



Trinity Hall Association – Secretary’s Report 2023-24

Membership of the Committee remains as declared and approved at the 2023 AGM. Four routine meetings of the Committee were held over the year, including an online session for the November meeting. Business has included annual Events and allocation of the student Awards, as well as a re-assessment of our finances in light of the costs of the litigation against the Association, together with a review of the THA’s Rules.

We continue to think about the diversity of the Committee, and new members proposed at the 2024 AGM include at least one overseas alumna as well as alumni/ae from a range of matriculation years from 1977 to 2010. Remote facilities will be offered for Committee meetings and the AGM, and we aim to host more online events after the success of the inaugural webinar on 6th June.

Activities over the year have been limited by prudent use of our reduced funds, so that we hosted the Annual Dinner as usual in September 2023, and just one other Alumni Dinner during the year, as well as the Online Webinar.

The Annual Dinner in Cambridge attracted 100 guests, with matriculation years from 1955 to 2022 and attendees from Germany, Norway, Canada, Denmark and other countries.

Held in Edinburgh on 1st June, the Alumni/ae Dinner took place in the Long Room at The New Club, where 33 attendees from matriculation years 1951 to 2019 took advantage of the glorious weather to enjoy the balcony overlooking Princes Street and the iconic Castle. The dinner followed a private tour of the National Gallery of Scotland, which fuelled stimulating conversations for the rest of the evening.

This first Online Webinar was hosted by THA President, Gillian Karran-Cumberlege, who was delighted to welcome David Tyler (Economics 1971) to share his thoughts on ‘The Role of the Chair’. David brought his extensive experience to the conversation, having spent 50 years in business in the UK and chaired numerous well-known companies - Sainsbury’s, Logica and the Hampstead Theatre among them. As the current Chair of the Government-backed Parker Review on ethnic diversity in business, David delivers a personal and practical commitment to inclusion, which was particularly appreciated by the audience. Alumni/ae attended from matriculation years 1953 to 2019, with 43 people tuning in live to enjoy David’s insights, while a further 71 people were able to listen to the recording afterwards. The format successfully reached a truly international audience, with guests signing up from as far away as Finland, Turkey, India, Hong Kong, North America, Tanzania and New Zealand.

Applications for the THA Awards covered a range of diverse and interesting projects: working with disadvantaged children in Cambodia and in Nepal; research with deaf children in Malawi; teaching African culture and coaching football in Zimbabwe; assessing the impact of climate change in Fiji; cleaning polluted waterways in Chicago with a focus on urban regeneration; application of bio-statistics to a research project on TB and mental health in Bangladesh; and supporting refugees on the Bosnian/Serbian border. Three of the Awardees will give brief insights into their projects just before the 2024 AGM, and all reports will be published on the College website as the students submit them.

On behalf of the Association, the Committee thanks Gillian Karran-Cumberlege for her three years as President. With invaluable support from current and former Committee Officers, she has steered us judiciously through the final phases of the litigation against the Association and has led the Committee and supported the activities of the Association with great generosity and enthusiasm. As ever, we also thank Shell and her team in the Development Office and the Master and the wider College team for their consistent support of the Association – we couldn't achieve what we do without the positive relationship that we enjoy with the College.

Lizzie Iron, Secretary
September 2024