cocking myself ever really to revel in the experience.

Anyway, the shingle at last gave way to the Sheringham cliffs. We stopped for a couple of pints we felt we’d earned – well, Carl and Bernie had; then we did another pretty arduous beach stretch over stony ground, in the rain, of course, to the outskirts of Cromer.

We had intended traversing the shoreline all the way to the pier, but common sense prevailed and we climbed back up to complete the last, damp, couple of miles by road. Was I ever tired, though.

So, would I do it again?

After you, sunshine . . .
The Preston Society

Following the success of Return to the Forbidden Planet performed in the 2005 May Week, Trinity Hall has begun to rediscover its dramatic side, with the celebrated Preston Society going from strength to strength. Breaking the tradition of just performing at May Week, 2005/06 has seen three additional productions.

Michaelmas Term's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was not the simplest show to produce. Requirements include: two extremely strong lead actors; a seventeen-strong band; a chorus of 11 all-singing, all-dancing brothers; a ‘Technicolor Dreamcoat’; a mechanised camel... oh, and a stage. We were lucky. Andy Palmer and Hazel Younger shone as Joseph and the Narrator, and after much pleading with the JCR-lists, we ended up with ten men and one “female-brother” in a fittingly unconvincing beard! Kate Miller and Amy Gray produced around 50 costumes, including countless loincloths. And then there was the stage. In spite of its name, the Lecture Theatre is not the easiest of performance spaces. However, thanks to the efforts of Dave Merrick, Martin Harris, Ben Russell and John Keeping, we were able to transform this area into a working theatre to rival many more established studio-theatres in Cambridge. We all had an ‘amazing’ time rehearsing the musical and ended up putting on a great show that was enjoyed by over 400 audience members from across Cambridge.

The first of the Lent Term productions was Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest. This hugely enjoyable romp through the world of the Victorian élite was brought to life by talent from every year of the undergraduate population who charmed and dazzled us throughout; Sharon Jacobs’ outrage at having clearly been given cake was particularly wonderful to behold, and Dr Chasuble and Miss Prism’s on stage kiss aroused many shrieks from the audience. Only the imperious tones of Lady Bracknell (Meghan Ormerod) could remind the audience of the value of decorum and ‘the vital importance of being earnest.’ Director Clare Betney’s aim was, in keeping with the founders of the Preston Society, to have fun and enjoy the frivolity of the show. The merriment took place against a backdrop of both town and country, indoors and outdoors, represented on stage by an ambitious set design, realised by considerable engineering talents. The energy and skill of producer Gill White meant the production turned a great profit. Thanks must also go to Ents and the Master for their invaluable support and furniture!

Staged immediately after ‘Earnest,’ the post-modern horror-satire Who Is John Blake? represented the Society’s first foray into performing darker, more challenging theatre. The play is the story of two producers who claim a film they receive anonymously as their own. The impact this decision has on their states of mind and the dreadful secret behind the film gives the play a disturbing atmosphere that guaranteed a strong audience response. Likewise, director Ed Perry’s sinister vision brought out the horror and darkest themes of the script. Strong cast performances, ominous imagery achieved through sparse sets and impressive lighting, and the use of unusual theatrical devices such as video and sound clips heightened the experience for the viewer, and the ending of the play in particular ensured a great deal of after-show conversations by those clearly unsettled by what they’d just seen. If the success of a play is measured by how long it stays with the audience after the curtain call, then Who Is John Blake? was without doubt a triumph.

Week musical The Wizard of Oz, It was a memorable production with a fantastic cast and crew that made it a show definitely not to be missed. Special mention must go to Ed Perry, Clare Betney, Ben Gough and Sachin Gunga, all of whom have helped make this an outstanding year. A similar schedule of shows is planned for the next academic year. With a full committee set in place, and the success of a remarkable year that has left the society’s name on the lips of dramatic students across Cambridge, the future looks good for The Preston Society.

Andy Palmer
The Preston Society President 2005 – 2006
http://hal/trinhall.cam.ac.uk/preston-society

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Wizard of Oz

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Graduation Day 2006

An avenue of Trinity Hall Fellows congratulating a student on receiving her degree — a tradition extended to every student.

2006 Graduands gather in Front Court under the summer sun.

The Master in procession with Esquire Bedells.

University Challenge

Tied Match

Peter Holland (1969 and Fellow in English from 1974 – 1997) recalls his experience of an earlier Trinity Hall University Challenge team.

It was not the most glorious of results but it was, at the time, unprecedented. The Trinity Hall University Challenge team that I was on in 1971 was one-half of the first-ever match to end in a tie. Usually, if the scores are tied, there is a sudden-death question – but not this time. We were up against the Open University team, full of people who had been on 'Brain of Britain' on radio, all much older, wiser, better-read. A narrow contest, result in the balance until the end, and finally we appeared to have lost by 10 points. At the drinks afterwards a worried technician came up: they’d been checking the tape and found that they had failed to give us the 10 points for a starter question. So we’d tied and there was no alternative to a rematch a fortnight later. We won that quite easily and then lost the next match. I had originally been the reserve but at the practice session we realized that the team’s skills were not well balanced and that I could answer many questions the team hadn’t.

The oddest part of the experience was watching the programmes themselves: I remember sitting and wondering who was going to answer a question and then seeing myself on screen buzzing and giving the answer (“Trinity Hall, Holland.”). Memorable and fun, though not the greatest Trinity Hall performance on the show – that was probably the team that won the competition and spent the prize-money on some drawings by Gaudier-Brzeska that were for years on the walls in the old JCR, now the Graham Storey Room (ah, what a cultured bunch they must have been!).

Your starter for 10 ...

Ben Hardy (President of the MCR) and a member of the Trinity Hall 2006 University Challenge team alongside Robert Freedman, Iain Mathiesen and Chris Smyth (the team captain), gives us some “behind the scenes” insights on the competition.

The last report finished with us having beaten Birmingham in the second round. You know the result but what is much more fun is what happened behind the scenes.

The quarter finals were against SOAS, a team which had quite a reputation from the earlier rounds. We were understandably nervous. Iain (Mathiesen), a gentleman under stress, wished the SOAS captain luck just as we were about to go in. ‘Good luck to you too’ he replied, with an attempt at an aristocratic sneer, ‘you’re going to need it.’

As it happens we didn’t. This didn’t seem to stop him. ‘I knew that the answer was Monteverdi’ he said with typical charm as we came out. As we had just won heavily we didn’t feel the need to reply. That evening, when Dr Chancellor, the Domus Bursar, took us out to dinner the SOAS team arrived at the same restaurant soon afterwards. They had to wait behind a velvet rope while we sat and dined, smiling at them sweetly. It all felt very ‘A’ list.

Saturday saw the semi-final against Liverpool who were a very nice bunch – one of them even came to cheer us on in the final. There was quite a bit of tension prior to the showdown against Manchester which, as you know by now, we narrowly lost (final score University of Manchester 160: Trinity Hall 150 points). The party in the green room afterwards was a bit more instructive.

Dr Chancellor was chatting to Paxman trying to encourage him to come to the Trinity Hall politics society when Joseph Meagher, the Manchester captain, butted in saying ‘Your team must have practiced’. Dr Chancellor was obviously slightly bemused by this and assured him that we hadn’t (not least because we couldn’t work out how to). Meagher persisted to the point that Paxman, in classically exasperated manner, said ‘Look, will you go away you boring little Irishman’. Beautiful.

The astonishing thing was how people responded to our appearance on the electric fish tank. Nothing that I have done has ever garnered that degree of interest from others. The same goes for other members of the team who found that whilst they may have landed first class degrees, coveted scholarships and jobs at companies which people queue up to join, they may well be most fondly thought of by their families for having correctly answered a question about cheese.

As the showing of the final approached there was all sorts of interest. The Sunday Express wanted a bit about each of us. Susie Fowler-Watt came and interviewed us for Look East, even the Cambridge Evening News managed to say something nice. It was all very entertaining. People have approached us in the street to congratulate us, or to ask ‘are you famous?’ – a question which, if it has to be asked, probably answers itself.

We all gathered in the common room of Launcelot Fleming House to watch the final and the realisation dawned that this was an oddly useless skill and that perhaps not winning a piece of bent aluminium wasn’t the end of the world. That said it was immensely fun and I think that for a college of 600 students to lose by only 10 points to the biggest university in Europe with 50,000 people is perhaps something to be quietly proud of.
New Directional Milestone

The landscaping of the new Wychfield accommodation designed by Cambridge Landscape Architects in consultation with Head Gardener Andrew Myson, will begin this year. Two new Courts and a “Green Lane” are being planted, with paths being set to link the whole site as one. Additionally, a new Milestone has been commissioned. The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop has now completed the task and the Milestone will be placed in Storey’s Way against the Beech Hedge boundary once all the building work is finally completed.

News from the River

Tom James, reading Engineering at Trinity Hall, has been elected President of Cambridge University Boat Club. Not only has Tom rowed for three CUBC Blues crews, but he has achieved distinction at international level for Great Britain. Tom has won medals at the 2003 Senior World Championships in Milan, and raced in the 2004 Olympics in Athens. More recently Tom James together with Colin Scott of OUBC netted a silver at Luzern in the pairs, and came a credible 6th in the World Championships held at Dorney Lake this August.

Ports of Call

An exhibition of sculpture by Jonathan Clarke will be on display in the gardens of Trinity Hall from 22 October to 21 December. The exhibition has been curated by Ron Howell of the strand gallery, Aldeburgh, and is currently touring Denmark. The exhibition is open from 10 am – 12 noon, and 2 pm – 5.30 pm daily.
Congratulations to Rachel Weisz (1988), who won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *The Constant Gardener*.

Sophie Winkleman (1998) has appeared as the adult Susan in the recent Narnia film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. She also played Regan Peverill in the Inspector Morse spin-off *Lewis* shown in January, and appeared in Dalziel and Pascoe *A Death in the Family* in April.

Matthew Holness (1993) is a comedian who won the Perrier Award in 2001 with the Edinburgh festival smash hit, *Garth Marenghi’s Netherhead*. The show transferred to TV in 2004 with Matthew reprising his role as Garth, the best-selling horror writer, in the Channel 4 series *Garth Marenghi’s Darkplace*. Matthew also appeared in series two of *The Office* as Simon the computer geek. Two other characters that he is known for are the psychic, mystic and key-bender Amir Chanan and folk sage Merriman Weir.

William Gregory (1996) has appeared in various plays that have toured the country, including *The Borrowers* where he played Spiller, *Journey’s End* in which he was a German Soldier, and most recently *Maxwell: Inside the Empire*, where he plays Edward Maxwell.

Andrew Marr (1977) and James Runcie (1978) both presented programmes for the BBC and Channel 4 respectively to celebrate the Queen’s 80th birthday.

Nicholas Hytner’s (1974) direction of *The History Boys*, by Alan Bennett, has earned the play – and himself – a raft of awards and award nominations. The original London production at the Lyttleton Theatre, London won three 2005 Olivier Awards for Best New Play, Best Actor and Best Direction. The play opened in Broadway in Spring 2006, with the original London cast and has won five Drama Desk Awards, four 2006 Outer Critics Circle Awards, and was nominated for seven 2006 Tony Awards of which it won six: Best Play, Best Director of a Play, Best Featured Actress, Best Actor, Best Set Design of a Play, and Best Lighting Design of a Play.

*The History Boys*, set in a boys’ grammar school in the north of England in the 1980s, is to be released as a film in October 2006, directed by Hytner and featuring the original stage cast. Another UK tour was launched at the end of August.
In 1899, the year Frank Chesworth drew this unusual cartoon of Augustine Birrell, the author was appointed an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall, where he was once an undergraduate. He was to remain so for another 34 years. He was by then well-known in three different fields – as a witty author and literary critic, as an MP (elected as the Liberal MP for West Fife in 1889) and as a distinguished KC and Professor of Law. He made his name with the publication in 1884 of *Obiter Dicta* – a stylish and humorous volume of essays. A second series followed three years later. He also wrote law books, mainly on copyright and on trusts, as well as *Res Judicatae*.

Among his sayings to be found in books of quotations are: “Is this true, or only clever?” and “history is the great dust-heap… a pageant and not a philosophy”. In 1900 he is said to have climbed a Scottish hill near the Firth of Forth with Asquith and Haldane, and remarked: “What a grateful thought, that there is not an acre in this vast and varied landscape that is not represented at Westminster by a London barrister!”

But his best years in public life were yet to come. He was returned in the Liberal landslide of 1906 for Bristol, and was made President of the Board of Education by Campbell-Bannerman. His first bill was so controversial, and met with such hostility in the Lords, that he had to move, and in 1907 he became Chief Secretary for Ireland. He held this difficult post for seven years, until the Easter rising in Dublin. He held many conferences and meetings with Irish politicians like Redmond, trying to seek an acceptable solution for Home Rule. Despite several setbacks, he was praised for his scheme to set up a reconstituted Irish Roman Catholic University.

He was a close friend of Herbert and Margot Asquith, who liked his easy charm, though Asquith wrote privately – referring to the cabinet as a weak crew trying to pilot a leaky ship through a storm – that “poor old Birrell’s occasional and fitful appearances at the wheel do not greatly improve matters”. Nonetheless, ranking his cabinet as if in a Cambridge tripos, Asquith (in a letter to Venetia Stanley) wrote “I leave out myself… and dear old Birrell, who is in a class by himself”.

When the time came to resign in 1916 – he had discounted warnings of a Sinn Fein rising, and insisted on going – Birrell went to see Asquith at No 10. Roy Jenkins describes the scene in his splendid biography of Asquith. The Prime Minister was much distressed, and Birrell wrote: “I don’t remember what he said, but I know he wept and stood staring out of the window jingling some half-crowns in his pocket.”

Birrell produced a further volume of *Obiter Dicta*, a volume of essays, and an autobiography *Things Past Redress*, which came out after his death at the age of 83. There is a good oil painting of Birrell by Roger Fry just inside the door of the Senior Common Room, which brings out his genial personality. It would have been nice to know him.

*Peter Hill (1958)*
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<td>Dr Anna Shrimpton (Wilson)</td>
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Graduate Year Rep Contact Details

1987    Dr Harry Bradshaw
1988    Rosalind Lane (Jeans)
1989    Dr Andrew Pauza
1991    Dr Mark Field
1994    Dr Sarah Barrett Jones (Barrett)
1995    Dr Alex Schroeder
1996    Dr Eric Breton
1997    Dr Bent Grøver
1998    Dr Marina Terkourafi
1999    Dr Andrew Lennon
2002    Jenny Ifft
2003    Krishna Chatterjee
2004    Aly Pitts

New Website

Trinity Hall has a new website! Designed by Cambridge University Press, the site went live in July 2006. For all the latest news, and a large assortment of information about the College, why not visit the pages – www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk

THAlumni and the College website

The new College website has now gone live. THAlumni.net has a direct link from the alumni pages, and offers a secure area for you to keep in touch with your friends, and update us with your contact details. Registration is extremely easy, so if you haven’t already registered, visit www.THAlumni.net and follow instructions to sign-up. You may be able to find that long lost friend that you haven’t seen for years, or find those people living near you, especially if you are overseas.
The MA weekend brought most of the 1999 undergraduates back to College to take their degrees and to experience their first Reunion since graduating. This followed the most successful THA London Event ever, held in the stunning Long Room at Lord’s. 260 alumni and guests gathered in this wonderful venue to mingle over drinks and canapés. Some took the opportunity to take a brief tour around some of the famous landmarks of the ground. Next year’s event has a hard act to follow, but we relish a challenge!

A very memorable Annual Gathering was held on Saturday 1 July. During the Trinity Hall Association’s AGM, tribute was made to the outgoing President of the Association, Dennis Avery (1980) whose tenure has seen a radical modernisation of the THA’s events news.

September is always a busy month in the alumni calendar, and 2005 was busier than normal. Thanks to the hard work of Marina Terkourafi (Grad Rep for 1998) and Andrew Lennon (Grad Rep for 1999) the first Reunion specifically for post-graduates welcomed 1996–1999 back for a weekend of events including cheese and wine in the MCR, punting on the river and a black tie dinner in Hall.

Outgoing THA President Dennis Avery being presented with a print of the James Burrough-James Essex design for the West Front of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1743 (The Hall that never was) by newly elected THA President Sarah Webbe.
The Master and Bursar with guests at Benefactors Brunch concluded with a highly informative lecture by Dr Martin Ellwood, who talked about his research into insects in the rainforests.

Later that evening, a Reunion for 1964, 1965 and 1966 took place. Those attending enjoyed one of the warmest nights of the year, and were seen reminiscing outside the College Bar until the small hours of the morning!

A Benefactors Brunch was held on Saturday 17 June. A presentation on *Milestones to the Future* was given by the Master, Bursar and Development Director, together with tours of the areas identified for “regeneration”.

Don’t forget that you can still exercise your dining rights in College, up to 4 times a year. The termly dates are on the calendar overleaf, and on the website and give you the chance to meet alumni from across the years, but you are not restricted just to these dates. Check with the Butler (01223 766 633) if you would like to dine on another occasion. Also take the opportunity to swap one of your entitlements to bring a guest to share the experience with you.

For those of you further afield and who have not have the opportunity to visit Trinity Hall, a number of Trinity Hall gatherings have taken place across the Globe. The Master, Bursar and Development Director held a delightful dinner in the Cosmos Club, Washington DC, and a most enjoyable reception in SoHo House New York in December 2005; the Master and Senior Tutor visited Hong Kong in April attending the University’s 800th Campaign Launch dinner.

Hopefully we will continue to welcome many of you to events in the future wherever they are held. We all enjoy meeting you and our gatherings are great excuses to get back together with old friends.

Finally, a big thank you to the THA Committee and our Year Reps for their attendance at meetings and all their help in organising events.
Calendar of Events & Important Dates 2006–2007

Events for your Year

1950, 1951, 1952, 1953
Reunion Dinner, 30 June 2007

Reunion Dinner, 15 September 2007

1985, 1986
Reunion Dinner, 16 September 2006

2000
MA Congregation, 24 March 2007

About Front Court

Front Court is an informal publication produced once a year to keep members informed about the College and in touch with each other. This issue of Front Court is accompanied by the first edition of a new annual magazine called Milestones – an update on our fundraising activities. If you have suggestions for either journal (date of next publication Summer 2007), please contact the Editors. All our publications are now available as pdf files from our website, www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk.

Editors: Jocelyn Poulton, Sam Venn

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Web: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk

As some of you may be aware, Liz Pentlow is now on Maternity Leave. Jennie Stock is standing in for Liz as our Alumni Officer. Another recent addition to the team is Sam Venn who joined us in December as Development Officer.

Don’t forget to sign up to your Alumni Online Directory, THAAlumni.net which can be accessed through the web. Please use THAAlumni.net or the carrier sheet of this magazine to keep us informed of any changes in address or contact details.

For further information, please visit the Trinity Hall Website www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni. Guest Lists are posted for some of the events so you can see who else is coming. Invitations to events will be sent in good time to those eligible so if you don’t have access to the internet, you won’t miss out.

If you have an idea for an event or mini-Reunion, please get in touch as we would love to help you organise it. The College calendar does get extremely booked up, so please allow good organisational time!

For further information on any Trinity Hall event, or to book a place, please call the Alumni Office on +44 (0)1223 332567 or email alumni@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.

2006

16 September Reunion Dinner for 1985 & 1986
19 September Drinks Reception in Seattle
23 September Year Reps’ Conference
24 September Alumni Liaison Committee meeting
22–24 September University Alumni Weekend
3 October Michaelmas Term Commences
4 October THA Committee Meeting
15 October Organ Service of Dedication
19 October Alumni Dining Rights Evening
22 October Exhibition in College: Ports of Call by Jonathan Clarke
21–24 September University Alumni Weekend
3 October Michaelmas Term Commences
4 October THA Committee Meeting
15 October Organ Service of Dedication
19 October Alumni Dining Rights Evening
22 October Exhibition in College: Ports of Call by Jonathan Clarke
21 December Brussels Event (invitation only)
25 November Milestone Lecture – the Master in conversation with Hans Blix (1952)
1 December Michaelmas Term Ends

2007

13 January First Year Parents Lunch
16 January Lent Term Commences
February Nick Nicholson/THA Careers Seminar
4 February Commemoration of Benefactors
15 February Alumni Dining Rights Evening
March THA London Event
California
16 March Lent Term Ends
24 March MA Congregation & Reunion for 2000
8 April Easter Sunday
24 April Easter Term Commences
3 May Alumni Dining Rights Evening
15 June Easter Term Ends
12–16 June May Bumps (last day on the Saturday)
June Benefactors Brunch
20 June June Event
28 June General Admissions (‘Degree Day’)
June Annual Gathering and Trinity Hall Association AGM
30 June Reunion Dinner for 1950, 1951, 1952 & 1953
22 September Year Reps’ Conference
23 September Alumni Liaison Committee meeting
2 October Michaelmas Term Commences
18 October Alumni Dining Rights Evening
November Milestone Lecture