

Issue 36 | Autumn 2022

# Front Court

Trinity Hall Cambridge



HIGHLIGHTS

Meet our  
new Master

Raising  
aspirations

Encounters  
in Stone



TRINITY HALL  
CAMBRIDGE

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Cover image: Mary Hockaday outside the Master's Lodge. © Onur Pinar

# Message from the Vice-Master

by Dr Daniel Tyler, Vice-Master

Two events late in Easter term 2022 provided crowning moments to the academic year in different ways. First, the College's walls were colourfully illuminated and its courts packed with students and alumni enjoying musical performances, select catering, and other entertainments. The first June Event in three years was a welcome celebration for students who had endured much pandemic-related disruption over the previous couple of years. The next day, HRH the Duke of Gloucester formally opened the WongAvery Music Gallery. This was a distinguished celebration of an impressive new facility in College which delivers exciting opportunities for our musicians and our choir and constitutes an enduring symbol of the extracurricular life the College supports.

The 2021/22 academic year saw the resumption of normal College life after many pandemic-related disruptions. Equally, the gradual loosening of public health constraints over the last year has meant that we have been able to resume in-person alumni events, including reunion dinners and donors' events. The relaxing of international travel restrictions has also meant that alumni events have been possible in the US, Australia and Singapore, with more to come elsewhere. It has been a pleasure to talk with alumni about their time in College and it is always inspiring to hear how Trinity Hall has contributed to their lives in ways they could never have expected.

Among the notable successes of the Fellows, in June, Dr Clare Jackson, Senior Tutor and College Associate Professor in History, won the prestigious Wolfson History Prize for her book *Devil-Land*, a captivating account of the turbulent seventeenth-century history of Britain as seen from the perspective of European neighbours. The prize is awarded annually for the best history writing in the UK and Dr Jackson joins a distinguished cohort of historians to have won the prize.

The 'Report for Publication' from the independent, external Inquiry led by Gemma White QC was published in early September. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the Inquiry. It was crucial that the matters addressed by the Inquiry were investigated fully. Upon receipt of the full Inquiry Report in 2021, the Governing Body voted formally to thank Ms White for her work and to act on all her recommendations. Many of these recommendations have now been implemented and we wish to reassure students and former students that the College is committed to being a safe and supportive environment in which students and all members of the College can work and thrive.

When the 2022/23 academic year arrives, the College will begin a new chapter in its long history. Our new Master, Mary Hockaday, takes up her post. Ms Hockaday joins the College after an illustrious career at the BBC, where, most recently, she was Director of BBC World Service. She brings a wealth of leadership experience as well as keen enthusiasm for the College and for the contribution it is well placed to make to the wider world. She will be the College's first female Master in our 670-year history. She discusses her hopes and expectations for the role on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of *Front Court*.

We look forward to welcoming Mary Hockaday to Trinity Hall and, under her leadership, to a new era for the College in which it will continue to provide transformative experiences for the next generations of students.



© Philip Mynott






# Meet our new Master

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by Mary Hockaday, Master

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It is an enormous pleasure for me to greet you as I settle into the Master's Lodge and start the new term. The Copper Beech is taller and broader than when I enjoyed Latham Lawn as an undergraduate, a reminder that Trinity Hall is older and greater than any of us and that our task is to cherish the community here at our particular time and help College evolve as the world keeps changing.

A career in broadcast news, with the BBC World Service and leading the BBC Newsroom, has given me a deep commitment to freedom of information and speech, and to the importance of independent institutions with clear values. I've also been lucky enough to live and work abroad and to work with various educational and professional organisations, all committed to excellence. The world is complex and full of challenges. I hope to help our students develop the critical thinking and empathetic leadership skills to help them thrive, and to support our brilliant Fellows, many of whom are working on global challenges such as sustainability and climate change, cutting-edge bioscience, tackling disinformation, or maintaining cultural ties across divides.

Academic excellence is the bedrock of college life and I'm excited at the prospect of many stimulating cross-disciplinary events and conversations across College. But we've all come to understand how important it is to look after the whole person. Trinity Hall has been developing exemplary wellbeing support for students, staff and Fellows alike. I can't claim to have been a sportswoman in my own day – student journalism and theatre kept me busy – but I'm looking forward to encouraging students in all their extra-curricular activities, whether on the river, the sports field, in the wonderful new WongAvery Music Gallery, on stage or in chapel.

Trinity Hall is a global community. Imagine my joy, when I heard that a young Nigerian I first met a few years ago, through a British Council scheme which supports young journalists from around the world, recently made his way to Trinity Hall as an MPhil student. Wherever our students and Fellows hail from, I know that Trinity Hall will be a welcoming and diverse home for all. I want to pay tribute to the leadership of the Vice-Master in recent times who, along with all the College officers, Fellows and staff, has guided Trinity Hall so carefully.

I'm looking forward to meeting you in the months ahead, whether in Cambridge or around the UK or overseas. I know how supportive many of you have been towards students during the pandemic. The difficult legacy for young people may well continue for some time. But I do believe we now have an opportunity to look ahead, and to bring the community together in a spirit of ambition and shared purpose, and to support academic endeavour at all stages so that Trinity Hall can have the greatest impact possible. These are times to renew connections from across the years, and plan for the next phase of Trinity Hall's outward-looking development, as the Copper Beech continues to grow.

Best wishes, Mary



RESEARCH

# Homemade facemasks & social media hacks

## – do they actually work?

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by Anmol Arora | 2016, Medicine & Medical Sciences

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At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, mask-wearing was suddenly common practice across the world. Homemade fabric masks became increasingly popular and social media was full of hacks claiming to improve the fit – but how much protection do these solutions offer?





> Anmol Arora



> Visual comparison of the most common types of face masks being used in public and in hospitals

**Anmol Arora and the Respiratory Protection Engineering Task Force, a multi-disciplinary research group based at the Engineering Department at Cambridge, embarked on research to answer these and other questions.**

When we started looking into the research literature surrounding facemasks, we found that there were some unanswered questions, especially in relation to the efficacy of homemade fabric masks. So we decided to search for answers ourselves. Our research consisted of three phases. We began by comparing different types of masks and different types of fabrics for homemade masks. Then we moved on to optimising the protection that a mask offers, for example, by improving the fit. Finally, we looked at the behaviour of facemask wearers through surveys and observational studies.

It's well recognised that the fit of the mask is one of the most important factors that determines how much protection it offers. If there are gaps in the seal between the mask and the face, air will take the path of least resistance around the mask and avoid filtration. Several fit 'hacks' gained traction on social media and we wanted to test which ones, if any, worked. In the end, we found that fit hacks can be a powerful method of improving the protection that a mask offers, especially for surgical masks and KN95 masks, which are used in hospitals.

One of our studies explored the size of gap needed to compromise the protection of an N95 respirator. These are highly effective masks that require fit testing before use in hospitals. We found that even gaps of around 1.5 to 2mm were enough to reduce the protection of these masks to below recommended levels. This supported our hypothesis that fit is one of the most important factors to consider when choosing a mask. It's difficult to improve the fit of an N95 respirator because of its design but, as our research has shown, the fit of other masks can be improved and this, in turn, improves the protection.

We used a mix of human and non-human studies for our research. Controlled studies, using mannequins or laboratory apparatus, can be very useful when testing the filtration of different fabrics. In these cases, we wanted the fit to be standardised as we were mainly interested in filtration efficiency. However, the limitation is that these studies cannot capture information about whether masks are comfortable, and the fit might change when people are moving and talking. Therefore, when we tested the fit hacks, we used real people while they were performing routine activities. One of the things we noted was that some hacks, while very effective, were particularly uncomfortable and that is something we wouldn't have noticed without human studies.

The main aim of the research was to produce rapid results that could inform current public policy. Our papers have been cited by the World Health Organisation and have received international media attention. However, our findings also have the potential to influence the response to future pandemics. The body of face mask literature has grown exponentially over the past two years and there is now a healthy amount of research to build on. The use of facemasks isn't limited to pandemics, they were used in hospitals before COVID-19 and they will likely be used even more in the future. Hopefully, our research into filtration, fit and behaviour will help to ensure that the most appropriate masks are used in any given situation.





Five minutes with an SLO

# Raising aspirations

“The SLO position seemed like a great way to combine my experience with access and admissions, and the beauty of living and studying in Cambridge.”



> Rosie Good



Rosie Good joined Trinity Hall as Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer and Admissions Assistant (SLO) at the beginning of July. We sat down with Rosie on a warm summer afternoon, not long before A-level results were released, to talk about the importance of access and outreach, and the role it played in her own university application.

### What's the best part of your job and College life so far?

The work environment. Not just the scenery but the social environment too. Everyone's been really welcoming. It's so lovely working in such a beautiful college that's close to the city centre. I've really enjoyed reading my book by the river or going for a wander and listening to music during my lunch breaks.

### What attracted you to the job and Trinity Hall?

I was involved in a lot of Oxbridge access work during my undergrad. Widening participation work is really important to me and it played a big role in my own decision to apply to university. During my Masters here in Cambridge, I fell in love with the city and decided I wanted to stay. The SLO position seemed like a great way to combine my experience with access and admissions, and the beauty of living and studying in Cambridge. The role itself is really varied and allows me to chat to and work with a huge variety of people, which definitely suits me. When I walked in to Trinity Hall for my first interview I immediately liked the vibe. The porter was really friendly and my now co-workers invited me for a cup of tea after my interview, which was really nice.

### What was it like for you applying to university?

Applying to uni was really daunting. I knew I was going to apply because it seemed like the 'done' thing and my grades suggested that I probably could. But I was completely clueless about the whole process and what it would be like when I arrived. Neither of my parents went to university so they were as new to it all as I was. My school helped with UCAS but didn't have great information available to Oxbridge applicants, so it was a really steep learning curve. I felt a bit out of my depth as the only person in my group of friends who was even considering it. Even those with equally promising grades thought it would be 'too hard' or 'too uncool'. I attended Oxford's UNIQ summer school in the summer after Year 12 and learnt that Oxbridge can be fun, the students are actually quite cool, and I became a lot more comfortable with the idea of myself being there. As well as convincing me that I should give it a go and make an application, it was that experience that kick-started my resolve to get involved with access initiatives as a student.

### Why do we concentrate on a specific geographical area?

The University has assigned 'link areas' to all of the colleges for their outreach work so we can build lasting relationships with the schools in our link areas. Through continued engagement, we hope to spark aspiration in Year 8s and continue to work with them throughout their school years, providing support and guidance up until their applications early in Year 13. It allows us to focus our efforts, as well as making it physically easier to visit multiple schools and deliver presentations and talks. And, importantly for me, it's because I'm from the West Country and need an excuse to visit my dogs more often!

### How can alumni get involved if they are interested in helping?

Support from alumni of all ages really makes a huge difference to outreach and widening participation. If you're interested in helping, the first step is to get in touch with local schools in the state-funded and maintained sector. You can offer your support through attending careers fairs or giving higher education talks – the school will let you know what would be most useful. Equally, get in touch with us in the Admissions Office on [admissions@trinhall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@trinhall.cam.ac.uk) to let us know you're interested in helping. It's great to hear from alumni who are willing to speak at Open Days and other events. We are always looking for academics and former students who are happy to discuss their work, or experience at Cambridge, as part of our residential and school visit schemes which offer school students a taste of life at Trinity Hall. Finally, alumni donations are vital for funding all of our outreach and widening participation work, including the SLO role I'm so excited to be doing.

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**Thank you to everyone who has supported our widening participation, access and outreach activities. Your involvement helps us dispel myths about Cambridge and raise aspirations in schoolchildren.**

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## EXHIBITION

# Encounters in Stone

A series of prodigious stone sculptures has taken up residence in College.

**E**ncounters in Stone showcases monumental sculptures and small-scale pieces throughout the courts and gardens of Trinity Hall. Sculptor Stephen Cox RA has a deep knowledge of the stones of Italy, Egypt and India, as well as the beliefs, myths and customs they have manifested over time. He combines this with his own aesthetic as a contemporary sculptor to produce thought-provoking, symbolic pieces.

This is the first time Stephen has exhibited his work in Cambridgeshire.

You can visit the exhibition any time between now and June 2023. It is open to the public during the College's opening hours.

### Front Court

When you enter Trinity Hall, you will be met by a sculpture on each of Front Court's lawns. The sculptures are linked by the stone from which they are made. The source of this green stone, Hammamat Breccia, is the Eastern Mountains of Egypt.

The quarries were used by the ancients for their funerary objects. Graffitied onto the walls of the quarries is a catalogue of information relating to the great rulers of antiquity who sent their engineers to procure blocks of this rare material from as far afield as Persia.

> Sculpture in  
Front Court

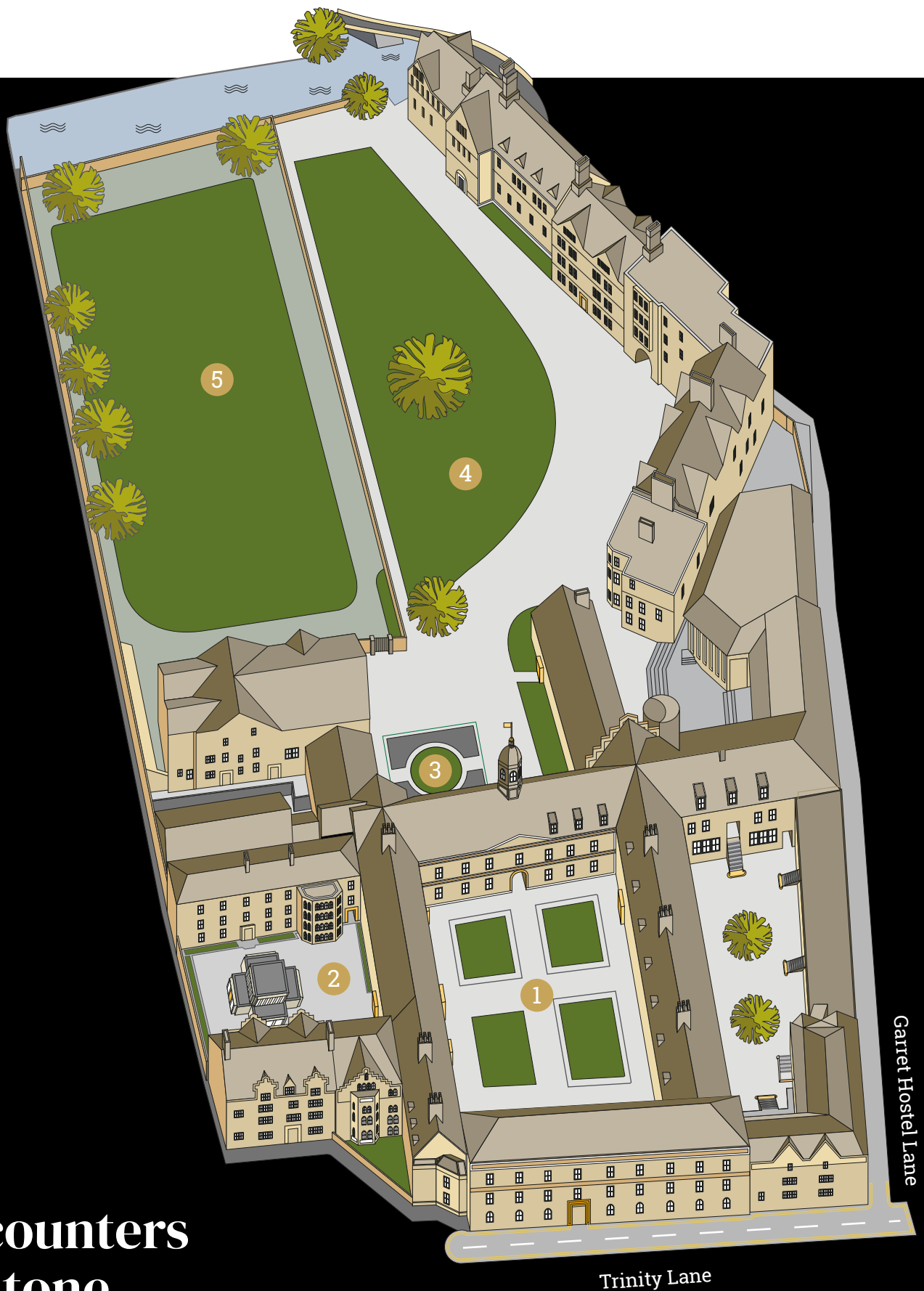




EXHIBITION

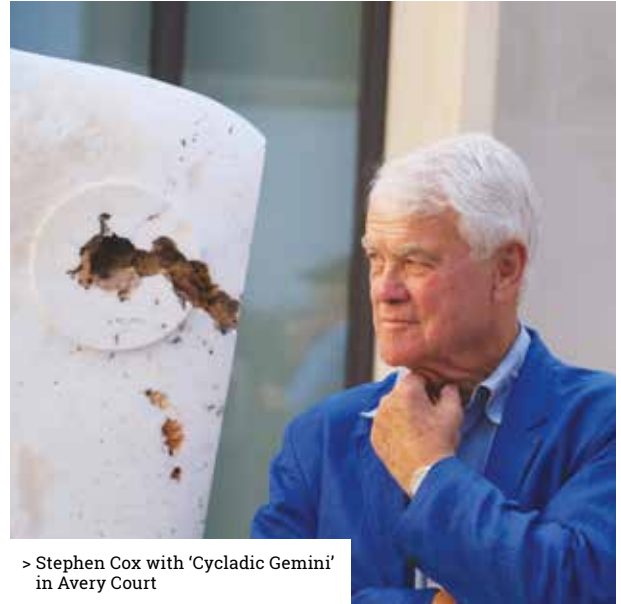
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# Encounters in Stone

# About the artist



> Stephen Cox with 'Cycladic Gemini' in Avery Court

## Key

- 1 Front Court  
Sculptures made from  
Hammamat Breccia
- 2 Avery Court  
'Cycladic Gemini'
- 3 The Grass Circle  
'Conjunction'
- 4 Latham Lawn  
'Shrouded Peregrine'
- 5 Fellows' Garden  
'Yogini'

Stephen Cox is drawn to stones that have been set apart due to their rarity, hardness, colour and symbolism.

He emerged as a leading figure in British sculpture in the early 1970s and was supported by the Arts Council of Great Britain and the British Council. His most significant collective exhibitions were at MOMA New York, and the National Gallery, London, Millennium Exhibition.

Stephen's work has taken him around the globe. He travelled to the Eastern Mountains of Egypt to extract the 'purple' porphyry from the Imperial Roman quarries. He became the first person to make sculpture in imperial porphyry from its unique source since antiquity. In Mahabalipuram, India, Stephen worked in age-old methods to create a sculpture for the Triennale. Most recently, he visited the ancient granite quarries at Aswan, Egypt. They have been producing commercially since the great obelisks and monumental statues of pharaohs were made.

When I applied to join the Telephone Campaign in my first year at Trinity Hall in 2019, I could not have foreseen how big a part of my experience it would go on to be. It's now four years later and I write this following my graduation, acutely aware of how much it has improved my experience and affinity to the College having joined the calling team three times during my studies.



> Joanna Boxill





## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# Calling to Make a Difference

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by Joanna Boxill | 2018, Modern & Medieval Languages

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There are so many things that I appreciate about the Campaign, and the way the Alumni and Development Office here have chosen to run it – chief of all being that it's people-focused. You get to have great chats with amazing people across various stages of life. You get the wisdom of those who have had a full and sometimes unexpected career and are enjoying their retirement, or even workplace tips from those employed in a fast-paced work environment. You get encouragement and empathy from those who can still remember what it's like to try and balance fun with studying, or make those first tentative steps out into the world of work. You get to share your own experiences and develop your own communication skills while building a link with alumni so they feel, or continue to feel, connected to the College, and their time here, at which they look back so fondly. Every year I've participated my experience has been different because both the people I've talked to and the students I've worked with have been different.

The Telephone Campaign has also given me an insight into how the College is run, and how much it changes and improves upon itself year on year. Some of the most encouraging chats I've had have been updating alumni on the improvements we've made in areas of student support, particularly in providing a great mental health team, as well as more options for bursaries and grants for students that desperately need them. As someone who's benefitted from these bursaries and grants myself, it's always really amazing to be able to thank alumni personally for the impact they've had on my life – allowing me to fulfil mandatory travel as part of my *ab-initio* MML courses, providing financial support

when in lockdown in College during the pandemic, and flexibility when expected finances were late arriving.

During the most recent Campaign, I fondly remember a conversation about the access and outreach programs and efforts in College, which the alumnus I was talking to did not have during their studies. It was both sobering and encouraging, to see how much we've improved but also how much is still to be done. As a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) student and someone from a lower income background, I both hope and have confidence that the College will continue to put the work in to make Trinity Hall a great and accessible experience for all its students.

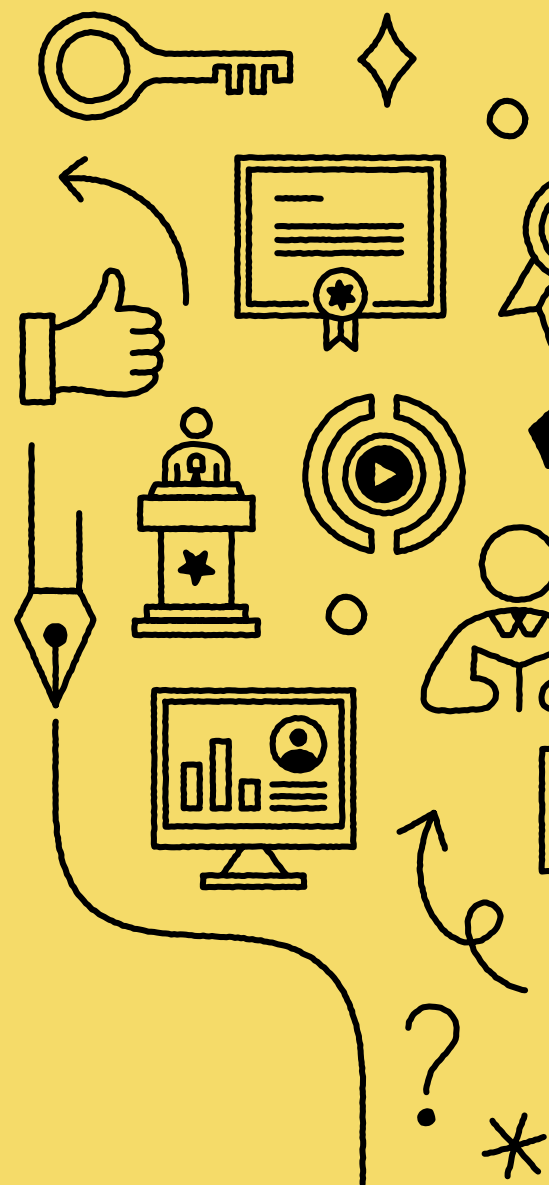
Donations to the College are not only monetary, so much of the support that's given during the Campaign includes pledges of time and an incredible willingness to mentor current students, sharing wisdom from years of experience in different fields. The PaTHways Mentoring Program and LinkHall are amazing resources and have been hugely helpful for me, and several other students I know. There's something really heart-warming about a growing community of past and current students, encouraging each other in making their dreams a reality – whether it's helping streamline CVs, offering internships, or networking opportunities.

Being a part of the Telephone Campaign has helped me to see the larger community and support available at Trinity Hall, and I'm so grateful to everyone who is a part of this amazing community.

# What you told us in our 2022 Alumni Survey

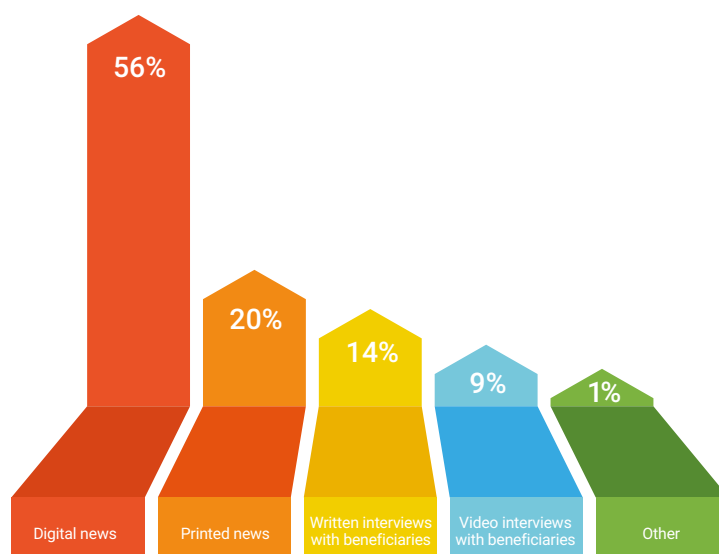
How can we help our alumni feel more connected to Trinity Hall? What benefits are most valuable to our alumni? We often ask ourselves these types of questions but to get real answers that help us improve, we need to ask you. The results of our alumni survey enable us to tailor our activities to better suit your needs.

Thank you very much for taking the time to provide your valuable feedback. Here are some findings from the 2022 alumni survey that we're excited to share with you.



Thank you for helping us understand how we can best report on the impact of your donations. Here's what you told us:

**We were pleased to discover many of you want to hear about how to get more involved with College life. We have a variety of opportunities available to help our students, communicate with the community, and organise events. Find out more at [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/volunteering](https://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/volunteering)**

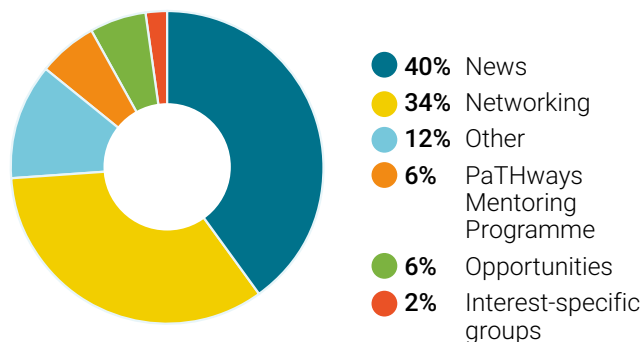




**Your feedback on Trinity Hall's digital presence is incredibly valuable. Our Communications Team is embarking on an exciting project to redevelop the website and your feedback will be instrumental in this process. We will be gathering further feedback from you over the course of the project to create our new Trinity Hall website.**

**We are delighted that most of you are aware that you become a member of the Trinity Hall Association (THA) free of charge when you graduate. This means you can benefit from attending regional events across the UK, networking with fellow alumni, and having your say on the future of the THA. See the THA webpage to find out more: [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/tha](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/tha)**

This is what you told us you like the most about LinkHall:



If you're not yet a LinkHall member, sign up at [linkhall.org](http://linkhall.org)

You rated Trinity Hall **9/10** as a place to study – hurray!

**72%** of you told us you are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the new design of *Front Court*. This makes our Editors very happy.





# News in Brief

Read more at  
[trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news)

## AWARDS

### 'Masterpiece' wins prestigious book prize

Senior Tutor Dr Clare Jackson has been named the winner of the Wolfson History Prize. Her book, *Devil-Land: England Under Siege 1588–1688* was described by judges as “a masterpiece that will change our view of the 17th century. Exciting and well-written, it provides fresh insights by looking at England through European eyes.”

The award ceremony in London marked the prize's 50 years of recognising outstanding history writing, and celebrated the six books shortlisted for the 2022 prize. Dr Jackson said she was “delighted and deeply honoured.”



> Dr Clare Jackson  
holding a copy of  
Devil-Land

## RESEARCH

### What did Megalodon eat? Anything it wanted

New research led by Trinity Hall's Dr Emma Kast shows that prehistoric megatooth sharks were apex predators at the highest level ever measured. The researchers have now discovered clear evidence that Megalodon and some of its ancestors were at the very highest rung of the prehistoric food chain – what scientists call the highest 'trophic level'. Indeed, their trophic signature is so high that they must have eaten other predators and predators-of-predators in a complicated food web, say the researchers.



> Dr Emma Kast holding  
a Megalodon tooth

## DEVELOPMENT

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WONGAVERY MUSIC GALLERY

On 24 June 2022 HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO officially opened the WongAvery Music Gallery during a visit to Trinity Hall. His Royal Highness was invited to a reception at the College, with a chance to view the new building. He joined guests in the Dining Hall for lunch, before a dedication ceremony was held in the Music Gallery.

The Directors of the Avery-Tsui Foundation, whose generous support made the building possible, were also present for the celebratory occasion, which had been delayed by the pandemic.

The building was designed by architect Niall McLaughlin. It provides a much-needed space for choir rehearsals, classical music recitals, lessons and private practice.

The music gallery provides an inspiring venue for students, Fellows and visiting musicians to practise and perform.



> Camila Cimadamore-Werthein

## SPORT

# Students' sporting achievements recognised

Four Trinity Hall students and Aula Club grant recipients have been recognised in the University Sports Awards. Camila Cimadamore-Werthein received one of five Outstanding Contribution to University Sport awards for her "significant contribution to the development of the Polo Club at Cambridge."

Callum Henderson, who was shortlisted in the Unsung Hero category for his behind-the-scenes efforts supporting the yacht club, said: "Support from the College has been great. My tutor, Dr Isabelle McNeill, has been brilliant in helping me with the Aula Club Award and advice on balancing studies and sailing. The Aula Club Award itself has obviously been fantastic and a great honour to be awarded. I remain extremely grateful to both the Club and College for facilitating this."



> Sally WongAvery, Dr Daniel Tyler and HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO unveiling the WongAvery Music Gallery plaque

© Phil Mynott

> left to right Katie Buckingham, Anne Bailey, Alice Williams, Tamara Macfarlane



## AWARDS

# Celebrating pioneering social entrepreneurs

Four social entrepreneurs, pioneering new approaches to mental health, wellbeing, employment training and publishing have been recognised with the 2022 Cambridge Social Innovation Prize, awarded by Trinity Hall and the Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation at the University of Cambridge.

Anne Bailey set up a careers programme to connect schoolchildren to the businesses of the future.

Katie Buckingham set up a wellbeing support enterprise for businesses and young people.

Tamara Macfarlane's business aims to raise equality and representation in the publishing industry.

Alice Williams set up a bakery business to help vulnerable women get training, support and access to work.

**Applications for the 2023 Prize are open from December 2022 to April 2023.**



# Your alumni benefits

Take advantage of being an active part of the Trinity Hall community with your alumni benefits.

More on your alumni benefits:  
[trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni-benefits](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni-benefits)

Upcoming events:  
[trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events)

University benefits:  
[alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits](http://alumni.cam.ac.uk/benefits)



## Stay

Book overnight stays in College and events at a discounted price. Guest rooms are available on w staircase, plus standard rooms on Central Site, WYNG Gardens and Wychfield.



## Dine

Enjoy a meal and drinks at High Table up to three times a year, free of charge. Dining available Thursdays and Sundays during Full Term. You can use one of your three allocations to bring a guest.



## Visit

Alumni are welcome back to College to wander the grounds, visit the Chapel and relax in the Aula Bar and Café. The Encounters in Stone sculpture exhibition is open until June 2023. Use the squash courts, fitness room, sports field and hardcourts at Wychfield, or rent a punt between April and October.



## Connect

Connect, network and share with other Trinity Hall members on LinkHall. Discover our mentoring programme, employment opportunities and interest-specific groups.



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