

Highlights:

Eco racing in Australia

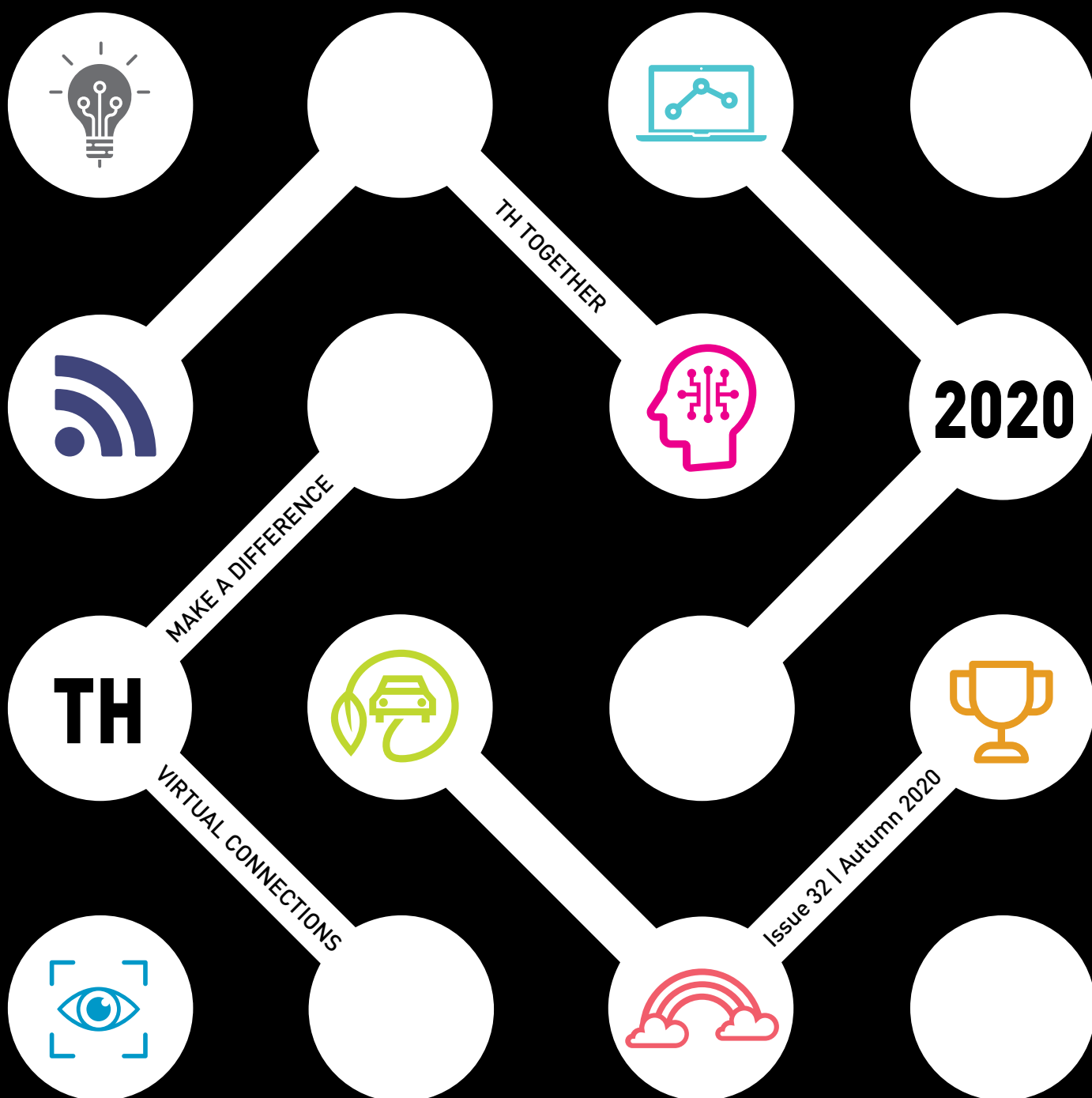
Computing through
the ages

A day in the life of
the Black & Ethnic
Minorities Officer

FRONT COURT



TRINITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE





I started working at Trinity Hall as Alumni & Donor Relations Officer in late April 2020, right in the middle of lockdown. Having a new job is always both exciting and scary, but those feelings were amplified under such extraordinary circumstances.

Luckily, I had joined a community which received me with open arms, albeit virtually. Working with Dr Rachelle Stretch and my colleagues from the Alumni & Development Office has been a great experience and I couldn't think of a better way to have been introduced to the friendly and supportive ethos of the College.

I joined the Hall from Cambridge Arts Theatre, where I had worked for nearly five years and progressed through different positions, the last one being Individual Giving Manager. I was drawn to development since the access to cultural goods was the research subject in both my bachelor's degree in Administration in International Business, and my *stricto sensu* Master's in Social Sciences. To work within the culture industries and the higher education sectors were both aspirations of mine, and I feel incredibly humbled to have had the opportunity to transition from one to the other.

I am delighted at the possibility to use my experience to assist Trinity Hall to advance teaching, learning and

research for the public benefit by the provision, support and maintenance of a college in the University of Cambridge. My current role is at the intersection between development and communications, which strikes a deeply vocational chord in me. It encompasses looking after our relationships with donors, working with our volunteers and increasing engagement with our amazing online community, LinkHall – have you joined it yet?

I'd like to use this space to thank you for your generosity towards Trinity Hall. Please get in touch should you have any queries regarding the areas I work in, or if I can help with anything – or if you just want to say hello. By now I have been in touch with several of our alumni, and I'm very much looking forward to meeting each and every one of you personally in due course.

Oleno Netto
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About *Front Court*

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

Front Court is produced twice a year. If you have any suggestions or articles for the next issue (Spring 2021), please contact the Editors.

All our publications are available on our website: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications

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Message from the Acting Vice-Master

Easter Term 2020 in Cambridge was without parallel in recent history. Not since the Second World War has there been a comparable level of disruption to the ordinary routines of the University.

Students were not in residence and the College and University buildings were closed, but teaching and examining continued in earnest, though remotely, through digital solutions. Our students rose to the challenges with impressive resourcefulness and our finalists achieved an excellent set of results. The business of the College continued too, much of it via video conference. The first virtual meeting of the Governing Body in the College's history was soon followed by our first Virtual Graduation: an online event with pre-recorded speeches and videos, a Leavers' Service, and even drone footage of the College set to music from the College harpsichord.

It has been a magnificent effort by staff, supervisors and Fellows, as well as students, to carry the College through these turbulent times. I would also like to record my thanks here to all those alumni who contributed to the pandemic hardship fund which continues to help us support students who have faced particular financial difficulties at this time. Work continued throughout the summer: the inquiry into allegations raised in a media article earlier in the year is well under way; we await the report and stand ready to respond to its findings. The admissions process was affected in August by last-minute changes in government policy around A-level results, but we are pleased to be honouring all our offers for the coming year. The new academic year will be very different to usual as strict social distancing requirements will be in place, along with other measures in accordance with public health guidelines. Students will live in 'household' units and, for the time being, dining and socialising will be more restricted than before. As for the



educational experience, lectures will be moved online, though much small-group teaching will be able to take place in person.

The scene will be rather different in the coming term, then, with lectures watched from the comfort of College rooms, masked students walking the courts of the College, and socially-distanced outdoor gatherings taking the place of recreation in the Common Rooms. And yet the College's academic mission to foster excellence in research and teaching, and to provide a world-class education to the brightest students of all backgrounds continues resolutely, not deflected by the pandemic. We bid farewell to our departing students and wish them all the best in these uncertain times; and we look forward to welcoming the next generation of students who face remarkable challenges but join a community working together to make the best of College life under the new conditions that beset us all.

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and well during these difficult times.

Dr Daniel Tyler
Acting Vice-Master



Eco racing in Australia

When I first came to Cambridge three years ago I joined Cambridge University Eco Racing (CUER). Looking back, it is definitely one of the highlights of my university experience so far. CUER is a student-run team, interested in practical engineering and sustainable transport technologies. Working with the UK's leading manufacturing companies and specialists, the aim is to design and build the UK's most efficient electric car.

As a member of the summer design team in 2018 and bodywork lead (2018–20), I designed various parts of our four-seater solar car, the Helia. It is made from carbon fibre body panels and a stainless-steel roll cage.

The car was launched at the Science Museum, in London, on 15 August 2019 and after some further testing sessions in Waterbeach, both car and team were ready to head off to Australia for the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge.

The Challenge route started in Darwin in the Northern Territory, followed the Stuart Highway to Port Augusta and finished via Highway 1 in the City of Adelaide in the state of South Australia, a distance of approximately 3,000km. To make sure we arrived in Darwin on time and to familiarise ourselves with the route, the team decided to drive from Melbourne, through Adelaide and finally to Darwin.

We camped in the wild outback of Australia for almost a week before we reached Darwin and saw the most beautiful night skies.

The next stage of the adventure began on 13 October as we pulled up for the race. Strong winds had damaged parts of the car during our very last test session so we were unable to do the 'flying lap' which determines the race start position. We began in last place. The whole team was extremely nervous as we left the starting line. But our hard work paid off and although

Helia experienced some issues with its solar panel energy transmission, the car finished the first day of the Challenge having completed a distance of 420km.

I was chosen to be one of the passengers in Helia. As bodywork lead, I had designed all the safety impact structures that should theoretically protect the passengers from any crashes. However, it was not until I was physically present in Helia, travelling at 80km per hour on Stuart Highway, that I fully realised the weight of my responsibility. The structure I designed is the last barrier for the passengers in a severe crash situation. That was the moment I truly understood what it means to be a structural engineer.

In order to continue on with our schedule for the second day, Helia's battery had to be charged to at least 80 per cent. This would require the solar panel connection to be fully functional before sunset. The cascade effect of the damage inflicted by the strong winds during the test session had caused problems with the cables and, despite the best efforts of our electrical team, the connection could not be fixed in time.

We started the second day with our battery charged to around 35 per cent and our tyres experiencing continuous pressure drops, which took us another hour to fix after the official start time. This further exacerbated our situation with the battery consumption as now we had to drive the car at an even higher cruising speed in order to reach the check point on time. After a few hours of



Helia with the team at the finishing line, Adelaide



Helia

driving Helia at high speed there was not enough energy left in the battery pack to maintain the required cruise speed to reach Tennant Creek, the first charging stop, before it closed.

After intense discussion, the team made the tough decision to trailer the car to Tennant Creek to maximise our charging time and thus our chance of completing the rest of the course. However, when we arrived at the charging station we discovered that Helia had heated up to almost 45 degrees Celsius, the maximum temperature at which we could safely charge. With a nearly empty battery pack and no ability to charge it, Helia was

unlikely to complete much more of the 2019 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge. We had completed 540km.

Helia was trailered by the truck for the rest of the journey.

On 18 October, we reached Adelaide. Overall, only three out of 24 cruiser class teams had finished the race. Helia finished in eighth place for total distance travelled.

For the second part of the competition, cruiser class solar cars were judged on their practicality. As one of the most spacious cars in the entire competition, we were awarded third place.

I learnt a tremendous amount from this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Not only did I gain practical engineering experience but I also learnt the value of ingenuity, creativity, logistics and teamwork under pressure.

Through CUER I met some incredible people who share my passion. We supported and took care of each other through this difficult challenge. These friendships are one of the most valuable things I gained from this trip.

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to Dr Aaron Lee (1992) for his generous support that enabled me to undertake this challenge. It was an amazing adventure and I will remember it forever.

Charles Gai (2017)



Charles and the Helia on launch day

Lockdown at Wychfield



Empty hallways. People leaving one by one. Plans you made with friends being cancelled. No May Week. At the beginning of lockdown, things were looking pretty grim and the main question in my mind was “When will it return to normal?” Looking back now, that question still hasn’t been answered but the hopelessness and fear of loneliness no longer accompany it.

The transition to lockdown wasn’t that drastic for me. As an international student who couldn’t return home because of closed borders, I was able to stay in my term room in Boulton House, while other students packed up and moved from Central Site or Thompson’s Lane residences up to Wychfield.

For the first two weeks, I had no idea that there were about 50 of us students in Wychfield. I was in my room, thankful for a window seat, just looking out at the quiet sports field. The only active things seemed to be the trees and animals: birds, cats and foxes. As time went on and the curve kept climbing, my schedule kept changing. I spent my time getting to know the only other person on my floor and chatting over social media to my friends who lived just one or two floors above me in the same building. I then had to find

an isolated spot to work in for lectures and exams in Easter term. Rowing moved online with Zoom circuits, yoga and crew chats, trying to keep a normal exercise schedule. Even online, the pull of team spirit managed to get my running-averse self to participate in Virtual Bumps and spend time training to run. When the one outing a day came into effect, I did lots of cycling around Cambridge, avoiding the centre of town for a while because the emptiness of it was so eerie and a huge reminder of what was going on.

It’s been weird seeing the atmosphere of Cambridge and College change from the bustling, student-filled hub it usually is into the quiet and standstill expanse it became. Yet there have been a lot of benefits from lockdown in Wychfield, not least that the sunsets are beautiful and it’s calming to have a great field to walk and run around. I got to know the porters really well as the number of deliveries increased. I’ve learnt how to plan my own time, how to be content staying in basically one room and how

to appreciate freedom when I have it. I built friendships with Master’s and PhD students over evening drinks and chats. Some of us even picked up new gardening skills by helping out the gardening staff. And thanks to the internet, I was able to keep up with family and friends who were several miles away. I look forward to everyone coming back and seeing friends face-to-face again. Tit Hall is gorgeous and calm without students, but it’s the people that give it life and make it home. Here’s to hoping we can all be enjoying our home from home together again soon.

Joanna Boxill (2018)



© DR RACHEL CLEMENT-TOLLEY

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS win Cambridge prize for pandemic response

Many social entrepreneurs face an unexpected challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic – unprecedented demand for their services to address deep needs in the community.

The second annual Cambridge Social Innovation Prize awarded by the Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation and Trinity Hall will help four outstanding social entrepreneurs to meet this increased need with a £10,000 grant and advice from experts at the University of Cambridge.

Alumnus and Honorary Fellow Graham Ross Russell (1953) has generously supported this prize as part of the College's ongoing work to nurture entrepreneurial ambition.



Meet the winners



Josh Babarinde
Cracked It (London)

Cracked It is a smartphone repair service, staffed by young ex-offenders to support them away from crime and towards employment. They reduce the friction of smartphone repair by bringing their services directly to the consumer with regular pop-up repair clinics in 25 large workplaces across London.



**Jennifer Neff and
Leeann Monk Ozigul**
Elemental Software
(Derry, Northern Ireland)

Elemental is a social prescribing platform already being used by 310 hubs across the UK and Ireland. It connects people to community services and resources, such as gardening, walking groups and debt advice, which enhance their health and wellbeing. They are also committed to scaling and measuring the uptake and impact of the social prescribing model of care.



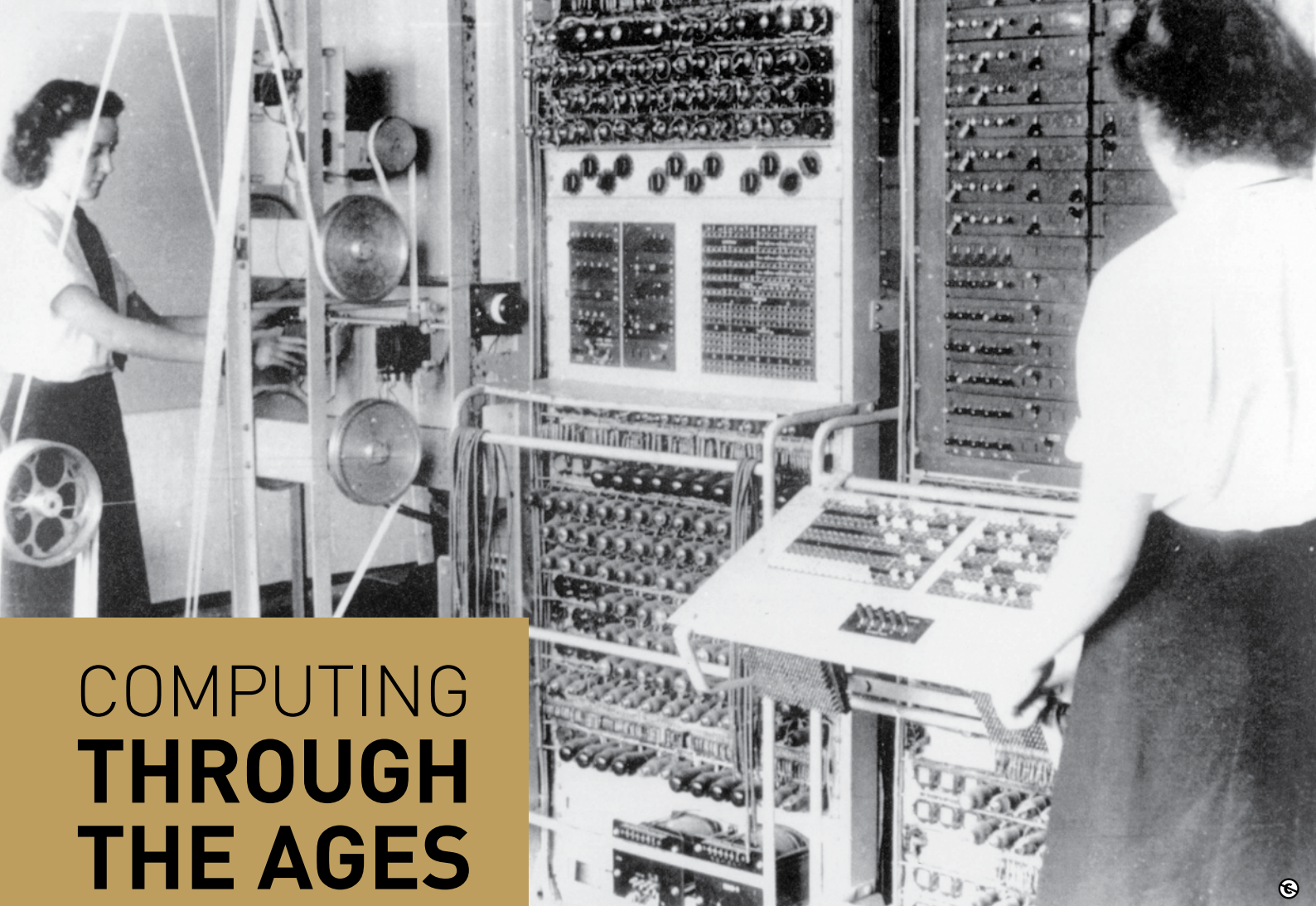
Ivo Gormley
GoodGym (London)

GoodGym is a fitness community that combines exercise with volunteering for community projects and supporting isolated older people. Their mission is to make it as easy as possible for people to use their exercise to benefit their community, and by doing so increase health and wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness.



Angela McKay
Homebaked (Liverpool)

Homebaked is regenerating the high street 'brick by brick and loaf by loaf', using money that is spent in the neighbourhood to benefit the community. They run a community land trust and co-operative bakery co-owned and co-produced by people who live and work in the Everton and Anfield area of Liverpool.



COMPUTING THROUGH THE AGES

Norman Sanders (1953) is a pioneer of the computing revolution. While roaming the planet championing modern computing, he met Prime Minister Harold Wilson, cybernetics pioneer Norbert Wiener and *Yes Minister* writer Sir Antony Jay, to name but a few. Norman introduced the then PM to modern computing which led to a serious effort to introduce computers to British industry, and he was encouraged by Sir Antony to start writing computing books. Here, Norman talks us through the evolution of computing: from Stonehenge to video calls.

"I wish to God these calculations had been executed by steam," said George Biddell Airy, the Astronomer Royal, to Charles Babbage, the English polymath, in 1851. The two men had been on a tour of inspection of a roomful of computers and had discovered errors in the work. But the room wasn't full of personal computers. In those days computers were people, not machines, using hand-cranked desktop computers to execute the calculations. Babbage went on to invent two mechanical devices and set to work on arithmetical calculations with the help of Ada Lovelace, widely recognised as the first computer programmer and daughter of poet Lord Byron.

We encounter many computational challenges in our daily lives; fighting off the income tax inspector, following

recipes, buying the right size carpets. Throughout history there has been an eternal hope of finding ways of getting it right and getting it now. And it all comes under the heading 'Computers'.

Computers have been around for a little longer than you might think. The earliest one I know of is Stonehenge. The idea of Stonehenge as a computer to calculate the passage of time was advanced in 1966 by Professor Gerald Hawkins in his book, *Stonehenge Decoded*. Although Hawkins describes himself as a non-computer man, his predictions of today's use of the computer are quite mind-bogglingly prescient; he predicted the credit card as a precursor of a cashless society. I think his writings should be recognised in any computer-history publication.

The earliest academic publication on computing was by Alan Turing of King's College, Cambridge in 1936. It specified how numbers should be stored in an appropriate electronic medium. Although it wasn't actually adopted until after the Second World War it has continued until today to be the industry standard.

In the trade we talk about special-purpose and general-purpose computers. In particular, I regard clocks as an example of the former. Clocks calculate time, nothing else, but they do calculate. The earliest known example of a clock is the Antikithera, built between 100 and 150 BCE and discovered in 1902 in a sunken Greek ship off a small island between Kythera and Crete. It might also have been used to predict astronomical positions and eclipses for calendar

and astrological purposes. A strange parallel, from vast stone edifices down to watches. It is a decrease in magnitude similar to the decrease from the first electronic computers to today's pocket devices. From the idea of a watch being a computer we have the idea of measuring and counting devices invented through the ages from scales and thermometers to desktop calculators. One way and another, computing has been around for a long time.

The computer-based industrial revolution was never ordained or proclaimed; no one ever said, "There shall be a computer." I suppose the computer appeared to most people to have just popped out of the woodwork, but it didn't. In fact the first ever programmable computer, the Z1, was built in 1938 by a German civil engineer, Konrad Zuse. The Z1 could undertake any arithmetical operation under the control of a programme. We call this mode of operation general purpose, as opposed to special purpose. Thus Zuse could run a series of totally isolated numerical operations during the course of the day. Zuse went on to build a series of machines and even invented a programming language, Plankalkül. The idea of a computer, though, didn't catch on in pre-war Germany, and he was so far ahead of his time that it took years to get recognition in the West after the Second World War. I met him in Helsinki in 1963, just after he retired; we don't often get in touch with history.

Another example of a special-purpose computer is the one you saw in the movie *The Imitation Game*. The Colossus was the first large-scale electronic computer and had one single application: to help cryptanalysts decode messages by stripping away the first layer of encryption at electronic speed. But it also enabled the designers to learn a lot about how to handle large numbers of thermionic valves (used for fundamental electronic functions) and resulted in the next big step in the evolution of the computer.

The explosive advances in modern computing began after the Second World War when staff returned from working on radar and code-breaking. This happened mostly in the United States, but very much in Britain too, and the

universities were the natural places to do it. The scientific capability was there, as was the money. Manchester and Cambridge were the two main centres of computer competence and vision in Britain. In Cambridge it became the task of the Mathematics Laboratory, led by Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes FRS. He built the EDSAC (Electronic Delay-Storage Automatic Computer) on which I had the privilege of learning the art of programming. I joined the Maths Lab after graduating in 1956, though, despite much advertising on my part, I was the only Hall man there. I couldn't get anyone else excited about a career in high-speed automatic arithmetic.

Over the years I have wandered this planet trying to put the computer to beneficial use. It has been exciting beyond anything I dreamt of when I started. In the 70 years since the EDSAC started to operate we have seen a revolution in the way we live, so dramatic that I find it almost impossible to describe. Computer measures used to be the sizes of 'memories', their arithmetical add-times and the turn-around time of individual programmes. All was still numerical. But numbers are no longer of interest. Today we talk of the functions of computers; what they mean to the way we live.

One way and another, computing has been around for a long time.

The computer started off as an arithmetic device to carry out computations. So it was called a computer. But the act of computing has diminished. The computer has become a vast data-handler, which has made possible functions such as Googling, 'learning' and game-playing. It was early attempts to write a programme that could play chess that made us realise how complicated it was and how much data capacity was needed.

Data capacity has increased beyond all predictions over these 70 years and now chess has almost become a different game. If you play against another person you can fool yourself into believing that you have a chance of winning, but not if

you play Deep Blue. Its memory allows it to search vast numbers of alternative moves in limited time. Mine doesn't. It is this data storage that has made artificial intelligence, AI, possible. Not only can it 'learn' how to paint in the style of Vermeer and fool the experts, it can perform medical operations and, in conjunction with today's communications technology, do so remotely. You could fall down a mountain on the Isle of Skye and have your leg patched up by a computer in Guy's Hospital. The best we could do with old EDSAC was play noughts and crosses.

There has always been much discussion about whether computers (or rather, the software, the programmes) can think. For myself, I've worked all over the place, both in industry and in academia, and I've never had to know whether my programmes were thinking. If they were, they had the courtesy to keep it to themselves.

What is of more concern, I think, are the consequences of having a network of data-handling equipment that encircles the planet – even down to your kitchen. What started out as an arithmetic device has become a web of interactive technology that people with sufficient understanding are able to use in unpredictable ways. Any technology can be used for good or ill; the magic that enabled me to email these words to the Alumni Office could feasibly enable someone to raid my bank account. Perhaps your microwave is conspiring with your dishwasher.

To finish on a more optimistic note, a special mention must be made of Sir Tim Berners-Lee for inventing the Worldwide Web. It has transformed our society and day-to-day lives. How many of us have found the ability to simultaneously video call our families all over the country and the world invaluable in recent months? All this from high-speed arithmetic.

No-one stood up and proclaimed the existence of the computer, and no-one is in charge of it. It is not like gravity, measurable and predictable. It is subject to people and how they use it. It is unpredictable, and my prediction is that it will stay that way.

Norman Sanders (1953)

Trinity Hall TogeTHer



The Passage

Andrew Hollingsworth (1976) has been involved since 1983 with The Passage, a central London charity working with people who are homeless on the street. Nick Gibb (1976) also serves on their finance committee.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, The Passage has been on the frontline working hard to keep homeless people safe. We have moved hundreds of vulnerable people from the street into bed-and-breakfast hotels normally used by the budget end of the tourist market. The only disadvantage is the buildings have no catering facilities.

We have created a new Food Hub delivering a hot meal and two packed cold meals to 320 people each day. This is more than double the number of people we had been providing meals to prior to the pandemic. To fund this project we have launched a #DonateYourDinner campaign and seek to raise £300,000 over the next ten weeks.

The Passage's aim is to provide homeless people with support to transform their own lives. We achieve this by running a wide range of services, including the UK's largest voluntary sector resource centre for homeless and vulnerable people, three residential projects providing accommodation, street outreach, and a number of homeless prevention projects.

<https://passage.org.uk>

There's always a reason to smile

After returning home at the end of Lent Term, fresher Sophie Thumfart (2019), began feeling frustrated by the constant stream of bad news.

"Every five minutes I seemed to be getting negative information on phone and it was overwhelming," explains Sophie. "I felt it needed to change. I wondered what we could do to put a smile on people's faces – a website or a newsletter to highlight something positive."

She had no prior experience of developing apps, but her boyfriend Max can code and so the idea began.

The app was launched on 3 April and reached 37 in the UK App Store Charts with a mention in the *Guardian* 'Upside' feature.

The app 'tarts' – there is always a reason to smile – is designed to give bite-sized 'slices' of knowledge and uplifting information. There are recipes, book recommendations, a 'this day in history' feature, and ideas for how to spend your time. It is designed to be a source of purely positive news and ensure that you can celebrate something every day.

Sophie receives messages from countries across the world in response to the app. "I never expected it to be so popular," she confessed. "It is so lovely to hear that people use it as part of their daily routine now. In times like this, solidarity and helping others remain positive is of the utmost importance and we are pleased we can contribute to achieving this."

www.tarts.app



Keeping people connected across the generations

Alumna Charlotte Whittaker (2013) is co-founder and director of 'Incommon', a social enterprise bringing generations together. They connect groups of primary school children with older neighbours in retirement homes to build friendships and learn together.

However, in early March they had to stop their face-to-face workshops because of fears of the spread of coronavirus. "We felt it was still important that people connected across generations, and that young and old could support each other right now," explains Charlotte. "So we launched InCommon Buddies to provide families with resources that keep the younger and older members connected."

"We designed resources which can be used over the phone or online, to facilitate fun games and activities for children and their grandparents or older friends. The activities promote intergenerational learning, allowing children and older people to teach one another about their experiences, whilst bringing each other some laughter along the way."

Weekly themes have included life at home and adjusting to new ways of keeping in touch, and memories, discoveries and celebrations of the 20th century in the lead up to VE day.

InCommon Buddies continues to connect children and older residents who have met at workshops so these relationships can continue at a time when they are needed most.

www.incommonliving.com/buddies-about



Coronavirus clinical trial goes international

The Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit under the leadership of Professor Ian Wilkinson, Trinity Hall Fellow in Clinical Medicine, recently launched an important trial to test treatments for COVID-19.

The trial, which is known as TACTIC, tests whether re-purposing existing drugs will stop the body's immune system overreacting. Experts have found that in some coronavirus patients the immune system goes into overdrive – destroying healthy cells in the process.

TACTIC is now being rolled out internationally as sites in India, Mexico and Brazil begin to open.

In its initial phase, selected patients at a network of hospitals across the UK, including Addenbrooke's, have been given Ravulizumab and Baricitinib. Ravulizumab is commonly used to treat blood diseases where the immune system destroys red blood cells, while Baricitinib is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

The trial is part of the UK government's quest to find potential new treatments for COVID-19.

Professor Ian Wilkinson, said: "This is a time of huge national effort in the fight against COVID-19 and I am delighted that Cambridge is playing a key role. TACTIC will test the effectiveness of a number of existing and new drugs in patients admitted to hospital, in a similar way to the RECOVERY trial, but with a strong focus on modulating the immune response and collecting high quality data that can be used by our partner pharmaceutical companies to seek the necessary approvals for widespread international use."

Royal Society's youngest member



PROFESSOR JACK THORNE (2004) HAS BECOME THE YOUNGEST LIVING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, AGED 32. He has been recognised for multiple breakthroughs in diverse areas of algebraic number theory. Jack studied Mathematics at Trinity Hall from 2004 to 2008 and went on to complete a PhD at Harvard. He was awarded a Clay Fellowship and returned to Cambridge as a Reader and to Trinity Hall as a Fellow, less than ten years after his time here as an undergraduate.

Longest surviving kidney transplant patient celebrates 50th anniversary

Angela Dunn, now 74 and living in France, is thought to be the longest-surviving transplant* patient in the world, still leading a healthy life with the same kidney, 50 years after receiving the transplant.

The operation was carried out on 25 July 1970 by Professor Sir Roy Calne, surgeon and pioneer of organ transplantation working at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Sir Roy was a Trinity Hall Fellow in Medicine from 1965 to 1998. He was knighted in 1986 and became an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall in 2000.

Angela says: "Before my operation I did not expect to make 30. I cannot express enough my gratitude to my donor's

family, to Professor Sir Roy Calne, all the medical staff who have watched over me and to my husband Eric".

Professor John Bradley, Trinity Hall Fellow, Consultant Nephrologist and Director of Research at Addenbrooke's Hospital, who worked with Sir Roy for many years, says:

"He overcame many barriers to kidney transplantation, particularly in its early days. Perhaps most notable was the development of effective immunosuppression to prevent transplant rejection. The 50th anniversary of Angela's kidney transplant is yet another amazing success that could not have been achieved without his extraordinary skill and devotion to patients."

**This is thought to be the world's longest surviving cadaveric transplant, meaning that the organ came from a deceased donor. This is distinct from an organ donated from a living relative, where the genetic match makes it far more likely to be a success.*



VIRTUAL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

ON SATURDAY 27 JUNE, TRINITY HALL HELD AN ONLINE CELEBRATION FOR THE GRADUANDS OF 2020.

The year group joined us on LinkHall, our online community platform, from midday for a series of videos, messages from Fellows, staff and alumni, and a virtual leavers' service.

101 Trinity Hall students graduated in absentia (receiving your degree without attending a ceremony) this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



GRADUATION
2020

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news/virtual-graduation-celebration-2020





Postgraduate student wins Vice-Chancellor's Social Impact Award

PhD candidate Philipp Verpoort (2017) has been recognised by the Vice-Chancellor's Social Impact Awards for his work with Greater Cambridge Citizens' Assembly on transport.

Philipp has worked on a citizens' assembly project in Cambridge as part of the Sortition Foundation, an organisation working towards better engaging citizens on policy making across the UK. As a result of

Philipp's work, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) convened a citizens' assembly to give people living and working in Cambridge the chance to share their views on the future of Cambridge's transport system.

Blackbaud data breach

We learned recently that Trinity Hall was one of a number of educational and voluntary sector organisations to have been affected by a data breach at the US company Blackbaud.



We take our data protection responsibilities very seriously and have launched our own investigation. Based on what we know so far, we do not believe there to be a significant risk to constituents – nor any need for our constituents to take any action at this time.

Please see www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news/blackbaud-data-breach for more information.

Emma Pooley sets new Everesting record

Olympic silver medallist and alumna Emma Pooley (2001) has broken the women's record for the Everesting challenge, completing the 8,848-metre climb in eight hours and 53 minutes. She beat the previous record by 15 minutes to become the first woman to finish in under nine hours.

The Everesting concept is to pick any climb, anywhere in the world, and ride or run the climb repeatedly until a total climb of 8,848m, the height of Mount Everest, has been reached.

Emma did 10 repeats up the Haggeneegg in Switzerland to achieve the 8.848m. Haggeneegg is 6.7km with an average gradient of 13 per cent.



© RICHARD JACKSON GLOBAL VIEW PHOTOGRAPHY



CAM TOGETHER AS ONE
SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2020



The May Week Mega Event

Following the cancellation of May Week, Cambridge's May Week Alternative, RAG (the main student fundraising body), and the May Ball Presidents' Committee came together to put on the May Week Mega Event on Sunday 28 June.

Jacob (2018), a member of the May Week committee, said: "This online celebration of May Week is being run by Cambridge students (including some from Trinity Hall) for all of Cambridge to raise funds for causes on the frontline of the fight against current and future pandemics."

An estimated 10,000 viewers joined the live-streamed evening of entertainment, which featured well known acts from

across Cambridge and beyond, and contributions from more than 500 staff, students and alumni from across the University – including Trinity Hall. The event partnered with The Big MAC campaign to raise money for two Cambridge-based causes central to the fight against coronavirus and future pandemics: Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust and the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk.

LinkHall is one year old

August 2019 saw the arrival of our brand new online alumni platform, LinkHall. A replacement for our previous outdated system, LinkHall is a modern take on alumni networking.

It allows users to interact with their fellow alumni across the generations and subjects, provide and search for career and volunteering opportunities, post their businesses and take advantage of exclusive offers to the community, and create interest-specific groups.

LinkHall was developed in partnership with Graduway, the global provider of



alumni networking and management software. We are thrilled that more than 1,300 members of the Trinity Hall community have signed up to the platform, 54 per cent of which are willing to offer their help. Nearly 50 per cent of LinkHall members are willing to mentor

and offer informal careers advice to students and alumni, no matter how far into their fields of expertise they are.

We invite you to access [LinkHall](https://linkhall.org) and make use of all the benefits we are delighted to offer to the Trinity Hall community.

Get In Cambridge

The second phase of the 'Get In Cambridge' campaign – created to help widen the University's pool of applicants by giving Year 11 and 12 pupils the facts about studying at Cambridge – launched in August.

In a series of new films, 10 Cambridge students, who went to state schools in London, Manchester and Bradford compare the perceptions they had of the University as sixth formers with the reality of their lived experience. The students are from the same communities the new videos are aimed at, and the films include footage shot by the students themselves.

The series has been funded philanthropically by alumni from colleges including Trinity Hall.



The Harding Challenge

At the start of the last academic year, the Vice-Chancellor announced the Harding Challenge, made possible by part of a £100 million gift from David and Claudia Harding.

The Hardings' vision is to encourage new donors to collegiate Cambridge and support students in greatest need across the University. During the last financial year all donations towards student support from new donors unlocked an equivalent amount that went into a special intercollegiate fund, to help those undergraduates in greatest need of support across the University.

For this financial year, the eligibility criteria have been expanded such that anyone giving to student support who has not made a donation to collegiate Cambridge in the past two financial years is eligible. Making a donation to student support at Trinity Hall this year,

will unlock further funding and double the impact of your gift.

For more information contact development.director@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Make a donation via:
trinhall.cam.ac.uk/onlinegiving

Harding Challenge data
(recorded gifts to 31/07/20)



Total value of
qualifying gifts:
£3.4M



Median
gift size:
£73

Virtual inclusive boat race

As is the tradition, Cambridge and Oxford went head to head during the summer in a boat race. However, the 2020 race differed in two key ways: the race was inclusive, featuring female, male, disabled and able-bodied athletes, and was not on the river but on ergometers in the rowers' homes.



Jan Helmich (2016)

Each team was made up of eight rowers, collectively rowing 6.8km. The first two rowers started, crossing a finish line at 500m, then the second rowers started, continuing for all eight sets of rowers. The Cambridge team featured our own Paralympic hopeful Jan Helmich (2016), who you may remember from the last issue of Front Court. The winning team? Cambridge, beating Oxford by two and a half seconds.

The race supported Power2Inspire, founded by Trinity Hall alumnus John Willis (1979) to embed inclusive sport in communities by delivering events for everyone to enjoy.



College closure

The College is closed to visitors until further notice. Conferences and events have been cancelled and all event organisers have been contacted by the Conference team about rebooking and the refund policy. External events and room bookings will not resume until 2021 at the earliest.

Hesperides Society revival

Dormant for some 40 years, the Hesperides society is to be re-founded by a number of English students on the centenary of its inception, as a College community for those with a love of literature, and we would like to invite any past Hesperideans to come forward so that we might learn more of the society's past and involve them in its future.

"In a time of social convulsion, the significance of literature as a means of understanding is more pertinent than ever, and so it only seems right that we bring back the Hesperides – a society with a legacy involving T.S. Eliot and George Steiner – as an open platform for literary creativity and discussion."

Matt Bessant (2019),
Hesperides Society President

Send you recollections to Matt:
mr88@cam.ac.uk



£117,129.68 raised so far

163
donors

An Extraordinary DIFFERENCE

Trinity Hall has increased its support to students during these challenging times with the help of collective giving.

We use the term "extraordinary" to refer to the times since the COVID-19 pandemic started. It is true not only for how our lives and sense of normality have been affected, but also for the renewed sense of duty and community it has engendered. We are very thankful to our donors for their continued support during these challenging times. Our mission and commitment to provide the fullest possible education and pastoral support to our students remain as important as ever, and without your help we simply wouldn't be able to achieve it.

Through our appeal to support students at this time we have raised £117,129.68* since May 2020. The funds raised have been and will continue to be used to help a number of students facing financial difficulties. It has covered unexpected travel expenses and helped provide better conditions in which to remote study effectively. It has also eased overwhelming concerns about money for students who have seen their financial situation drastically changed as a result of the health crisis.

With lockdown measures in place, the pandemic affected College examinations, with only final-year students being formally classed. Even so, reports from Tutors and Directors of Studies indicate that the results received are some of the strongest to date, with several students receiving University prizes and other endorsements of outstanding performances. Your gifts have helped us look after our students' wellbeing and ensure that they had the resources needed to continue with their degree and reach their full potential.

We're looking at a "new normal" going into the next academic year, with students returning to College to attend a mix of in-person and virtual classes. Even though the future is looking brighter, there still is the possibility of further lockdowns and, yes, the truth is that these remain extraordinary times. We must ensure we can continue to provide the help students need, and ask you to consider donating for the first time or again, if you can. Collectively, any donation that you can give will continue to make a huge difference.

33
first time donors

Youngest donor
20

Oldest donor
93

1 amazing gift of
£25,000



Telethon Caller, Dr Matt Samson (2013)

This year we held our first Virtual Telephone Campaign, which enabled our small team of callers to have great conversations with more than 200 alumni and raised an incredible £38,000 to support our students at this difficult time.

*correct as of 12 August 2020

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“I would like to convey our deep gratitude to those donors who have assisted us in financing our pandemic support measures for students, both with direct contributions to the relief fund and indications to the Development team of their agreement to use existing funds for this purpose.”

Tim Harvey-Samuel, Bursar

LEGACY GIFTS

Legacies from past generations have nurtured Trinity Hall and its commitment to outstanding scholarship, education and research. Bequests, whether large or modest, enable us to enhance Trinity Hall's fabric, to support its teaching and research and to benefit both current and future generations. Former Master, Nathanael Lloyd, left a gift in his will which funded the creation of the Front Court we love today. Over 670 years, legacies have strengthened our endowment and consequently our ability to invest in both exceptional teaching and financial support for our students.

Last year we had to subsidise the cost of teaching by £4 million from the endowment, and that was before we provided bursaries and studentships. Financial pressure is certain to increase as the world recovers from the pandemic. We anticipate a need for more financial support for our students, who suffer hardship or come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“I gained so much from my time at the Hall and I have no doubt that I would not be in the position I am today were I not to have had such a marvellous opportunity to be part of such a special community.”

James Thomas (2002),
Legator and JCR President 2004–5

We are pleased to be partnering with the National Free Wills Network for October to December 2020. This initiative enables us to pay for a simple will for our alumni over the age of 55 at a special discretionary rate. Whilst there is no obligation to remember Trinity Hall, we hope you will consider including a charitable bequest in our favour.

In leaving a legacy to Trinity Hall you are investing in its future with a gift that will endure beyond a lifetime.

“I would like to share my sincerest thanks to those whose donations made my research possible. During the incredibly uncertain times of COVID-19, it has become increasingly clear to me what a privilege it is to have the security that this studentship affords. Recent events have also reaffirmed my belief in the importance of answering the sort of ethical questions my doctoral work focuses on. To engage in these discussions during this time is both a challenging and important opportunity.”

PhD Philosophy student
who received support from the Strangeways Fund

“I come from a single-parent household. The bursary is by far one of the best ways in which students from working-class backgrounds can get a footing at Cambridge. Having both academic and financial support has allowed me to flourish in my first year, putting aside a set of financial worries in order to focus on my studies.”

Human, Social, and Political Sciences student
who received a Top-up Bursary

“Everything this donation has done for me has morphed out of the exchange value of currency and into friendships, creative work, community and peace of mind. Your donation has meant that I could stop thinking about jobs, and start thinking about my career. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every person who invests in young people – I believe we are worth it, and it is heartening to know that others believe so too.”

English Literature student
who received a Cambridge Bursary

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF the Black & Ethnic Minorities Officer

A day in my life at Trinity Hall consists of the usual: reading, prepping my lecture notes and hanging out with friends but there is also a large part of my day that is dedicated to access work, either through mentoring or thinking of initiatives to demolish glass ceilings.

Trinity Hall's inaugural BME Open Day is not only the product of weeks of planning but also years of a young girl overcoming self-doubt and attempting to challenge structural barriers surrounding black and minority ethnic prospective students. Therefore, I think it's important to start at the beginning.

My earliest encounter with Cambridge University was through glossy application brochures. As my fingers turned their pages, I sighed longingly at how pretty yet unreachable it seemed. However, my access was not only stopped by the lamination of the glossy pages, but also stifled by societal expectations. A teacher had inquired about my university aspirations and I answered "Cambridge" under my breath, hoping it would go unnoticed. She shook her head in disbelief and retorted, "Those types of institutions are not meant for black people." It also did not help my case that I often came across tabloid headlines

highlighting less than satisfactory diversity statistics at Oxbridge. I heeded her words and swore off applying until I attended the University Open Day. I sparked a conversation with one of the lecturers who taught my chosen course. As the conversation was drawing to a close, he concluded with, "I have no doubt that I will see you next year." This moment was pivotal for me. Someone within the hallowed walls of Cambridge had faith in me. I desired to replicate this impact by launching Trinity Hall's inaugural Open Day, with the support of the Schools Liaison Officer, to show prospective students that everyone ranging from current students to the admissions team have faith in them but more importantly are willing to support them through the application process.

The BME Open Day consisted of a virtual tour, a student panel, an admissions Q&A, speeches by the presidents of the CUSU BME campaign and African Caribbean Society respectively and subject workshops in these four areas: Arts/ Humanities, Social Sciences and Physical and Biological Sciences. During the event, the enthusiasm of the attendees was made apparent by the speed at which their questions were coming in. I am certain that the Q&A button must have experienced some digital wear and tear due to how frequently it was used. The attendees reacted positively to the subject breakout rooms as they were proactive with engaging with the material presented before them.

My earliest encounter with Cambridge University was through glossy application brochures. As my fingers turned their pages, I sighed longingly at how pretty yet unreachable it seemed.

Tears welled up in my eyes when I was informed by the Schools Liaison Officer that more than 230 students had registered for the event. Afterwards, I received positive feedback from the students who had attended. They described how they had either not been supported by their schools or their personal discouragement had held them back but whose experience at the event had left a lasting positive impact.

Maro Okiti (2019)
JCR Black & Ethnic Minorities Officer



JOIN US ON YOUTUBE

Instead of our usual face-to-face events and visits to College, we have had fun with video to bring you views of College, Fellows' research, music and events. Find us on [YouTube](#) to watch our recent videos.



VIRTUAL EVENTS

This spring and summer, in lieu of being able to see you in person, we brought Trinity Hall to you, in your homes.

On 28 May, we introduced the first Trinity Hall Virtual Quiz, which was open to the entire College community. After 10 weeks in lockdown, we were delighted to share an evening with 119 other households. We were joined by alumni spanning seven decades, students, Fellows, staff and friends, with seven countries represented.

The second quiz took place on 18 June followed by our third and final Thursday night quiz on 16 July. It was great to see many of the same names return battling it out to reach the top 10 leaderboard! Finally, to top off our trivia fun, we hosted a Family Quiz on Friday 24 July. With questions ranging from Disney to cartoon characters to animals, this quiz definitely provided some family entertainment at the start of the holidays!

Thank you to everyone who joined us.



Events 2021

The majority of events planned for 2020 have now been rescheduled to dates in 2021. If your year group is due back for an event next year, invitations and booking details will be sent to you in plenty of time. Please keep an eye on: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni/events/ as events will be listed on the website once they are confirmed.

Emma and Liz
Events Officer and Alumni Officer

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events
alumnioffice@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Seeing the beginning

On Tuesday 28 July we hosted our first webinar 'Seeing the beginning' by Dr Blake Sherwin (2004), University Lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP).

In this talk, Blake discussed how, by studying the cosmic microwave background, we can find out about the origin, composition and ultimate fate of our universe. He also explained some

of the current research in this field, such as the search for primordial gravitational waves that would give new insights into what happened in the very beginning.

Blake delivered a truly fascinating talk which was viewed live by over 70 members of the Trinity Hall community.

For those of you who missed it, the recording is available on our YouTube channel 'Trinity Hall Cambridge'.

THANK YOU

Donations are vital in enabling us to offer financial support to our undergraduates and postgraduates. We are very grateful for the generosity of our alumni and friends, which makes a huge difference to the lives of our students. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

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