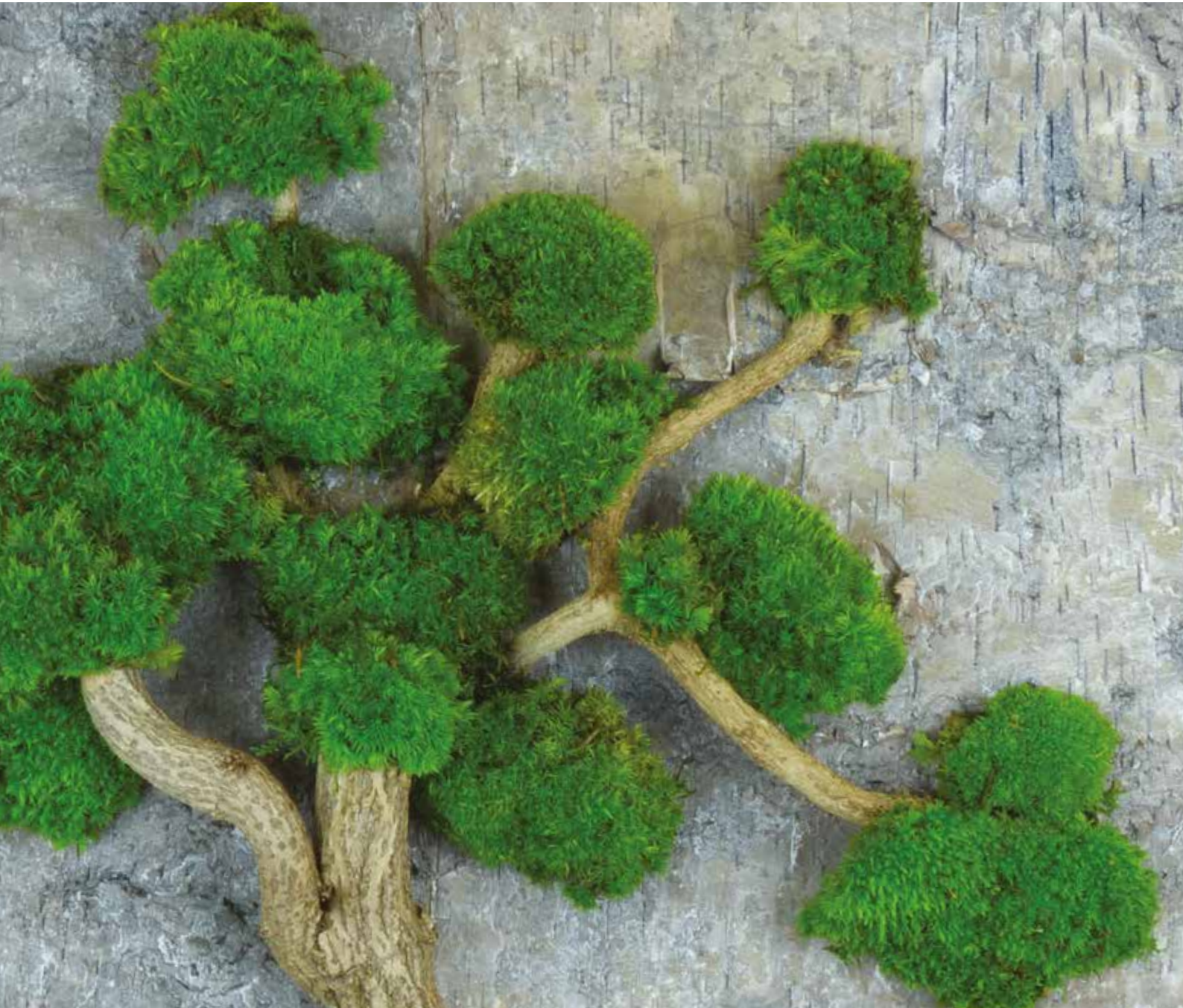


Issue 38 | Autumn 2023

# Front Court

Trinity Hall Cambridge



## HIGHLIGHTS

Spaces and  
sustainability

The floral revival  
of a materials  
scientist

Reformations



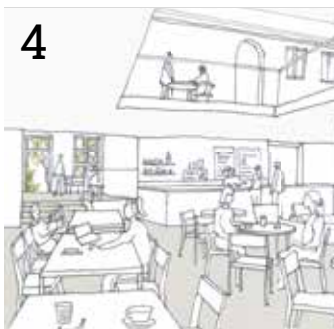
TRINITY HALL  
CAMBRIDGE



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## Editors

Kathryn Martin-Chambers and  
Dr Rachelle Stretch

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Cover image: Floral design created from preserved moss and dried plant materials.  
© Dr Veronica Franklin

One of the undoubted pleasures of my first year as Master has been meeting alumni all over the UK – indeed all over the world – and from all generations. It's been a particular joy to meet people I knew as an undergraduate – I swear we all look just the same – as well as those from previous and later years. So many stories and adventures and friendships and great loyalty towards Trinity Hall.

# Message from the Master

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by Mary Hockaday | Master

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I frequently encourage alumni to come back again and exercise dining rights. It's become clear we could explain how a bit more clearly, so later in this edition (page 7) there's an explainer. It really is simple. Come on your own or with friends and you'll be very welcome to join the company on High Table. We always enjoy seeing you.

One important part of any Michaelmas term is welcoming Honorary Fellows. This year we honour five extraordinary individuals including one *in absentia*. Vladimir Kara-Murza (2000, History) is currently in jail in Russia for opposing Putin's regime. There's little we can do except shine a light

on his courage. Later in the term, we're holding a panel discussion in partnership with the Centre for Geopolitics, 'Understanding Putin's Russia'. Throughout this coming year, some of our events will take a political hue, drawing on the expertise of Fellows and alumni, as we head towards US and UK elections in 2024. Our Alumni & Development Office will be sharing details in due course.

Meanwhile, do read the Bursar's introduction to the Masterplan. This is a strategic review of our buildings and spaces across all our sites by architects Haworth Tompkins and environmental consultants, Expedition. We are thinking about the spaces and places we need for our whole community – students, staff and Fellows – in the years ahead. The context is the future of learning and the need to make an energy transition so we play our part in meeting the climate challenge. In time, it will lead to more detailed plans which we'll share with you in due course. Meanwhile, Tim's article on page 4 is a great introduction to this impressive piece of work.

There's plenty more to enjoy within. Dr Partner's thoughtful artistry is wonderful. Equally inspiring is the work of THEN, our entrepreneurs network, particularly in how it supports the wider social enterprise community as well as our own students.

You'll see in the News section that we're welcoming a new Senior Tutor, Dr Michael Sutherland, who succeeds Dr Clare Jackson, after a transformational decade in the post. Dr Sutherland is a physicist and former Director of Admissions at Corpus Christi College. He's just back from a holiday navigating the rapids of Canada by canoe. He'll find a warm Trinity Hall welcome as he helps us develop our academic strategy so we can make sure our students continue to achieve academic excellence – as well as absorb something of Michael's spirit of adventure.





# Spaces and sustainability

## The next decade of estate planning

by Tim Harvey-Samuel | Bursar

In July 2023 the College approved an Estate Masterplan representing the culmination of a year-long exercise with our chosen architects, Haworth Tompkins, and environmental consultants, Expedition.

I am enormously grateful to Glen Sharp, who, as Junior Bursar, has led the very considerable internal work in assembling the plan. The Estate Masterplan aims to:

- set out the key challenges and opportunities facing the College in its Estate management and define consequent priorities,
- optimise facilities and layout for the Central, Wychfield and Thompson's Lane sites,

> Aerial drawing of Central Site. Cherry Tree Court highlighted in red as a proposed area of redevelopment

- reduce carbon emissions across the estate by maximising our use of renewable energy sources and improving the fabric of our buildings,
- and present early design proposals in response to the overall Masterplan findings.

The Masterplan exercise has involved iterative consultation involving students, operational staff and Fellows to build consensus around an exciting vision for Trinity Hall's future which will underpin much of our planning and fundraising over the next decade. It celebrates the physical and experiential identity of the College, recognising the intimate scale, diverse architecture, and characterful gardens that combine to make it "the prettiest corner of the world" to Henry James and many others. The study is underpinned by a holistic approach to sustainability that addresses opportunities for energy efficiency and de-carbonisation, as well as the potential for ecological and social enhancements across the Estate.



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To improve Central Site and provide what the College now needs, the Masterplan proposals include a new all-day café and bar available to the whole College community and suitable for social and group study, as well as a multi-functional studio and performance space for performances, lectures, screenings and conference events. Associated rehearsal and reception space would increase the flexibility of these areas, and the JCR could be relocated nearer to this set of buildings. Creative design can also provide vastly enhanced exhibition, seminar, and supervision space in this area (approximately corresponding to the current location of Cherry Tree Court), as well as improved connectivity to the Old Library. The College's kitchens are nearing the end of their useful life and require rebuilding to improve working areas, service flows and environmental performance.

Despite a smaller residential footprint than Wychfield, the traditional role of Central Site as the College's social, cultural and dining hub, combined with the energy performance of its historic fabric, make it the most challenging of our sites to improve in terms of environmental performance. Our sustainability plan envisages deployment of a variety of energy sources, including ground, air and water-source heat pumps, also solar photovoltaics, together with essential and appropriate fabric improvements in order to reduce the College's emissions significantly as we pivot towards less carbon-intensive energy sources.

> Sketch view of potential new Cafe Space in Cherry Tree Court, with connections through to North Court

At Wychfield and Thompson's Lane, the emphasis will be on optimising the environmental impact of existing buildings by extensive use of retrofit technology wherever possible, bearing the lifespan of individual buildings in mind. Opportunities also exist to improve social cohesion at Wychfield by providing a more functional pavilion building with better exercise facilities as well as a club house/common room area. Wychfield also provides rich opportunities for various forms of low-carbon energy infrastructure and improved biodiversity. The anticipated return to College use of our Bateman Street residences in 2024 will provide essential extra accommodation capacity as we seek to enact these improvements in the coming years.

A phasing and funding exercise is now underway and will develop in the coming academic year. We look forward enormously to sharing our vision with alumni as our plans progress.



## IN MEMORIAM

# Dr Christopher Padfield

27 August 1949 – 3 June 2023

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by Professor Simon Guest | based on a tribute by Professor Lord Mair

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Christopher Padfield came to Cambridge as an undergraduate reading Engineering at Fitzwilliam College in 1968. He lived his undergraduate life with great gusto, achieving a First in the Tripos, rowing in the First Boat, and going off on strenuous mountaineering expeditions. In his third year, he did a project with Professor Jacques Heyman showing why the precarious-looking Clare Bridge is not falling down, winning the Gold Medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the resultant paper, a hugely impressive achievement, and especially unusual for an undergraduate. The analysis is as pertinent now as it was when published in 1972.

Christopher stayed on at Cambridge for a fourth year to do the Philosophy Tripos Part II, then worked for two years in for Bos Kalis, a Dutch engineering civil engineering contractor, before returning to Cambridge to do a PhD. Here he worked with Professor Andrew Schofield, doing pioneering work with the new eight-metre diameter underground centrifuge that had just been built in Cambridge.

Following his PhD, Christopher joined the engineering consultancy Scott Wilson. He demonstrated his considerable versatility by co-authoring authoritative guides for industry on dams in Nigeria and Senegal (where he lived with his wife Nicky) and on roads in Nepal (where he lived with Nicky and their baby daughter Eleanor). His extraordinary skills were soon recognised when he became the Managing Director of MASCOTT, a new subsidiary of Scott Wilson, specialising in sustainable rural development, principally in Africa. Here Christopher was well ahead of his time – sustainable development was only just beginning to become prominent.

In 1988 (now also with children Mike and Rick), Christopher had a major change of direction, and moved to Cambridge. Christopher had been appointed Director of the newly

formed Cambridge Programme for Industry (CPI), based in the Engineering Department, and became a Fellow of Trinity Hall. At the CPI, Christopher rapidly built up from scratch a world-class professional education capability. With his characteristic drive, he set up CPI courses for people in business and industry to learn about the latest research at Cambridge. Christopher later applied his creative mind to many aspects of the University's research strategy and organisation; he was ideally placed to give oral evidence on the subject to a House of Lords Select Committee Inquiry on Science, Engineering and Technology in a Modern Economy.



At Trinity Hall, Christopher became Director of Studies for Part II of the Engineering Tripos. Generations of engineering students have appreciated his sage advice as they specialised in their education and thought about their transition to subsequent careers. He also became Graduate Tutor and held this post for 16 years. He cared deeply for the postgraduate students and was a powerful advocate for them in the College. He played a major role in the expansion of postgraduate accommodation at Wychfield. In 2016, Christopher became an Emeritus Fellow of Trinity Hall. When his wife Nicky became Master of Fitzwilliam College, he played an important supporting role.

Christopher's versatility was extraordinary. He was the only non-French Governing Council Member of the celebrated École des Mines in Paris; was a Governor of Long Road Sixth Form College; a Trustee and later Chairman of Relate, Cambridge; chaired the Independent Monitoring Board of His Majesty's Prison at Bedford; and was chair of the national Association of Members of Independent Monitoring Boards.

Christopher Padfield cared deeply about the communities of which he was a part, and we were very fortunate that Trinity Hall was one of those.

# Your Dining Rights

Did you know you can dine at High Table, for free?

You have lots of benefits as Trinity Hall alumni, but one of the most nostalgic must be dining at High Table. We would love to welcome you back to College to enjoy a delicious meal and wine, free of charge.

## The important information

### Who can dine?

- Undergraduate alumni who have received, or have been invited to receive, their MA.
- Postgraduate alumni who have received written degree approval from the relevant Degree Committee.
- Post-doctoral Research Associates (PDRAs) who have completed their time as a PDRA.

### When can I dine?

You can dine at High Table up to three times a year on Thursdays or Sundays during Full Term. You can bring a guest in place of one of these occasions.

Check the website for High Table dining dates in Michaelmas term: [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/dining-rights](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/dining-rights).

Drinks are from 7pm in the SCR and dinner is served at 7.30pm in the Dining Hall.

### What should I wear?

The dress code for High Table is smart. If you are not a resident member of College you do not need to wear a gown.

### How do I book?

You can book to dine at High Table by completing our short online form at [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/high-table](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/high-table).

Please submit your form no later than 11am on Thursdays to dine that evening, and no later than 11am on Fridays to dine on Sundays.

Please note dining is subject to availability and the presence of the Master or a Fellow.

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You can see all your Trinity Hall alumni benefits, including Dining Rights information, on the website at [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni-benefits](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/alumni-benefits).



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## ALUMNI HOBBIES

# The floral revival of a materials scientist

by Dr Veronica Franklin | 2009, Micro & Nanotechnology



When I started my postgraduate studies back in Singapore, I worked long hours in the lab. Even when I left the office, I was still thinking about my research. To switch my mind away from research, I had to find something else that I could be just as enthusiastic about.

I remembered receiving my first bouquet of flowers and feeling elated: I was in awe of their beauty and hoped that when someone else received a gift of flowers, they would be just as happy. I started putting flowers together, trusting in my own artistic skills. Frustratingly, I was not able to make them look as good as the pictures in magazines.

So, I enrolled in a floral school where I learnt basic floral arrangement techniques in the evenings. It was one of my best decisions as it provided a solid foundation for my hobby. Though I started by making commercial-style arrangements, I began to venture into designs that were more expressive and experimental.

I was fortunate enough to be able to pursue my PhD in Cambridge. I was inspired by spring in Cambridge and made an arrangement at my College apartment on Bateman Street.

Being a student meant finances were tight, so I tried to find materials in seasonal abundance, such as a bouquet made from dropped autumn leaves.

After graduation, I worked as a scientist in leather recycling. Using scrapped recycled materials, I made a Christmas tree for my company. Having a job also meant I was able to invest more money in my hobby. Whenever I found the opportunity, I would go to the floral wholesaler where I could get the choicest pick of fresh seasonal flowers. I gifted many of the fresh floral arrangements to friends and family.

As much as I enjoy working with fresh flowers, their relatively short lifespan limits the scope of exploring the design form, so I started working with preserved moss and dried plant materials. It was great as I had the flexibility to start, stop and continue working on a design, fitting it around my other activities without worrying about the plants withering.

> Best In Show Winner, 'Weird and Wonderful – A Floral Animal'

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> Top to bottom:  
 Figure 1: Spring-inspired arrangement created in Bateman Street  
 Figure 2: Bouquet made from dropped autumn leaves  
 Figure 3: Dried floral arrangement was inspired by the rare flowering of the Titan Arum at the Botanic Garden  
 Figure 4: Woven nest made from dried plant materials around Easter

A friend then suggested that I entered a Floral Art Competition at The National Flower Show 2023. The theme was 'Weird and Wonderful – A Floral Animal'. I thought it might be fun to work to a brief and, 80 hours later, I could not have been more pleased with the result! The process was very experimental with a lot of thought put into the selection and placement of plant material.

This design won the Best in Show. I give credit to my training as a materials scientist. The analytical way of determining the suitability of materials is based on many factors such as manoeuvrability, proportion, balance, colour compatibility and texture. Many of the pieces do not look like their initial sketches as the design evolves with the natural curves and forms of the plant materials. My favourite part of floral art is at the end of the whole process when I can sit back and enjoy the entire piece of work.

I have just discovered the versatility of working with dried wheat, barley and lavender. The ability to create movement within these materials is very exciting and I hope to continue to discover new ways of using different plant materials.

From the moment I received that first bouquet and it sparked my love of flowers, this hobby has evolved in a way that I did not expect. It has given me opportunities to express myself through floral art and to follow a community of artists and be inspired by their work.

> Cinnamon-scented Christmas tree made from pinecones



## RESEARCH

# Reformations:

## an exhibition in Trinity Hall's Old Library

by Dr Jane Partner | Fellow in English

As part of Trinity Hall's 2022–23 Arts Festival, I made a series of new artworks to be exhibited in the college's Old Library, where they created a dialogue with the building's history and architecture.



The works also responded to some of the beautiful 16th- and 17th-century books from the library's collection, which were included in the displays. This exhibition was conceived as a celebration of our magnificent Elizabethan chained library and its 400 years of use by generations of fellows and students.

The objects explore the changing history of embodied encounters with material texts, presenting a journey from the paper of renaissance books to the glass of contemporary touchscreens.

The theme of 'Reformations' encompasses both the transformation of ideas and the recycling and re-forming of materials. It also makes reference to the originating period of Trinity Hall's Old Library, which was built in the wake of the Reformation. I chose to make all the pieces out of recycled silver and other reused materials to reflect on deep histories of matter in the face of the environmental crisis.

These associations came together in the first piece, 'M E T A M O R P H O S I S', which has also been exhibited in a show about wearable words at the Baltimore Jewellery Centre in the US. I framed original printed letters that were once part of early modern books and reconfigured them into a word that expresses their extraordinary material lifecycle. These letters began as flax plants before being spun into thread and woven into garments. When the linen wore out, it was pulped into rag paper before being bound into books.



> Butterfly specimen found preserved beside its image inside England's earliest book on insects



> Reliquary: Daughter of Memory



> Memory House: Chained Library







MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# Entrepreneurship and innovation

The Trinity Hall Entrepreneurs Network celebrates five years

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by Oleno Netto | Alumni & Donor Relations Officer

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Since it was launched in 2018, the Trinity Hall Entrepreneurs Network (THEN) has supported individuals, projects and start-ups in the United Kingdom – with potential worldwide impact.

THEN was launched to increase student awareness of entrepreneurship by promoting and hosting events and competitions, as well as by providing support to undergraduates, postgraduates, postdocs and alumni looking to commercialise their ideas.

Through its initiatives, THEN has supported:

- 1 dedicated online community, LinkHall
- 21 events
- 55 individuals, financially
- 74 mentoring relationships

## Practical support

All year round, members of the Trinity Hall community can network and exchange informal careers advice on LinkHall; access opportunities and relevant news in the THEN groups on LinkedIn and on LinkHall; as well as join in-person and online events with a focus on entrepreneurship.

## Financial support

For those starting out and pursuing new ideas, THEN offers two awards generously supported by Trinity Hall alumni:

### Experiencing Entrepreneurship Award

This award assists students and postdocs who are undertaking internships with start-ups, travel related to enterprise, and/or relevant training.

Up to £10,000 is available each year. Each successful applicant can be awarded up to £1,500 towards living costs or £1,000 towards travel.

2022/23 awards supported:

- An educational project for Jamaican diasporic youth.
- Open-source hardware and software for automating blood smears and stains.
- Fees for EnterpriseTECH and the Cambridge Social Ventures Weekend at the Cambridge Judge Business School (CJBS).



## Lee-Yung Family Fund for Entrepreneurship

This award assists those with a Trinity Hall connection – a student, a postdoc, an alumnus/a within five years of graduation, or a student supervised by or working with a College Fellow – who are looking for additional funding to help translate ideas into useful products and services.

Yearly, £1,000 is distributed across up to five teams or individuals, with another £1,000 awarded at the end of the year

to the one whose concept or product shows the most promise.

2022/23 funds supported:

- A circular fashion brand.
- A non-invasive QBET spectroscopy-based test to detect stage 1 cancer in India.
- A digital care platform supporting families caring for children with additional needs by providing care tools and access to experts.

For established social innovators, we partner with the Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation at the CJBS to offer the:

## Cambridge Social Innovation Prize

This prize rewards extraordinary business leaders whose work creates social change in the UK, whether in a local community or nationally. Entrepreneurs or intrapreneurs with a track record of five to ten years of social impact through business, and ambitious plans for the future are eligible to apply.

Every year, up to four winners receive £10,000 each to develop the skills, resources and networks they need to scale the impact of their work, develop a new project, or pursue new possibilities.

2023 winners' projects:

- A social enterprise working to create impactful supply chains.
- A community interest company that provides quality daycare for older people with mild to moderate dementia.
- A social enterprise that trains people who have experienced homelessness to be tour guides in the cities they live in.
- A social enterprise that develops young people into future leaders through skill development and professional mentoring.
- An independent news network focusing on the work of changemakers across business, civil society, philanthropy, government and public services.

## Thank you

We are very thankful to Graham Ross Russell (1953) for his generous support, which has enabled us to create THEN and maintain its initiatives; to Aaron Lee (1993) for his support of the *Lee-Yung Family Fund for Entrepreneurship*; to the judges of the funds offered; to the members of the THEN Steering Group; and to all alumni who have given us their time, acting as mentors and participating in events.



> Elise Jenkins speaking at the Wolfson Enterprise Competition 2022

© Wolfson College

## CASE STUDY

"I am the co-founder of Opto Biosystems, a start-up which develops minimally invasive implants that provide unparalleled insights into the human body. I was fortunate to travel to Singapore in early January 2023 to facilitate and consolidate a new collaboration between Opto and the hospitals in Singapore.

During this time in Singapore, amongst meetings with surgeons and a visit to the National University of Singapore Shih-Cheng Yen, I managed to connect with some Cambridge alumni. I received lots of advice and support regarding start-ups and private funding. We also discussed the eco-system in Singapore and strategies for long-term funding through government and grants.

The trip helped me increase my network and reach beyond the EU and US. It offered insights to me as an entrepreneur and an engineer, and helped me learn to speak the language of both – a delicate balance. I am incredibly grateful that the award could assist with the costs associated with this trip. Thank you for the opportunity."

**Dr Elise Jenkins (2019, Engineering postgraduate), 2021–22 Experiencing Entrepreneurship Award winner.**

**Opto Biosystems won the Wolfson Enterprise Competition 2022, and launched with £1.85 million pre-seed funding in March 2023.**



# News in Brief

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



> Professor Ian Wilkinson

## RESEARCH

### 'WORLD-FIRST' PRE-ECLAMPSIA STUDY

Professor Ian Wilkinson, Fellow in Medicine, will lead the POPPY study (Preconception to pOst-partum study of cardiometabolic health in Primigravid PregnancY) at Addenbrooke's Hospital to understand why some mothers develop pre-eclampsia and placental complications during pregnancy and whether it affects their long-term health.



@ istock/Tanya Strytsyna

## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows 2023

Five extraordinary individuals have been chosen as Honorary Fellows of Trinity Hall. They are:



**Vladimir Kara-Murza** – alumnus (2000, History) and prominent human-rights activist who is currently imprisoned by the Russian authorities.



**Professor Jane Clarke** – former Trinity Hall Fellow, President of Wolfson College and award-winning chemist.



**The Honourable Mrs Justice Julia Dias** – alumna (1978, Law) and first female Trinity Hall member to become a High Court Judge.



**Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta** – former Trinity Hall Fellow and one of the world's most influential environmental economists.



**Professor Philip Pettit** – former Trinity Hall Fellow and renowned political philosopher.

They will be formally admitted to their honorary fellowships at a ceremony in the College in October. Mr Kara-Murza will not be able to attend due to his imprisonment by the Russian authorities.



## SCHOLARS

# Inaugural Cambridge Laidlaw Scholars

Four Trinity Hall undergraduates join seven other Scholars from Newnham, Murray Edwards and Fitzwilliam on the inaugural Laidlaw Scholars Leadership and Research Programme at Cambridge. The Programme invests in talented and motivated undergraduates, aiming to create an international network of diverse, passionate and ethical leaders who will reinvest their skills, knowledge and experience to help others succeed. Scholars Ahmed, Lucia, Jack and Lucas will complete research projects on their chosen topics and apply their leadership training in practice.



> Trinity Hall Laidlaw Scholars with the Master



> Dr Michael Sutherland

## STAFF

# Our new Senior Tutor

After a successful 10 years in post, Dr Clare Jackson has handed over the reins of Senior Tutor to Dr Michael Sutherland, a Canadian-born physicist who has worked in Cambridge for almost 20 years. Dr Sutherland has been Tutor in undergraduate and postgraduate admissions and Director of Studies in Natural Sciences at Corpus Christi College. His research involves the experimental study of metallic materials where electrons interact strongly through quantum effects. Dr Jackson remains at Trinity Hall as a hugely valued Fellow and Tutor.

## UNIVERSITY

# General Admission 2023

Family, friends and members of Trinity Hall gathered on 29 June to celebrate the achievements of our 2023 cohort as they marked the end of their studies. The Alumni & Development team greeted our newest alumni by Latham Lawn when they returned from the Senate House.

> Young alumni in Front Court



You can read all these news articles in full, plus our latest news, on our website: [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news](https://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news)

# Diary dates

## Reunions and Anniversaries 2024

2024

**23 March**

MA Ceremony and  
Reunion for 2016  
undergraduates

**6 April**

10th Anniversary dinner  
for 2014

**27 April**

MA Ceremony and  
Reunion for 2017  
undergraduates

**6 July**

50th Anniversary for 1974



© Liz Greenhalgh Photography

**13 July**

Reunion for 1980, 1981,  
1982 & 1983



© Liz Greenhalgh Photography

**7 September**

Reunion for 2005 & 2006

**14 September**

25th Anniversary dinner  
for 1999

**26 September**

60th Anniversary lunch  
for 1964

See all upcoming events,  
including our series of  
politics themed events,  
at: [trinhall.cam.ac.uk/  
events](http://trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events).



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