

FRONT COURT

Trinity Hall Cambridge



HIGHLIGHTS

Regency
cuisine

Inspiring inclusion
and empowerment

'closed for
business'



TRINITY
HALL
CAMBRIDGE

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Design and Print Management:
H2 Associates, Cambridge



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Cover image: John Willis and training partner, Ali, on the River Cam.
Page 8 Illustration: © istockcom/ Grafissimo

It's election year, in the UK and many other parts of the world. More than four billion people from the US to India to Indonesia have the chance to go to the ballot box in 2024. I've really been enjoying the Trinity Hall *Spotlights: Politics* events. Two alumni joined by a Labour peer – Lee David Evans (2010), Sandy Walkington (1972) and Glenys Thornton – were inspiring about what motivated them to go into politics and they encouraged the students in the audience to get involved.

Message from the Master

by Mary Hockaday | Master

The Politics Society is firing on all cylinders, with talks by alumnus Lord Christopher Geidt (1991) and Trinity Hall Fellow Tristen Naylor, so I'm sure you'll enjoy the interview with the current president, Erin Mayhew (2022). You can watch our recent *Spotlights: Politics* events on our YouTube channel [@TrinityHallCambridge](#).

I know politics isn't for everyone and it can feel particularly divisive at the moment, but these events demonstrate, I hope, that people's opposing views and different interests can be expressed in a robust but constructive way.

Talking of elections, the JCR and MCR have recently elected their new committees. I've been struck by the commitment of the undergraduates and postgraduates who step forward to represent their constituencies. They really do help contribute to the running of the College and help shape our thinking about the future. For instance, they're represented on our Buildings Committee which is currently looking in more detail at the phasing and funding of our Masterplan to improve our communal spaces and facilities and improve our sustainability. We'll share more on this later in the year.

This edition includes tributes to two former Fellows, Dr Malcolm Gerloch and Professor Sir Roy Calne, the former a chemist who wrote many books and the latter a transplant surgeon who painted. A still life by Roy Calne hangs in the Master's Lodge.

Academic success in learning and research is our primary purpose but it's not the only measure of how our students, Fellows and alumni contribute to the world. I hope you'll enjoy reading the winning creative writing competition entry to mark the 25th anniversary of the wonderful Jerwood Library and read John Willis's inspiring story of how sport brings people together.

The keen-eyed among you may notice that we're adopting some new fonts for our College communications and that the crest looks subtly bolder. I like the new look, including the icons which echo facets of our buildings. They reflect our heritage but add something contemporary to the look and feel, building on the strong foundation of our black and white College colours. Meanwhile, as you read this, the gardens of Central Site and Wychfield will be bursting into colour, as our dedicated gardening team creates a beautiful canvas for the summer ahead, from revision on the lawn to reunions and the June Event. I look forward to seeing you here. 🍷



IN MEMORIAM

Professor Sir Roy Calne

by Professor Michael J Kelly | Emeritus Fellow

Professor Sir Roy Calne FRS was a (Staff, Professorial and Honorary) Fellow of Trinity Hall between 1968 and his recent death in 2024.

He brought his twin passions outside his medical career, food and painting, to bear on the Hall. For more than 25 years he was the High Table Steward and oversaw and maintained the very high quality of the cuisine enjoyed by the Fellows. In my first term I was invited to one of his weekly lunches with the chef and the bursar to discuss last week's food, next week's food and preparations for forthcoming Feasts and other such events. The first question Roy asked was "Do you have any concerns about the food at High Table" to which my answer was that my expectations were still rising to meet the high standards I was getting used to. Roy delighted in designing ethnic meals from every inhabited continent, and often the spicier the better. It was ironic that one of his own favourite courses was peas and kidneys. For as many years, the late Professor Colin Austin FBA was the wine steward, and when they were both asked to step down so that younger Fellows could fulfil their ambitions, he was disappointed and said so on many occasions.

> Professor Sir Roy Calne



Roy's interest in art went back to his childhood and his practice as a painter had two phases. In his early years, he painted such things as landscapes and still lives, with a focus on representative accuracy. His major conversion to his later more contemporary and robust style was via the great Scottish painter, John Bellamy, one of his transplant patients. Roy did a deal – to prolong John's healthy life (which he did for another 15 years) in return for two demands of John: to forswear alcohol and to teach Roy to paint. The deal was honoured in every aspect, and the two became good friends. We saw something of John who became a Fellow Commoner for three years during his recovery. He left us several paintings, including his striking portrait of the Master Professor Sir John Lyons in the Hall.

During his career and indeed thereafter, Roy was a very active tennis and squash player. He often played an exhausting game of the latter to deplete his adrenalin levels and stabilise his reactions just before major surgery, rather than revert to any medical aids.

He gave a lecture on 'The ethics of surgery' to a Dean's evening in about 1990. He pointed out that many of his patients were elderly, but his great satisfaction was to give a lease of life to a dying patient who was a successful entrepreneur at the depth of his indebtedness. The patient lived another year fighting aggressive cancer but was able to regularise all his affairs and provide for his family in the time given him. Roy also remarked that he did not envy his neurosurgeon colleagues: when presented with a traffic accident victim, there was often no assurance of the patient's future quality of life.

One of the truly intellectual evenings of my time at Trinity Hall was a dinner convened by Roy Calne and William O'Reilly on the theme of 'scepticism'. A dozen of us met in the Robin Hayes Room and the result of this was a book, *Scepticism: Hero and Villain*, containing many chapters from Trinity Hall Fellows, ranging from the integrity of sport on television, to the role of mankind in dominating climate change, and scepticism in the classics.

Roy was larger than life and a true servant of the Hall. 🕯

IN MEMORIAM

Dr Malcolm Gerloch

by Professor Peter Holland | Honorary Fellow

The photo of Malcolm Gerloch that accompanied the College announcement of his death, and this tribute, speaks volumes.

There is the pipe, which I remember as being only rarely lit but was always present as something brandished in conversation. There, too, is the brightness of his eyes, that ever-present twinkle that all who knew him in his all but 30 years as a Fellow at Trinity Hall will recall. It spoke of his infectious sense of fun, the delight with which he viewed the world, something that we all felt when chatting with him at lunch or at High Table in College. He was a Fellow who believed in fellowship, someone who enjoyed company for talk on matters serious or trivial.

We first met when I was a postgraduate student and he was Tutor for Graduate Students and our contact turned into a deep and abiding friendship when I became a Research Fellow in 1974. I learned, too, to value his unstinting acts of kindness, his compassionate concern for others, the depths of his friendship, and his profound intellectual curiosity about people and empathetic interest in them.

Since, as a Shakespeare scholar, I know as little about inorganic chemistry as Malcolm knew about Shakespeare, I asked Dr Nick Bampos to comment on his career. He writes:

'Malcolm approached his research with the same enthusiasm and sense of fun that characterised his approach to life in general. The department of chemistry he joined in Cambridge was considered one of the best in the world and had two Nobel Prize winners amongst its academic staff. In the field of inorganic (metal-based) chemistry, Malcolm worked with some of the most influential chemists of the generation and enjoyed working with some of the brightest students in the country. His research focused on developing a practical understanding of atomic orbitals to better understand the properties of metal-based compounds (their colour and magnetic properties), and what he brought to the field

was a methodology that made quantum chemistry accessible to the experimentalists and the wider research community. In his much-read 1985 monograph Orbital, Terms and States Malcom begins the preface by declaring: "I believe that many chemistry students are unclear about the nature of orbitals, terms, levels and states; and that they feel a need for a small book about them." This was an excellent small book and one that confirmed his view that "chemistry is one of the 'hard sciences' but that, at least, provides a source of pride as we master each new stage".



> Dr Malcolm Gerloch

On his retirement from the University and the College, Malcolm moved to Australia with his beloved wife Gwyneth. I did not see him from then until his death last year. But we kept in touch through email and, more recently, with the occasional Zoom. He had new interests he wanted to talk about. He had built a harpsichord for Gwyneth and, if it sounds half as beautiful as it looked in the photos he shared, it must be a very remarkable instrument.

Knowing his pride in his woodworking abilities, I was not surprised that he took on the harpsichord project but I was hugely surprised by his becoming a prolific author. He wrote children's

books, a collection of short stories (some based on events at Trinity Hall) and, most movingly, some pieces of autobiography. In *Second-best Luck* (2022), he recounted his experiences of battling cancer within the Australian healthcare system, wanting to encourage others to fight their illness and survive. In *Such a Silly Mistake* (2023) he wrote of his trying to make sense of Germany in the aftermath of World War II as he travelled to give lectures across the country. In the over-used phrase, Malcolm was truly a 'people person', someone who gave to others because he liked people, even as he found their foibles both puzzling and amusing. ☺



POLITICS SOCIETY

Meet the Politics President

Erin Mayhew is a second-year History and Politics undergraduate who restarted the Politics Society at the beginning of the academic year. She champions a holistic view of politics that is accessible to everyone.



> Erin Mayhew

Erin's introduction to politics was gradual: talking about recent news around the family dinner table, learning political language from her favourite TV show, *The West Wing*, and dabbling in debates at school. She wants to bring this type of comfortable, supportive environment to the Politics Society: "At Freshers' Fairs I've had people aggressively swerve when they see 'politics'. It can be intimidating for some, and we want to break the stigma that politics is only for certain people. Anyone can think and talk about politics, and it transcends degree. We have different events for different interests, and you don't have to have any background or pre-existing knowledge to join. It's all about a friendly learning environment and civil discourse rather than hot-headed debate."

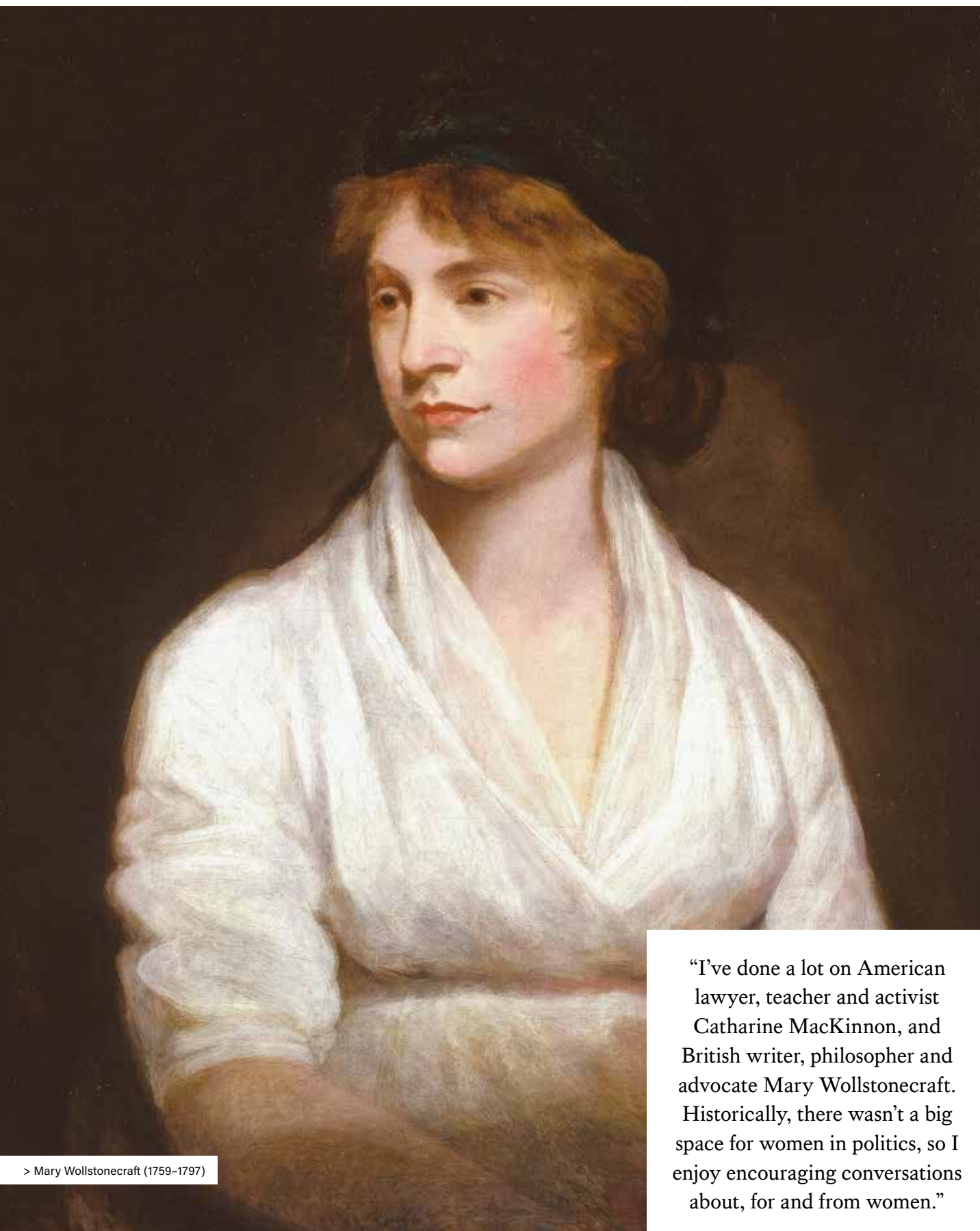
This approach to accessible politics paved the way for a variety of events, encouraging and enabling valuable connections across College. Particular highlights for Erin this year were the Politics Society Dinner in the Dining Hall and interviewing Lord Christopher Geidt (1991): "There were supervisors, students and alumni all in the same room at the Dinner, brought together by a common interest. It was really special to do that for the first time and share the experience. I also had the fantastic opportunity to interview alumnus Lord Christopher Geidt, who is really interesting and has had such a varied career, including working for Queen Elizabeth II and Boris Johnson."

Erin is heartened by the positive response to the Society's revival. Alumni have actively participated in events, students are finding

their feet in political spaces, and Trinity Hall's Fellows have been instrumental in encouraging both Erin and the wider student body to explore their interests in politics: "Dr James Wood, my Director of Studies, really supported the Society's resurrection. Actually, all the Fellows have been brilliant in backing us. Dr Tristen Naylor spoke at the Society Dinner and Dr Alena Drieschova talked to us about her current research project that looks to develop analytical frameworks specific to Central and Eastern Europe." You can read more about Alena's research on page 12.

Reaching out to female speakers is important to Erin to increase diversity in the traditionally male-dominated political arena. This interest in women in politics is reflected in her academic pursuits, focussing on theorists and women's rights: "I've done a lot on American lawyer, teacher and activist Catharine MacKinnon, and British writer, philosopher and advocate Mary Wollstonecraft. Historically, there wasn't a big space for women in politics, so I enjoy encouraging conversations about, for and from women."

The future of politics at Trinity Hall is bright: "We've got a really strong politics body here, both in Fellows and also in interest, so it seemed like something we should take advantage of. A lot is happening in the political world at the moment and there are interesting character politics at play, so I think the ground is particularly ripe right now for political debate. But politics is a constant, so I hope the Society will outlive my time here." 🗣️



> Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–1797)

“I’ve done a lot on American lawyer, teacher and activist Catharine MacKinnon, and British writer, philosopher and advocate Mary Wollstonecraft. Historically, there wasn’t a big space for women in politics, so I enjoy encouraging conversations about, for and from women.”

More turtle soup, please!:

Regency cuisine at Trinity Hall

by Alexandra Browne | Archivist and Records Manager

Recently the MCR held a *Bridgerton*-themed dinner, which got me thinking, what were they eating in College in the early 19th century? For those of you unfamiliar with *Bridgerton*, it is a historical romance book series set in Regency London, which took the world by storm in 2021 when it was adapted into a TV series by Netflix.



© istock.com/Grafismo

A fortunate and rare survival of receipts covering 1724 to 1894 provided a wealth of information about the food being served here. The diet in College in the 1720s and 30s was predominantly meat-based with little by way of fruits and vegetables. By the early 19th century, the lists of dishes become longer and more complex including some more vegetable side dishes, but still almost entirely meat. Many of the things they were eating seem quite normal by today's standards like roast beef, ham, potatoes, broccoli and apple pie. However, there were other dishes that might give some people today pause, such as pig's face, tongue and turtle soup.

It was customary to start with soup and fish. Pease soup (pea soup) and the aforementioned turtle soup were the most common in the receipts. By all accounts, turtles and tortoises were delicious. They became a staple food for sailors because they could live on ships and guaranteed fresh meat on long voyages. The HMS Beagle took about 40 tortoises from the Galapagos mostly for food and some as scientific specimens. It was a comment made by the Vice-Governor of the Galapagos, Nicholas Lawson, that he could tell which island a tortoise came from just by looking at its shell that proved fundamental to Darwin developing his theory of evolution.

Eating turtles in the 'West Indian way' became haute cuisine by the mid-18th century, and the English spread their love of

turtle throughout their empire. As it became more accessible to the middle classes, the trend spread to North America and continental Europe. By the late 1860s, green turtles were being canned for mass consumption. Turtles were still being eaten in Florida as recently as 50 years ago.


Fish was cheap and plentiful in this period, and oysters were enjoyed by all, rich and poor alike. At Trinity Hall, they ate a good variety of fish, such as salmon, pike, sole, eels and especially oysters. The oysters were eaten raw or made into a sauce most commonly served with boiled turkey. The 18th and 19th centuries were considered the 'golden age of oysters,' but overharvesting dramatically reduced natural oyster stocks by the mid-20th century.

The second course would have been a selection of meat and vegetable dishes. Until 1815, meals would have been served à la française, which is serving all the dishes on the table at the same time. After 1815, the transition to service à la russe (bringing dishes out one by one) began. The most popular meat dishes at Trinity Hall were haunch mutton with jelly, veal, ham, roast beef, and various fowl such as duck, partridge, pheasant and turkey. Venison, which would have been the height of luxury at the time, was not found on the surviving receipts. Alongside the meat was broccoli, greens (most likely some form of bean), potatoes, carrots and, occasionally, turnips.

10" Large Pile	7	Brong & sub	7.2
Hay B. Bul	12	Tomson Pudding	5
Potatoes	1	Brucanens	5
Swedish & Egg	1.5.6	Pile & Cuffa	9
Brussels	1	Hardy's Corn	10
Swedish & Egg	12.5	Heads	5
Potatoes	1	2 Potatoes	5
Chick & Green	5.5	Bruffa Pudding	5
Brussels	1	Corn & Cuffa	12.5
St. Beef	1.2.0		9.19.0
Pile & Cuff	5	12 Cornmen	1.4
Brucanens	10		2.45.0
Bruffa Pudding	5	Swedish & Cuff	5
Swedish	5	St. Beef	1.5
Pile & Brucanens	10.5	Potatoes	1
Swedish & Egg	5.5	St. Potatoes	10
Brucanens	5	Brussels	1.5
Swedish & Egg	12	Horn	10
	8.15.0	Swedish & Egg	12.5
Brucanens	1.4	Swedish & Egg	1.5
	2.15.0	Potatoes	1
St. Beef	10	St. Potatoes	10
Swedish & Egg	5	Brussels	1.5
Brucanens	1	Swedish & Egg	5
Potatoes	1	2 Brucanens	10
Brussels	1	Pudding	5
Swedish & Egg	10	3.5.6	12
St. Beef	10.5	Swedish & Egg	5
Brucanens	9	Swedish & Egg	10
Potatoes	1	St. Beef	5
Brucanens	5.5	Swedish & Egg	10
Brussels	1.5.6	2.5.6	5
Swedish & Egg	10	2.5.6	5
Brucanens	1.5.6	2.5.6	5
Swedish & Egg	1.5.6	2.5.6	5
Brucanens	7.2.0	2.5.6	5

It is easy to romanticise this era, in large parts thanks to the abundance of historical romance books and movies set in it, but it is important not to ignore the horrible human and natural cost paid to afford such a lifestyle. Britain's growing love of sweets and tea enabled the slave trade to thrive even after it had been abolished. What's more, in this period we can see the underpinnings of many of our modern problems from the endangerment of animals due to unsustainable practices to deforestation and loss of biodiversity due to the growth of cash crops such as sugar, tea and coffee. 🍵

Christmas Exceedings		1812 and 1813	
No Bread and Cheese	20 1 -	22 Shaves	at 3. 0. - each 130 12 -
Coffee and Tea	13 2 10	6 two third shaves	at 4. 4. - each 16 16 -
Milk punch	3 8 -	3 one third shaves	at 4. 2. - each 50 0 -
Sugar and Spice	1 1 -	34 - 1 1 00	at 1. - - each 34 - -
Coal and Vedge	1 1 -	Collegium	22 9 5
Shrimp	13 10 7		
Wax candles	4 9 -		
Cards	0 -		
Should and Common Candles	1 4 -		
2 bottles of sack	14 -		
Claf broken	14 -		
2 servants	2 -		
1 waiter in hall	10 -		
Christmas boxes Officers and Butlers	7 6 -		
Oysters	1 1 -		
	70 - -		
Cook's bill	12 14 6 -		
Port wine 177 bottles at 5 s	44 5 -		
Madeira 93 d. - at 5 s	23 5 -		
	267 5 5		



ALUMNI STORY

Inspiring inclusion and empowerment

by John Willis | 1979 Law

Little did I think when graduating 42 years ago, I'd be surrounded by celebs walking down a red carpet at ITV's Pride of Britain awards, having received the East Anglia (West) Regional Fundraiser of the Year Award.

Born without fully formed arms and legs, it was a surprise to many, especially my first head teacher, that I would even go to university, let alone Trinity Hall. I lived in C2, the first adapted room in TH's history (as far as I am aware) throughout my three years. With a knee-high shaving point, an extended light-switch cord (in the not-quite-en-suite bathroom) and a rare and jealousy-inducing telephone – a very modern push-button unit on a landline – I made the absolute most of all that was on offer: coxing, attending yoghurt concerts, plays, films (it was the time of *Chariots of Fire*) and supporting all the College's sporting endeavours.

> John and Power2Inspire trustee Gemma Thake, just finished at Newbridge, Witney on 24 July 2023 (day 2 of 8).

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> John after completing a triathlon on 8 September 2013 at Eton Dorney rowing lake.



> John (right, red t-shirt) and competitors in the PowerHouseGames on 22 September 2023 with local accountants PEM.

I used to use a wheelchair for 'longer' journeys, which meant finding a volunteer to push, as my arms aren't long enough! There were escapades a-plenty: being tipped into a building society plate glass window – fortunately it didn't break; being tipped out at the start of a May Week drinks party; and cornering in front of King's College chapel on two wheels to the consternation of the tourists. Fun times.

Learning the law (well allegedly) was not only a great grounding for 12 years as a solicitor but also gave me the confidence to create a new charity, designed to integrate disabled and non-disabled people in sport. Thus, 10 years ago, Power2Inspire was born www.power2inspire.org.uk.

Over the 10 years I have fundraised in many ways:

- A slow triathlon relay,
- 50 gruelling swims of 1,000m in 100 days, and
- ALL 34 Olympic and Paralympic sports (yes, that includes horse-riding and diving).

This has enabled Power2Inspire to engage with over 300 schools and inspire over 71,000 adults and children!

Last July I undertook my hardest challenge yet, kayaking 108 miles down the river Thames (I'm not daft enough to paddle upstream!), earning me the 2,208th Prime Minister's Point of Light award. From all the conversations I had with the 21 different volunteers who helped me paddle for the eight days, I realised how important my time at Trinity Hall had been. It taught me the value of connections and friendships, the value of different points of view and the value of different abilities.

Disability awareness has come a long way in these 40 odd years. I drive an adapted car, use a smartphone and computer and dress myself with an adapted coat hanger and button hook! Extra time in exams is now expected rather than fought for – thank you, John Collier. But there is still a way to go.

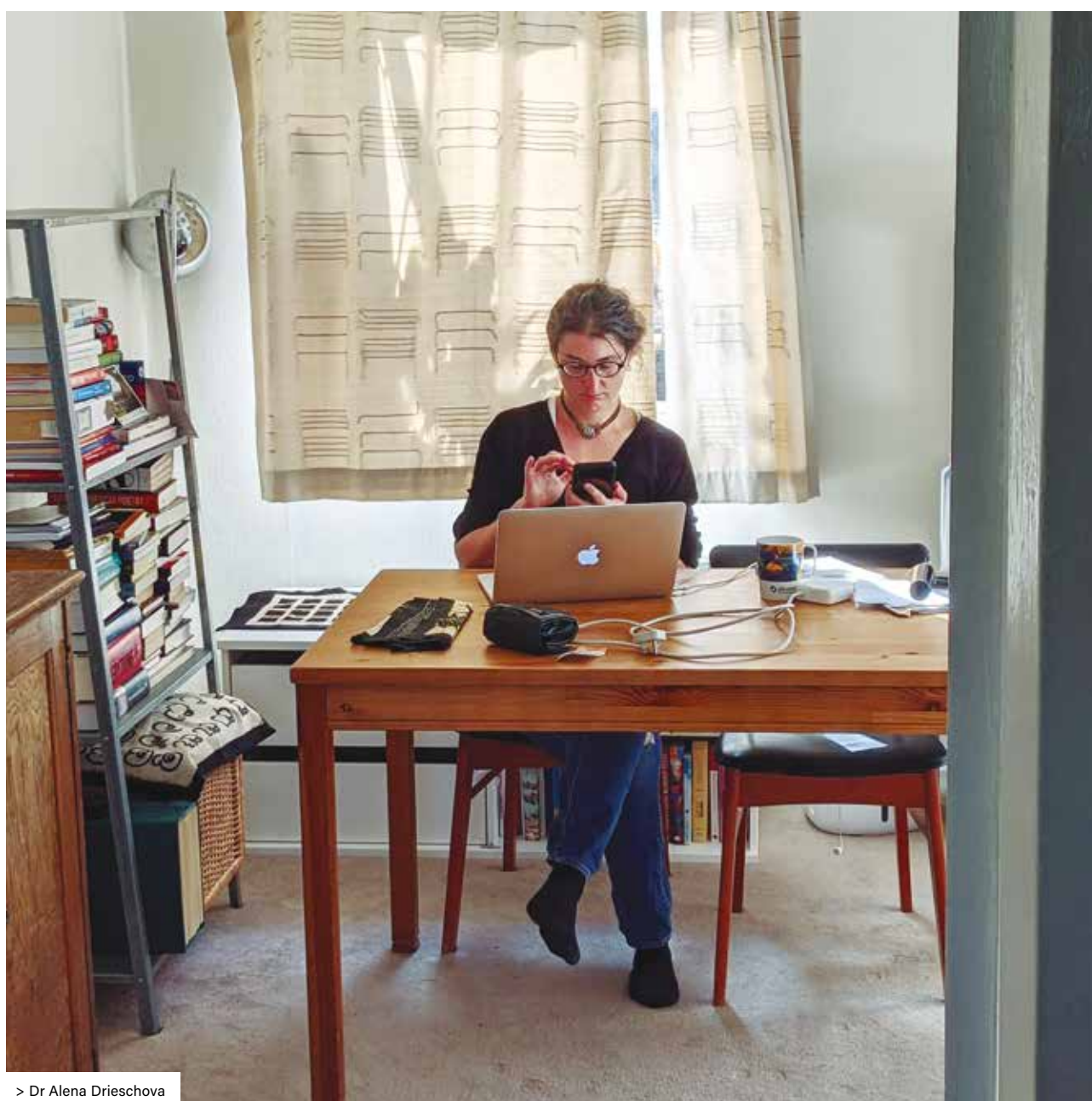
That is why I am still urging young disabled (and non-disabled) students to believe in themselves, to never give up and to see what they can do rather than what they can't. This manifests itself in Power2Inspire's PowerHouseGames. These games consist of inclusive sports that bring together disabled and non-disabled, state and independent, university and corporate, students, staff and workers alike, in a morning of smiles and laughter, ensuring 'no one is left on the bench'! 🍷



> John and Fleur East on the red carpet at the Pride of Britain Awards 2023.

Five minutes with a Fellow

Dr Alena Drieschova researches the unstable political culture in Central and Eastern Europe. She has attended the Council of the European Union and plays volleyball in the English National League. Alena is Staff Fellow in Politics at Trinity Hall and University Assistant Professor of International Relations.



> Dr Alena Drieschova

How would you describe your research?

I am involved in a number of different research projects, but most of my past research focused on features of material culture and technology, and how they affect people's perceptions. My book looks at how representations of power, like gothic cathedrals or coronation ceremonials, shape political order. Now I have started work on a completely different project, which draws attention to the Central and Eastern European region and seeks to develop analytical frameworks that are specific to this region, so that we can understand it better. Central and Eastern Europe is a bit like a 'false friend' in linguistics. It looks very similar to Western Europe, and so it seems that there is no need to study it separately. But underneath the surface there are quite different dynamics going on, many of which are related to the communist past, the transition from communism and the accession dynamics to the EU and NATO.

How does your research relate to people's everyday lives?

Much of our lives consists of working, eating, sleeping, trying to find a house, staying healthy and so on. My work is not concerned with these day-to-day worries but it does address questions of governing and accurate political representation. It seeks to shift awareness so that people can see forms of power and how they operate that they hadn't noticed before. I'm also concerned with questions of identity, community and belonging to try and keep our societies governable and avoid aggression and violence.

How do you conduct your research?

I deploy a number of different qualitative methods depending on the individual project and the questions I ask. I do ethnographic research, conduct interviews, analyse texts and synthesise historical studies.

Once I conducted ethnographic work in the Council of the European Union. I was observing diplomats and ministers to see how they negotiate over EU legislation. It is very hard to get access to these negotiations. International relations scholars write a lot about them, but without necessarily knowing how they work in practice. To get access, I asked to observe the most boring and politically uninteresting negotiations, for example, on safety regulations for ski lifts. The point was to observe the process of negotiations, rather than the specific content.

What do you hope to achieve through your research?

For a long time I have been interested in the material environment and technology, how they provide thinking tools that influence the very content of our thoughts and the impact they have on politics. This might sound abstract, so to give an example, we looked at how word processing software used in negotiations in the EU drives the dynamics of negotiations. Word processing software makes it possible for many actors to negotiate over a single piece

of legislation. The negotiations proceed in the form of identifying agreeable edits to the text. Many different versions of the text circulate at a high speed through many different hands with the result that effective authorship gets lost. In some rare instances, the consequence can be that the EU agrees a piece of legislation that nobody actually wants.

In my new project I'm trying to understand why political culture in Central and Eastern Europe is so unstable, and what can be done to improve it.

How did you become interested in international relations?

I think based on my family background I always felt that international relations was my natural home. I grew up in a bi-lingual family (Czech and German) across the Iron Curtain. The Cold War affected our personal family life on every level, so I felt as if I had the right profile. Then in my second year at university I decided I wanted to become an academic because of the freedom to think and write that the job offers.

What do you enjoy outside of academia?

I exercise a lot. I try to counter-balance my work, which is quite sedentary after all. So I play Volleyball in the English National League, and Beach Volleyball in London. Recently I also picked up my Ashtanga Yoga practice again.

Who's your favourite political figure?

Vaclav Havel, Czech President from 1989 to 2003. The more I learn about him, the more I admire him. He is often called the 'poet president'. He had an incredibly good understanding of what was happening in Czech society, and he could always find the right words to articulate trends before most people had noticed them. Many of his phrases are still used in Czech politics today to describe specific phenomena. He must have acquired this profound insight through his interest in every single person and their stories.

What's your favourite political film or TV show?

Lidice. I saw the movie in the cinema with my grandmother. It's about a village in the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia that the Nazis completely destroyed to punish the Czech people in response to the assassination of Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich. My grandmother lived through this period, so it was all the more touching for me. Perhaps along similar lines, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, based on Erich Maria Remarque's book, describes the horrors of the fighting in the First World War. When I saw the movie I thought, oh my, all this trauma must still be anchored in our families and societies. I also found *No Fire Zone* deeply unsettling. It is a documentary on the most deadly period in the Civil War in Sri Lanka in 2009, when the Sri Lankan government indiscriminately shelled a 10km² area, in which around 50,000 Tamils were trapped. I lived in Sri Lanka during the war, which made the movie even more disturbing for me. ☹



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



> Oleno Netto

An interview with

Anastasiia Koziak

2023/24 Rowan Williams Scholar

by Oleno Netto | Alumni & Donor Relations Officer

Anastasiia Koziak (2023) is the second recipient of the Rowan Williams Studentship at Trinity Hall, since it was established in 2018 by the Cambridge Trust. She plans to use the expertise gained from her Cambridge LLM (Master of Law) to pursue justice and post-war reconstruction for Ukraine, where she comes from.

The Rowan Williams Studentship is a full-cost award for undergraduate and postgraduate students from areas of conflict who face critical obstacles in coming to study in Cambridge.

What interested you in coming to Cambridge?

Cambridge has been my longstanding aspiration and indeed it feels like a dream come true. The LLM program at the University of Cambridge specifically attracted me because of its world-class

reputation for international law and the opportunity to create your own specialism within the program. I was also driven by the motivation to join a diverse cohort of talented and determined students from various backgrounds and to learn from brilliant professors who are premier experts in their fields – all of which has now become a reality.

What is your field, and what topics are relevant to it?

My LLM program is focused on various areas of international law, including modules on international human rights, international criminal law, international trade law and international environmental law. The field generally revolves around the frameworks that govern the relationships between states and various actors within the complex landscape of international affairs.

What makes you passionate about international law?

My passion for international law has developed by participating in international moot court competitions during my undergraduate degree, primarily due to the complexity of the subject and its key role in today's globalized world – where global issues cannot be resolved at the national level only. A vivid example of this is the growing field of international environmental law that deals with transboundary issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone depletion. I'm particularly interested in the contentious side of international law, where existing legal frameworks are challenged and lawyers have to think creatively in navigating the inter-connection between various legal systems, conventions and principles.

What would you say to those who've supported the Rowan Williams Studentship which you and other students from areas of conflict have received?

I would like to express my wholehearted gratitude to all the supporters of the Rowan Williams Studentship, who have made it possible for me to come to Cambridge. I am forever thankful to all who established and generously contributed to this Studentship. It provides a much-needed safe academic harbour for students from areas of conflict. 🙏



> Anastasiia Koziak

A legacy for the future

by Donna Thomas-Watson | Philanthropy Officer



> Donna Thomas-Watson

Whether it is access to our buildings, improvements to our facilities, or through receiving a College Bursary or travel award, every Trinity Hall member has benefited from the generosity of previous generations. By pledging a legacy gift, not only are you continuing this proud tradition but also helping us to secure our future.

Recent gifts in a Will have been used to:

- Increase the funds available for early career Fellowships.
- Support the ambitions of the College Masterplan, enabling us to introduce sustainability measures into our programme of staircase refurbishment.
- Provide bursaries to subsidise rents for students with disabilities.

Supporters who pledge a gift in their Will are thanked during their lifetime as members of our legacy society, and this year we are making some exciting changes. During 2025 Trinity Hall will mark its 675th anniversary and, in recognition of this significant milestone, we have chosen the **1350 Society** as our new name.

We have also appointed two 1350 Society Patrons. **Dr Sandra Raban** was Fellow in History from 1976 to 2002 during which time she was Admissions Tutor and Senior Tutor. One of the first female Fellows at Trinity Hall, she was instrumental in the transition to co-education.

"I would not have had such an interesting career let alone having my portrait

hanging in the Hall of a Cambridge college, without the generous public support available to undergraduates in the 1960s. By the time I was Senior Tutor in the 1990s, things were much tougher. I was especially concerned for those really worried about incurring debt and living so frugally that they were in danger of missing out on student life. I was truly grateful for the kindness of former students which made it possible to help."

Peter Lawrence (1982) studied MML as an undergraduate, specialising in German and subsequently Scandinavian studies. After a career in the City, Peter has returned to Trinity Hall as a student once again, this time studying an MPhil in Media Studies, Film & Journalism.

"Undergraduate studies at Trinity Hall opened and trained my mind and

facilitated a fulfilling career. Returning to studies here has made me all the more aware that Trinity Hall is a remarkable community and centre of scholarship. I am thrilled that my legacy will help the College invest in its future, enabling students from diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential, in unique and beautiful surroundings."

Securing a Trinity Hall education for future generations lies at the heart of all that we do, and it is through the far-sighted generosity of our alumni and supporters that this can be achieved. For many of us, a legacy gift is the largest charity donation we will ever make, and brings the satisfaction of knowing that the cause we believe in can continue long into the future. 🎯



> Dr Sandra Raban and Peter Lawrence

"This grant made last year much more comfortable and when I had disability struggles and weeks where I needed support, I knew I didn't have to worry about my housing being something I couldn't afford. It also meant I was able to put that money elsewhere like food, which made a massive difference."

Postgraduate student in Education

If you would like more information about how you can support Trinity Hall and our students in this meaningful way, please contact the Development Director or Philanthropy Officer at development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.



News in Brief

Read more at
trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news



> Gabriele Cirrottola

STAFF

BUTLER RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS

Sara Rhodes, Trinity Hall's first female Butler, retired in December 2023 after 26 years of dedicated service. Sara has been a familiar face at College dinners for generations of alumni, students, Fellows and guests. Before she left, Sara passed her wealth of knowledge and expertise on to our new

Butler, Gabriele Cirrottola, himself well-known around College. Gabriele has been working in the Buttery since 2016, most recently as Deputy Butler. We wish Sara all the best for her retirement and look forward to working with Gabriele for many years to come.



> Sara Rhodes

Book for High Table dining: trinhall.cam.ac.uk/high-table

AWARDS

New Year Honours

Members of Trinity Hall were recognised in the King's New Year Honours list.



Honorary Fellow and alumna **Janet Legrand KC** (Hon) (1977) was awarded an OBE for services to young people from her time as Chair of The Children's Society.



Christopher (Kit) Hunter Gordon (1976) was awarded an MBE for services to people with autism and their families in his role as Chair of the charity, Resources for Autism.



Dr Edward Day (1989) was awarded an MBE for services to vulnerable people in Birmingham.



Dr Alasdair Bruce (1976), manager of the Boston Spa Renewed programme, was awarded an MBE for services to libraries.

COLLEGE

Master audits the Parker Library

The Master visited the Parker Library at Corpus Christi as part of the annual audit of the library's remarkable collection. The audit allowed her to view letters from Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII, and a register including JRR Tolkien's signature.



> The Master auditing the Parker Library

FELLOWS

Pilkington Prize winners



> Professor Alexandra Turchyn



> Dr Lee de-Wit

Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Turchyn and Dr Lee de-Wit are among 12 Cambridge academics recognised for their contribution to teaching excellence across the University.

The annual Pilkington Prizes are awarded to individuals who make a substantial contribution to the teaching programme of a Department, Faculty or the University as a whole.

Both Fellows were recognised for their passion, dedication and world-leading contributions to teaching.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Here Come the Girls

A group of female students from Prendergast Vale School in Lewisham, South East London came to Trinity Hall recently to hear from social innovators as part of Social Ark's 'Here Come the Girls' female empowerment programme. The visit was an opportunity to recognise the young entrepreneurs' abilities and potential.

They were accompanied by the Founder & CEO of Social Ark, Lisa Stepanovic. Lisa is one of three entrepreneurs recognised with the 2021 Cambridge Social Innovation Prize, awarded by Trinity Hall and the Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation at the University of Cambridge, for her creation of Social Ark.



> Prendergast Vale School students

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION WINNER

'closed for business'

The Jerwood Library Creative Writing Competition celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Jerwood Library and the creativity of our students. Abigail Reeves won the competition with her poem 'closed for business'.



> Abigail Reeves

“

closed for business

I am leaving my body for an extended period of time,
for refurbishments
to verdate into moss
to become derelict in nature
while I roam, abandoning myself
to fields and long mornings and the smell
of summer evenings
in Perth
I am dead to the world
I am deaf to the world
(I am wearing my noise cancelling headphones)

It will be left on standby
in cinemas, parks, and rivers,
on city benches
to be stumbled upon by passersby

to return to me
with goose-bumps of steel
a barbed wire grimace
fistfuls of razors
walking, talking
destruction incarnate
the soft touch of a man
who's about to get his arm
cut off

I defy desire,
you slippery-fished devil, you
face me and desert

”

25
YEARS

Read more about the Jerwood Library Creative Writing Competition on our website:
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news

THA Secretary's Report

by Lizzie Iron (1977) | THA Secretary

Hello! I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Secretary for the Trinity Hall Association (THA). I'm Lizzie Iron (nee Shaw) and I was one of the first undergraduate women at Trinity Hall in 1977. I firmly believe that women added a new spirit to the College and I have no doubt that today's students – of all gender identities – still enjoy the same unique character of warmth, welcome and fun that typifies the Hall.

I want to pay tribute to Dr David Billett (1968), my predecessor as Secretary, whose workload has now been split into separate strands of secretarial duties and events organisation. Thank you, David, for managing both with dedication and efficiency for four years.

This is an ideal opportunity to remind readers what the THA is all about. It was founded by alumni in 1904, with the aim of 'keeping members in touch with each other and with the College.' We still support that simple aim and, thanks to the generosity of 1980 alumnus Dennis Avery, we now benefit from a regular income, which provides free membership for all alumni.

Annual activities include Regional Dinners in UK locations: we look forward to Edinburgh on 1 June 2024 (details will be available on the College website in due course), with Cardiff and Birmingham lined up for 2025. We seek out interesting venues, often through Trinity Hall alumni, such as the 2023 gatherings at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds and the Merchants' Hall in Bristol. Other events might include a London drinks evening, tours of unusual sites, and online discussions to reach more people. Why not tell us what you'd like – especially if you can help organise it?!

Among our most satisfying activities are the annual THA Volunteering Awards. We offer (relatively modest) grants towards students' humanitarian projects across the world. See the website for the terrific variety of reports from recent projects. A small working group assesses the applications and keeps in touch with the students as they plan their projects. It can all be done remotely, so it's an ideal opportunity for overseas alumni to contribute to the work of the Association.



> Lizzie Iron

The Committee is a small body of 10 to 15 alumni volunteers. We are keen to be representative of the alumni community and to embrace a range of interests, so if you have great memories of Trinity Hall and are keen to promote connections amongst alumni, please get in touch through the Alumni & Development Office and apply to join us: THA@trinhall.cam.ac.uk. We meet four times a year (at least once online) including hosting the AGM and the THA Dinner in College in September. This year's Dinner and AGM will be on Saturday 28 September. Actions between meetings are often kindly supported by the Alumni & Development Office team, which helps keep the workload manageable. ☺

Please get in touch if you'd like to join us on the committee, and meanwhile I look forward to meeting fellow alumni and discovering the fascinating connections to be found within our worldwide community.

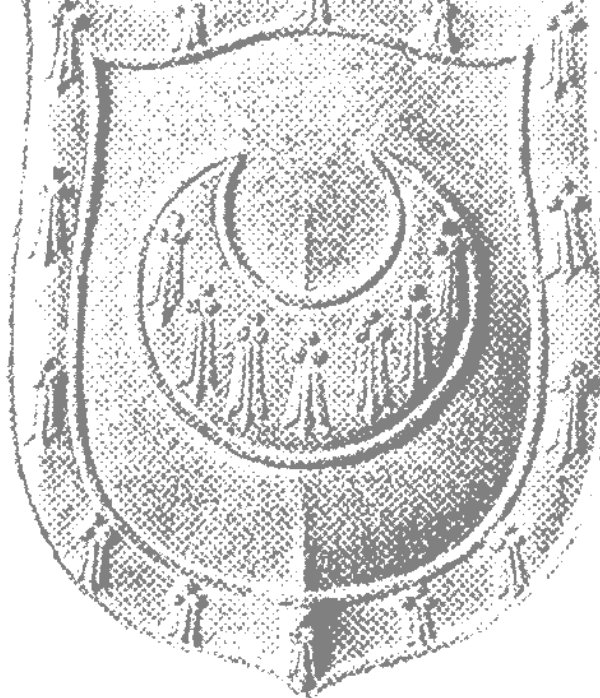
TRINITY HALL SPOTLIGHTS

POLITICS

Sometimes it feels as if we're drowning in politics, exhausted by polarised debate, trying to navigate the deeper political ideas and policy debates beneath personality-driven party politics and short-term fights for votes.

Our *Spotlights: Politics* events endeavour to keep you informed and engaged, to cut through the noise of news headlines and shed light, not further heat, on the state of democracy.

If you missed our events, you can catch up now on our **YouTube channel @TrinityHallCambridge**.



How to make politics better

How can we engage constructively with politics, while simultaneously holding our leaders to account? How do we respond to populism and distrust in elites as an academic institution, and as politically engaged individuals? How do we approach social media and disinformation, in the context of impartiality and free speech?

Hustings 2024

A good-natured and good-humoured debate about the forthcoming UK general election, chaired by the Master, is an enlightening exploration of the current political climate and the choice on offer. We consider what the main parties are offering voters and hear what being a politician is really like.

Understanding Putin's Russia

This event was organised following the arrest of the prominent Russian opposition figure and Trinity Hall alumnus Vladimir Kara-Murza, which reminded us once again of the nature of the Putin regime. During this panel discussion, experts and policy-makers explain how this situation has come about and explore what might lie ahead.



TRINITY
HALL
CAMBRIDGE

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