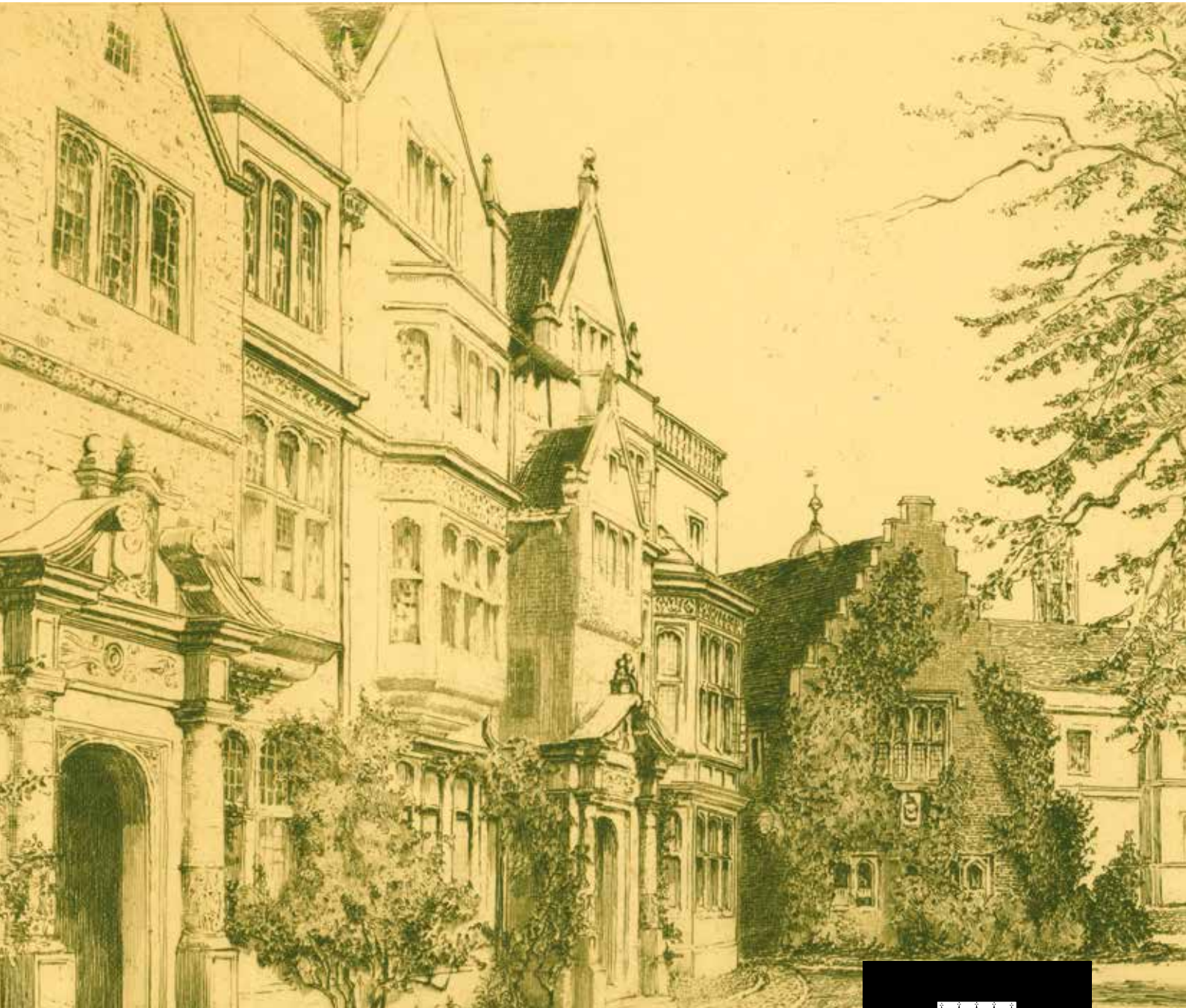


Issue 41 | Spring 2025

FRONT COURT

Trinity Hall Cambridge



HIGHLIGHTS

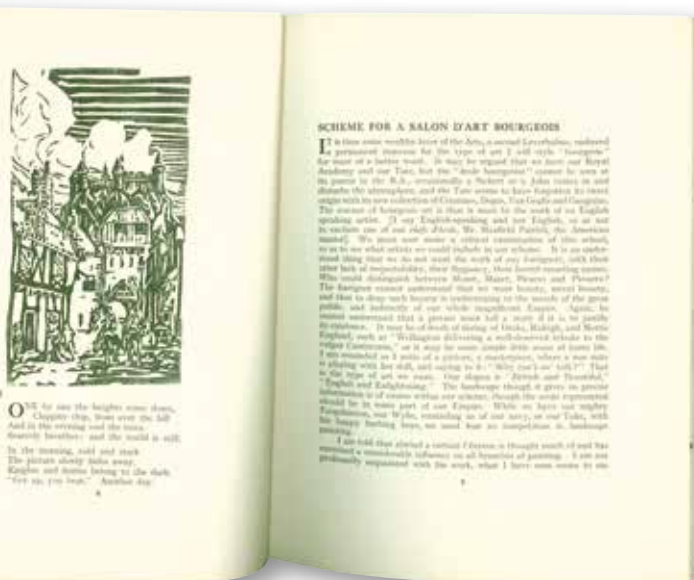
All about
admissions

Celebrating
675 years of
Trinity Hall

Designing
AI for social
justice



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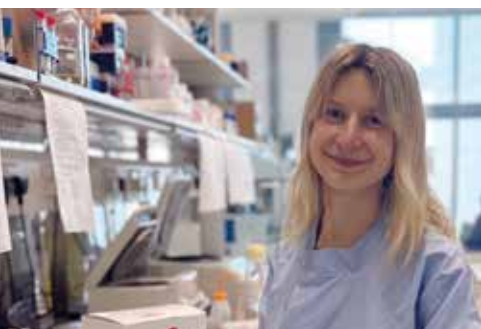
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Cover image: Trinity Hall from the back gate looking towards the Old Library. Etching by Gertrude Hayes, 1910.

Message from the Master

by Mary Hockaday | Master

Happy 675th Anniversary! Our actual birthday, which we date to the signing of our Founding Charter, is in November. But we are marking our whole anniversary year.

In the last edition, we shared some of the pillars of our 675th Anniversary Campaign and inside this edition, you can find updates on all our anniversary and campaign events. I very much enjoyed meeting alumni in New York, Washington, Hong Kong, Singapore and San Francisco.

Our origins are, of course, as a law college. We held a splendid event in London with a great range of law alumni as we celebrated our legal heritage. You can read about our thriving student Law Society inside. We remain very ambitious for the subject at Trinity Hall, and I want to thank all our law alumni who support students and the College. Bishop Bateman would be impressed.

“As this magazine shows, we now roam broadly with Fellows and students in every field. I very much enjoyed reading Five Minutes with Dr Sofia Lövestam, Research Fellow in Biochemistry, and about PhD researcher Abdullah Hasan Safir’s work with ethics and AI.”

Unusually, mid-year, we’ve welcomed three new Fellows, in Physics, Chemistry and a Visiting Fellow in Engineering, exploring the opportunities AI brings to agriculture.

But it is with great sadness that we feel the loss of Dr Isabelle McNeill, much-loved and respected Fellow in MMLL, who died of cancer in February. She is greatly missed.



> The Master and guests at the New York Anniversary drinks event

We awarded the first Trinity Hall Prize in Student Journalism to the News and Features winners. We held the first of our ‘Spotlights: Space’ series of events with Honorary Fellow, Professor Jo Dunkley (1997), giving the first Thouless Lecture. She made astrophysics accessible even to a former English student and I’m looking forward to next term’s panel discussion.

The other pillar of our College community is of course our staff. Vicky Mills in our Admissions Office knows more about our students than many Fellows. She’s deeply involved in the admissions and induction process and is a familiar and welcoming face to all our students.

But perhaps the most important feature of this term has been having ‘the wall’ back. You may have seen that repairs were necessary to the brick wall at the end of Latham Lawn and the Fellows’ Garden – the river takes its toll. It’s only when something is missing for a few weeks that you realise how much it’s loved. The students have been overjoyed to sit out again, whatever the weather, enjoying the terrace or dangling their legs over the River Cam. As good a place to reflect on 675 years as any. ☺



INTERVIEW

All about admissions

The name Vicky Mills will be instantly recognisable to many of you. Certainly, for those of you who matriculated after 2005. Vicky is Trinity Hall's Admissions Officer and a Cambridge alumna. She has seen the College through more than 20 years of admission cycles and helped generations of students find their home at Trinity Hall. Celebrating her long service, Vicky tells us about the College's evolution and being part of the Cambridge community.

All the students know you. How does it feel to be 'famous' within the student community?

It's both heartwarming and fun. There's many a time when we've had the induction week or the first meeting with all the first years where the staff introduce themselves and I stand up and say, "I'm Vicky Mills," and there's a sort of hum in the room. I meet about 500 people a year and they all know my name, so I guess in that sense I am famous!

One year when the students were all lining up for their matriculation photo on Latham Lawn, I went down the row asking their names and then guessed what they were studying. I got most of the answers right which shows that whilst they know me, I also know them!

How has your personal experience of studying at Cambridge helped you in your role?

I studied Natural Sciences at Newnham, and that experience has certainly been useful. I understand the general structure of many of the courses at Cambridge in that you start broad then you narrow as you go along. I understand how the colleges work, how a collegiate university is put together, but I also enjoyed extracurricular stuff as well when I was student, so I know that there are so many opportunities for students to get involved in other things at Cambridge. I did ballroom dancing and loved it, and I was in a choir at Queens', MagSoc

(St Margaret Society). I did a lot with my church and for a couple of years I was in a society called Cambridge Christian Musicals Society, where we put on faith-based musicals. We took my friend's show *Yours Personally* on tour in a minibus to schools and churches for two summers in a row. So, because I had a positive experience at Cambridge, it means that I can genuinely encourage other people to apply too.

How has admissions changed in the past 20 years?

We have more applicants now than when I first started, but that's been a trend for the University overall. The Admissions Team has expanded as well. When I started it was just me and the Admissions Tutor, and now we have a Director of Admissions and two people, Xanthe and Siam, in outreach roles. Their projects such as 'You'll Fit In' and the podcast series *Cambridge from the Inside* are intended to have a real impact on getting applications from the best candidates and encouraging them to believe that Cambridge is a place for them, regardless of their financial or social background. They really help show prospective students that if they did come here, they would find a home and feel like they belong.

There's also email, of course, which has had a huge impact. When I first started, I was thrown in the deep end. I started around the 25 October, bearing in mind that the closing date

“... because I had a positive experience at Cambridge, it means that I can genuinely encourage other people to apply too.”

for applications is the 15 October, and everything was on paper, so I had to type everything into a database. Communication was mainly done by letter, and we had to leave decision letters with the porters to be posted on a particular day over Christmas. I spent ages undoing envelopes with essays in and photocopying everything. It's all digital now.

What keeps you motivated?

I enjoy the work and I enjoy the process. It's a nice environment, it's a nice atmosphere and there's something satisfying about completing another admissions round for the next generation of Trinity Hall students. I always say it's like bringing order to chaos! 🍵





SOCIETY FOCUS

Law

by Kai Zhen Tek | Undergraduate in Law, Law Society President



> Kai Zhen Tek

This year we have a very exciting plan. For the College's 675th anniversary year, we're honouring the Law Society's long standing heritage and looking at what the Society and our members can become in the future.

We're helping our members explore a range of career opportunities and pathways by bringing in prominent speakers and alumni who are at the top of their fields to showcase the range of options available to Trinity Hall law graduates.



> Kai at the Law Careers Panel event

We had the honour of hosting Jessica Gavron (1987), a barrister and Legal Director of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre, in Michaelmas term. Hearing about her experiences litigating human rights cases before the European Court of Human Rights, and the current state of the law today, provided important, real-world perspectives for our academic studies. For me, a particularly memorable takeaway from the event was Jessica's reflection that the litigations brought against states capture the state of affairs in a particular moment in time; they become important, incontrovertible proof against competing narratives painted by states that in the future may suggest that there were no human rights violations. Jessica shared that her time at Trinity Hall studying history helped her arrive at this insight, showing that what we study at Trinity Hall continues to lay the foundation of our approaches to tricky issues. It's exciting to be part of the next generation of students from a college with such a rich and inspiring history in law.

Studying law can be intense and challenging, so we are working to foster a close-knit and supportive community through shared study sessions and social activities. We hope that sharing these experiences will further strengthen our academic endeavours and sense of belonging. We've also received a lot of feedback and enthusiasm from non-law students who are interested in the field, so we hope to engage those members of Trinity Hall too. Having elected a non-law representative, we consciously design our events to be inclusive. For our careers panel in Lent term, as well as inviting alumni who studied law, we also invited Ruth Byrne KC (1997) who studied languages but went on to pursue a legal career. We hope this will inspire non-law students who may be interested in a career in law.

“Hearing about alumni experiences and different pathways really inspired our members to think about what they can become, from barristers to academics. It’s always special to have alumni at our events...”

Our first careers panel in February was a great success. Alongside leading practitioners in investor-state arbitrations, Ruth Byrne and Dr Cameron Miles (2012) from 3VB, we also welcomed back international criminal law practitioner Gillian Higgins (1994) from 9BR and senior civil servant, Tristan Pedelty (2002) from the Cabinet Office. We heard about their time at Trinity Hall, how they started out in their respective fields, and their reflections on their career journey thus far. Gillian shared a particularly inspiring story about how she created opportunities to work on very interesting criminal law cases by actively pursuing them. Many of our audience members were deeply inspired and benefitted immensely from the genuine sharing and dynamic exchanges during the Q&A sessions. The Law Society hopes to continue engaging

alumni who may be interested in speaking to students at Trinity Hall.

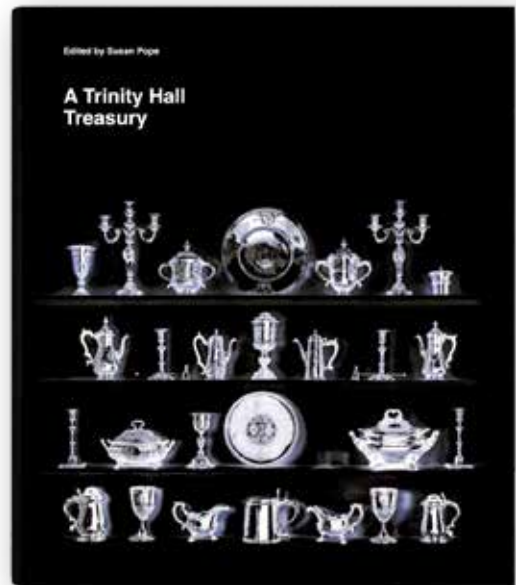
The Law Society Annual Dinner in February was excellent. We were joined by many alumni who are successful and well-respected in their fields. Hearing about their experiences and different pathways really inspired our members to think about what they can become, from barristers to academics. It’s always special to have alumni at our events and fascinating to speak to them about their time at College and their lives afterwards.

I’m proud to be part of a College with such a strong, historic standing in law that believes in the future of its students. 🗣️



> Gillian Higgins and Ruth Byrne KC at the Law Careers Panel event

Celebrating 675 years of Trinity Hall



This is a very special year for the whole Trinity Hall community as we mark our 675th anniversary.

From its origins in the aftermath of the Plague as a place to educate civil and canon lawyers, Trinity Hall continues its founding mission of education and research. It now, of course, spans the full range of arts and sciences, and welcomes students from an incredibly wide range of backgrounds who go on to make a difference in every field and every corner of the globe. This year is a chance to honour our heritage, celebrate our present and look ahead to our future ambitions.

We have a number of events and celebrations planned and it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible, whether in Cambridge, London, elsewhere in the UK, or overseas. Events include an evening to mark our tradition as a law college; concerts, lectures and social events; and later in the year the THA annual gathering, featuring a talk on

the College's history. We're also publishing a beautiful and fascinating book, *A Trinity Hall Treasury*.

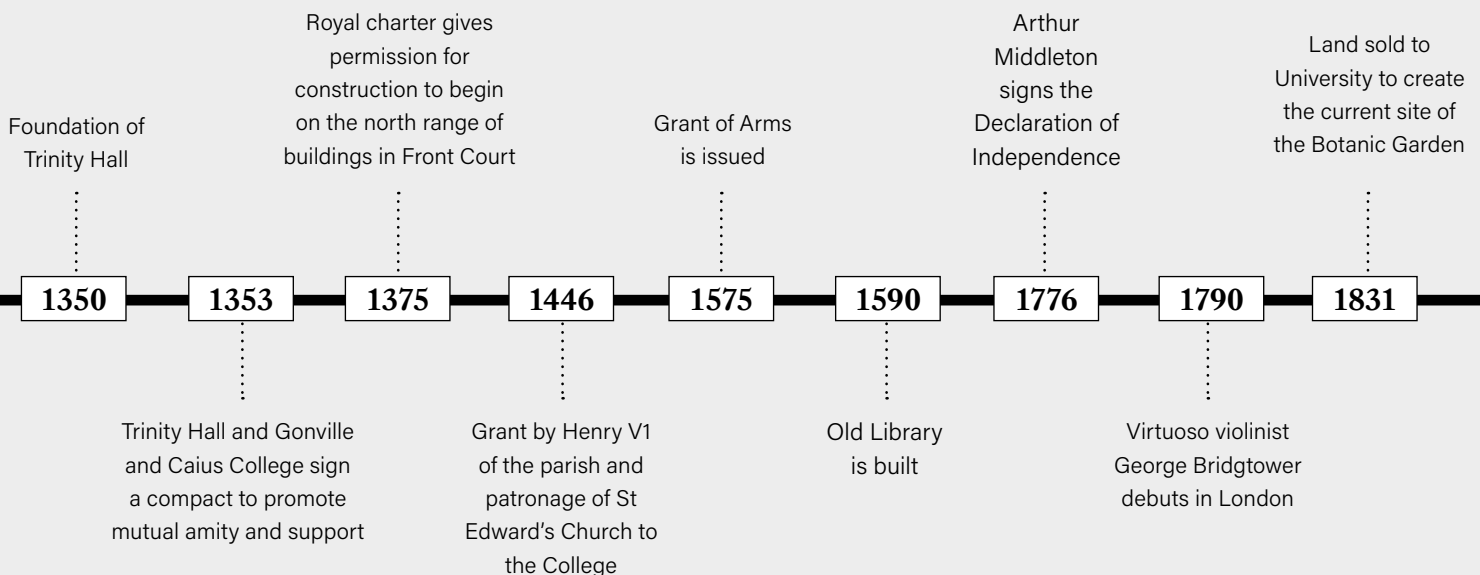
A Trinity Hall Treasury

To celebrate our anniversary, we wanted to do something special that tells the story of Trinity Hall from a new perspective.

This beautiful new book does just that, weaving through the past 675 years via our treasured objects and collections. Some of the Treasures you'll recognise from your time here and others will be fascinating to discover.

For a limited time, you can pre-order the book for a discounted price of £32.50 and have your name printed in the book itself. Find out more and pre-order at:

www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/treasury 📖



Help us to preserve our collective history

If you have anything relating to your time at Trinity Hall that you would be happy to donate, the Archive would gratefully receive it.

The Archive is in particular need of photographs, programmes, ephemera, and club and society records.

Email: archives@trinhall.cam.ac.uk



> Items from the Archive




SAVE THE DATE

Trinity Hall's 675th Birthday Party

Thursday 27 November at The British Library in London

Celebrate our 675th anniversary in style with drinks and canapés in the iconic British Library – home to the largest collection of books in the world. Keep an eye on your emails for further details and information on how to book your place.



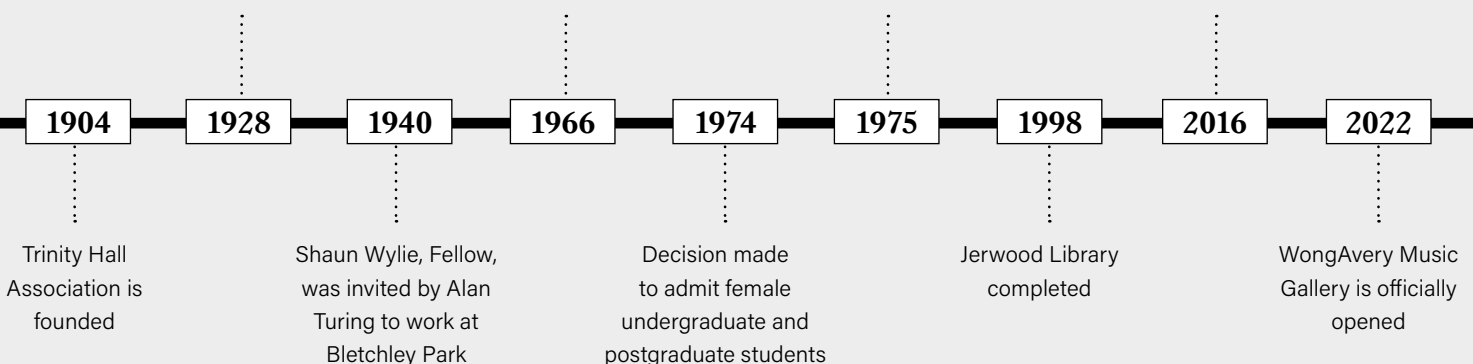
© istock.com/ Kalulu

Billy Fiske (1928) won bobsleigh gold for the first time at the Winter Olympics in St Moritz

Stephen Hawking (1962) submits his PhD thesis 'Properties of expanding universes'

Sandra Raban and Karen Thorne elected Trinity Hall's first female Fellows

David Thouless (1952) is awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics



2025



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Together we will make a lasting difference ...

to Trinity Hall and better equip talented graduates to make a lasting difference to the world. Your support will help us maintain Trinity Hall's high academic standards against the backdrop of great change in higher education.

Your donation to the Campaign can:

Help applicants believe they can come to Trinity Hall by changing perceptions and removing barriers, by

- supporting the new post of Access & Recruitment Officer and our widening participation programme
- establishing five newly endowed PhD studentships including a PhD studentship in law.

Offer students opportunities to become a success in whatever field they choose, by

- increasing funds available for postgraduates to help with research and conference expenses
- providing additional funding for clubs and societies.

Ensure students feel they belong to a community that supports their wellbeing and resilience, by

- supporting our wellbeing programming and helping students with disabilities.

Enable students to feel they belong to a community that provides exceptional spaces for them to live and study in, by

- redeveloping Cherry Tree Court to include a multi-purpose performance space, community café and teaching rooms
- expanding the sports pavilion and creation of community spaces at Wychfield.

Help us become a more sustainable College by

- developing sustainability initiatives to include fabric improvements, retrofit and energy centres at the central site and Wychfield
- creating the post of a Sustainability Fellow to pioneer research for a sustainable future for the world and to engage critically with sustainability issues at a College level.

You can find further details on the website:

campaign.trinhall.cam.ac.uk

We would be pleased to discuss these projects and other ways you can have an impact on the Trinity Hall community with a gift. Together we can make a difference. Please contact development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk 📧

Give TogetHER

13-16 May 2025

For 67.5 hours, we invite alumni, students, friends, fellows and staff to celebrate our 675th anniversary year and Trinity Hall's 5th Giving Day.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our past four Giving Days cumulatively raised over £1.1 million. This collective giving creates an enduring impact on the College.

trinhall.cam.ac.uk/givetogether



Why I believe in the Campaign



The words that come to mind when I think of the Trinity Hall I went up to in 1991 are “welcoming”, “supportive”, “low key”, “cool” (for Cambridge), “punches above its weight”, and “life-changing”. As someone who is quite introverted by nature, Trinity Hall gave me confidence, socially and academically. It is where I forged life-long friendships. It enabled me to flourish. And it is to where I remain unwaveringly loyal. That is why I am honoured to be Co-chair of our 675th fundraising campaign.

We all have our own variation of this story, of what College gave us, and what it meant (and still means) to us. That’s why I am hopeful that all of us, in a way that is meaningful to each of us individually, want to “do our bit” to ensure that successive generations continue to have opportunities to develop and to make a difference.

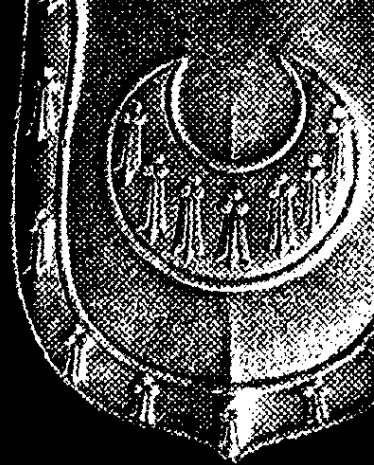
Iain Drayton 1991,
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies
Campaign Co-chair



Plenty of time has passed since I went up to Trinity Hall in 1978, albeit not so much in the context of our storied 675-year history. I have many great memories from my time there, including the sense of community, the people I met, and those who became great friends. It’s inconceivable that my life would have turned out the way it has without Trinity Hall, and only partly because I met my wife there.

Trinity Hall has, for many generations, offered a very special and unusual experience for those lucky enough to study and work within its walls. However, the cost of delivery has ground steadily upward, whilst government’s ability and willingness to pay for its provision has not kept pace. In a nutshell, that simple equation is why I am involved in the Campaign. It’s a special place, but it needs help to continue and to grow.

Chris Grigg 1978,
Economics | Campaign Co-chair



Designing AI for social justice

by Abdullah Hasan Safir | PhD, Interdisciplinary AI Design | Gates Scholar

I am writing this piece in a great mood after a particularly eventful and progressive Lent term. As well as working on my PhD in interdisciplinary AI design, I had the privilege of co-convening the inaugural Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence (CHIA) Early Career Conference where attendees shared insights and methodologies that push the boundaries of what is possible when humans and AI work together.

When I finished my undergraduate degree in engineering in Bangladesh, little did I think that a couple of years later I'd be in Cambridge surrounded by the brightest minds in the world who are busy shaping this emerging field of AI ethics. Working in the rapidly evolving field of AI is incredibly rewarding: we are striving to positively impact some of the greatest challenges of our time. And I will be honest, it is demanding. It requires constant attention to technological advancements, shifting ethical and regulatory standards, and responding to enormous public expectations, but the societal benefits are important and necessary.

In Autumn 2023, when I joined Trinity Hall to study for my MPhil in Ethics of AI, Data and Algorithm at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI), I was excited and inspired by the possibilities of belonging to this community. CFI was inaugurated by Professor Stephen Hawking in 2016 who said in his speech, "AI will be either the best, or the worst thing, ever to happen to humanity... The research done by this Centre is crucial to the future of our civilisation and of our species."

During my MPhil, I researched how contemporary AI ethics and practices have been excluding Global South contexts and how this could bring further harm to the already marginalised population groups in those regions. I presented the initial findings of my dissertation at Trinity Hall's Marshall McLuhan Symposium last year, together with other members of the MCR working across a range of important and interesting topics.

Fast forward to Autumn 2024 and I started my PhD in Interdisciplinary AI Design with a more pragmatic research interest: how can we integrate non-Western knowledge systems into the design of sociotechnical interventions with generative AI?

I am exploring how local and indigenous knowledge practices of diverse Bangladeshi population groups could inform a justice-centric design of AI, specifically when those groups apply generative AI tools in their socio-technical contexts. I am a member of the Cambridge Collective Intelligence and Design (CamCID) group and supervised by Dr Ramit Debnath. This lab is a great fit for my research since I aim to capture plural values around 'collective intelligence' of my targeted population groups and combine them with cutting-edge computational approaches. I am also co-supervised by Professor Alan Blackwell (in the Department of Computer Science and Technology) and am a member of his Critical Design Studio. His alternative and ethnographic approaches to AI are inspirational. I plan to conduct ethnographic field research with Bangladeshi communities to understand how their perspectives and cultural contexts are reflected in their locally led and owned data practices.

My previous peer-reviewed co-authored publications examined how digital technologies affect marginalised population groups in Bangladesh and advocated for distributive justice in socio-technical design. I intend to build a similar decolonial evidence base through my PhD research showing how AI can be co-designed with vulnerable population groups to improve their lives.



I am grateful to have had opportunities to receive funding from Trinity Hall and the University to support my research and postgraduate study. I am so thankful to those who support PhD researchers and recognise the value of the much-needed work in fields such as mine, at the intersection of AI, design and global social justice.

Beyond scholarly contributions, there is so much to do for the field! And so, as an early career member of the Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence, I worked with my peers to design March's inaugural conference around 'Collective Generative Futures'. We were thrilled to welcome brilliant presenters and attendees from Cambridge and beyond to explore how generative technologies in this changing world

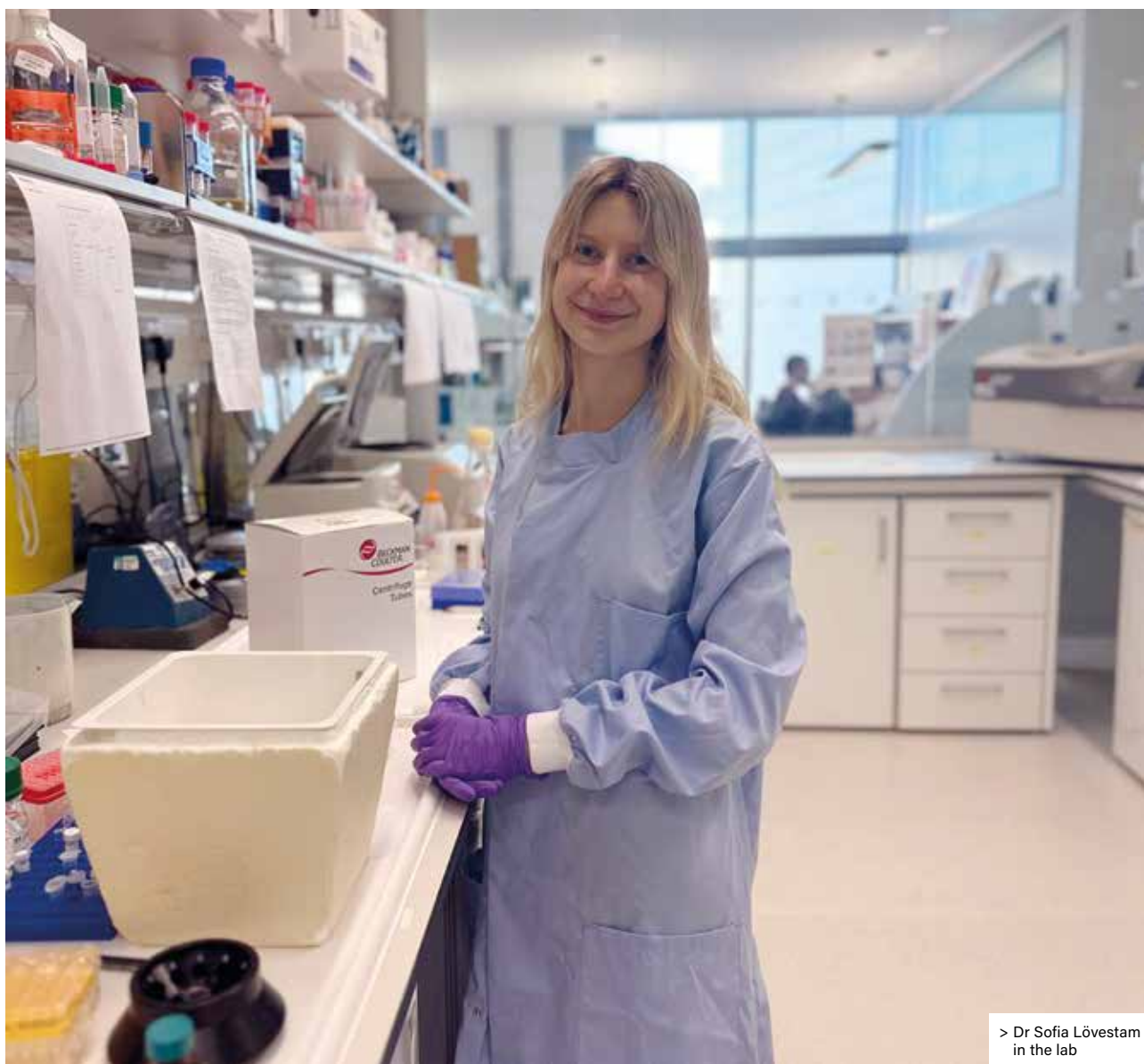
can serve as extensions of human capabilities rather than replacements. We also had a fascinating panel on career challenges in the field with representatives from Google, IBM, Microsoft and the University.

I continue to contribute to policy and public engagements, including writing and speaking for local and international media. As a member of an AI@Cam project on ethically rooted AI for public services, I was part of a team that designed a game for this year's Cambridge Festival.

I hope my PhD journey will enable further such avenues of strong, meaningful impacts in the coming years. 🍀

Five minutes with a Fellow

Dr Sofia Lövestam researches brain diseases, such as Alzheimer's, at the molecular level. She is passionate about furthering our understanding of these life-changing diseases and supporting people of all ages to reach their potential and spark their curiosity. Sofia joined Trinity Hall in October 2024 as Research Fellow in Natural Sciences (Biochemistry).



> Dr Sofia Lövestam
in the lab

How do you explain your research to non-specialists?

I study brain diseases called tauopathies, where a certain protein in the brain, known as tau, starts clumping together. The most common tauopathy is Alzheimer's disease. These tau clumps can form a kaleidoscope of shapes, where each shape is linked to a different disease. The longer you have the disease, the more the clumps grow and spread throughout the brain, making it harder for the brain to work properly. We don't know why these proteins clump together in specific ways, so my research tries to understand how and why this happens at the molecular level.

How did you become interested in this research area?

I became interested in this problem as an undergraduate biochemistry student at Imperial College London. We were learning how proteins fold into their functional shapes: a process driven by many factors that are still not fully understood. Our lecturer explained that one main driving force in protein folding is the hydrophobic collapse where hydrophobic amino acids cluster inside the protein's core, while hydrophilic amino acids face outwards towards the surrounding water.

Then, he introduced something different and a bit unusual in that certain proteins may misfold and can recruit other proteins to misfold in a templated way. To illustrate this, he showed us a picture of a lasagna. He explained that just like the layers of pasta stack on top of one another, these misfolded proteins also stack in layers, forming long and stable structures. This stacking process keeps repeating, making more and more layers and this is what we call an amyloid.

I was absorbed by this idea. Amyloids play a key role in many neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and a progressive neurodegenerative disorder, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). But amyloids aren't always harmful. For example, they also appear in melanin pigment formation; however, in this case, the process is controlled, and the amyloids can be safely removed after melanin production has taken place.

There is a personal connection to Alzheimer's disease here too. I've seen loved ones lose themselves and be consumed by anger. This is a heartbreaking tragedy that should not exist.

When are you most fulfilled in your job?

There are many aspects that make me feel fulfilled in my job. I am incredibly lucky that my job is also my passion. I often find myself "working" simply because I enjoy it so much.

Some of the most fulfilling moments are when I've been thinking about a problem for a while, tinkering with experiments and then start to see progress. I use an electron microscope, which is like a light microscope, but instead of light, it uses electrons. Because the wavelength of an electron is much shorter, we can see much smaller things, like proteins and amyloid filaments. This means that with my experiments, I can see what is happening and receive direct feedback which is invaluable. Observing the experiment after testing a hypothesis is deeply satisfying.

I also feel fulfilled seeing my students excel. One of my former Master's students is now pursuing a PhD at Stanford, and he is one of the smartest people I have met. He always keeps me updated and knowing he is thriving is incredibly rewarding. Watching my Master's students become independent in the lab is just as fulfilling as any scientific breakthrough, especially when we do this together.

How can your research contribute to solving key problems in human health?

Alzheimer's is currently incurable. One of the main reasons for this is because we don't understand why the proteins misfold and can recruit other proteins while spreading through the brain. I am working on understanding this at the molecular level, and I hope that if we can understand how it happens, it will be simpler to treat the diseases with targeted therapies.

What are your hopes for the future of disease research?

For the diseases themselves, a cure would be ideal. However, even if a cure is developed, it does not necessarily mean we've understood the disease itself. My hope for the field is that we can accurately describe the initial trigger in the molecular mechanisms behind these neurodegenerative diseases.

These diseases are also a race against time: we need to catch them early. It would be very valuable to know the clinical symptoms correlate with the neuropathology.

Can you tell us about your work with younger generations?

Where I work at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, we have lots of opportunities to take part in STEM initiatives. We often share what we do with children, both online and in person. During our open-door day, I gave a presentation to teach an audience of all ages about Alzheimer's disease. I've educated children in the use of electron microscopes and biology. It is important to spark children's curiosity about everything around them! At times, biology can feel like stepping into an *Alice in Wonderland* – like world. It is fun to show this to them and see their eyes light up. 🧠

IN MEMORIAM

Dr Isabelle McNeill

16 March 1979 – 21 February 2025

by Professor Louise Haywood, Drs Heather Inwood, Leila Mukhida and Rachel Tolley | Trinity Hall Fellows

We are deeply saddened by the death of our friend and colleague Dr Isabelle McNeill, on Friday 21 February from cancer, which she faced with positivity, strength and resilience. There are no words capacious enough to convey Isabelle's brilliance of mind, generosity of spirit, humour and creativity. Everything she did as a Fellow, friend, teacher and Tutor was underpinned by a feminist ethics of care. We loved her dearly and Trinity Hall was a better place with her in it.

Isabelle joined the Fellowship in 2005 as College Associate Professor in French and Film and Philomathia Fellow. She was an Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, and a key figure in Cambridge Film & Screen. She made substantial contributions to College life, not least as a supervisor and Director of Studies in MML; as a long-serving Undergraduate Tutor; as Secretary to the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, which she was instrumental in establishing, and in delivering the Eden Oration in 2023. Her compassion and commitment were evident to all, and her absence is felt in every corner of the College.



Isabelle was a brilliant thinker who specialised in Francophone cinema, feminist film theory and creative practice in relation to memory, urban space, Internet culture and girlhood. Her monograph *Memory and the Moving Image: French Film in the Digital Era* was published in 2010, and she was in the process of writing her second monograph, *The Rooftops of Paris: Cinematic Perspectives*. Her Trinity Hall office at the top of D Staircase, whose windows look out over the rooftops of North Court, Gonville and Caius and beyond, offered the perfect vantage point for her reflections on urban spaces and their inherent power dynamics.

Unsurprisingly, for one whose work drew on the importance of both space and creative practice, her office in D14 was

carefully curated to inspire creativity and to challenge assumed structures of power and knowledge transfer in a pedagogic context by emphasising equity, care and comfort. Isabelle's philosophical and personal engagement with a feminist ethics of care carried into the work done by the Tactics and Praxis seminar (a flat-hierarchy group exploring feminist and ethical intersections between academic and creative work, of which she was an instigating member) and the New School of the Anthropocene (which provides a radical, affordable education as an alternative to mainstream university for activists, creatives and instigators of change, on whose advisory board she served). She was also a co-founder and trustee of the Cambridge Film Trust.

Isabelle's wide-ranging academic interests and commitment to equity, diversity and experimentation led a distinctively creative and inclusive pedagogy. She delighted in the progress of her students, went above and beyond to lend support when they struggled, and encouraged their creativity and imagination. She was, as a result, beloved and respected by the student community. Shortly before her death, Isabelle learned that she had won the University's prestigious Pilkington

Prize, awarded in recognition of her influence in relation to inclusivity and the diversification of materials and approaches, and her innovative and consistent reimagination of the possibilities of research, teaching and their interrelations.

Isabelle knew that 'the College' is a community of people first, and an institution second. In her Eden Oration, she echoed the Care Collective's call to "begin by avowing care, in all of its ubiquitous complexities, and by building more enduring and participatory caring outlooks, contexts and infrastructures, wherever we can". She encouraged us to "nurture our own community in this College"; to "collectively bring that energy to Trinity Hall". We will follow her example, and we will remember her when we do.

THA Secretary's Report



> Lizzie Iron

by Lizzie Iron | THA Secretary

I'm sure it's still common in Cambridge to refer to the biting winds coming straight off the Urals: it's invariably colder than in London and I now remember to wear an extra layer when coming back to College! Winter weather aside, though, what are we to make of the metaphorical winds of change flowing from current world events? Are we witnessing a seismic shift in geo-politics? Will 2025 become a year that history records for reasons we can't yet assess?

In such unsettled times, many of us find belief and comfort in continuity, and Trinity Hall offers one such thread of steady endurance. This year's 675th Anniversary is an opportunity to understand how the College has survived through past episodes of both serenity and turbulence and how we can share in securing its future. While most of those 675 years of alumni can only be reached through archives – and then only those who left records – we do hope to engage as many of our current members as possible in this anniversary year. The Association is therefore delighted to be working with the College to host a discussion panel at September's THA AGM to explore the story of the College and touch on various themes around its context, its purpose and its people – themes still fundamental to College life today. Save the Date: **THA AGM and Cambridge Dinner Saturday 27 September 2025.**

Anniversaries are a brilliant excuse for an event or a get-together. For the Trinity Hall community, the pleasure of these events lies in cementing – and sometimes re-discovering – connections made from our time at College. Some of us return soon after leaving and visit frequently, while some make it only years later, and others not at all. The feeling of belonging to a wider community may be intense or quite casual, but among the alumni I meet now, most have a deep sense of how their time at Cambridge and Trinity Hall helped shape who they are and what they've achieved since. We held a fantastic event at the Tower of London in February and we're looking forward to the THA Regional Dinner in Cardiff on 7 June. If you haven't visited for a while, why not attend a reunion or another event and see if you will re-discover old connections or make new ones?

As *Front Court* goes to press, the THA Committee will be receiving applications for the THA 2025 Volunteering Awards. These are modest grants towards student projects of humanitarian interest, which often represent small steps toward the students' future careers. It's tremendously gratifying to know that through the THA, we are nurturing early passions that may well inspire the awardees to become whoever they want to be and achieve whatever they hope to do.
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News in Brief

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COMMUNITY

Launching 'Catalysts'

Trinity Hall, in conjunction with the Cambridge Judge Business School's Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation, has launched the new 'Catalysts' programme, offering Cambridge students the chance to learn from leading innovators and launch upcoming enterprises with social impact at the heart of their mission.

Thanks to Graham Ross Russell (1953) for making this possible.

FELLOWS

Vladimir Kara-Murza welcomed back to Trinity Hall

On 12 February, we were thrilled to welcome back alumnus and Honorary Fellow Vladimir Kara-Murza (2000) and his wife Evgenia to Trinity Hall to celebrate his Honorary Fellowship and spend time with members of the Trinity Hall community.

In 2023, Vladimir was unable to accept his Honorary Fellowship from Trinity Hall in person because he was illegally detained in Russia. He was released from prison in August 2024 as part of the largest East-West prisoner exchange since the Cold War.

Trinity Hall held a poignant ceremony to award Vladimir his Honorary Fellowship in person. That evening, more than 100 students, staff, Fellows, alumni and friends came together in the Lecture Theatre and online for a special 'in conversation' event with Vladimir and the Master, Mary Hockaday. Vladimir

discussed his time as a History student at Trinity Hall and as an opposition politician and dissident in Russia, how his ability to take the long view helped sustain him during his illegal detention in

Siberia, and his hopes for the future now he has been released.

You can watch the event on our YouTube channel: [@TrinityHallCambridge](https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityHallCambridge).

> (l-r) Revd Dr Stephen Plant, Professor Clare Jackson, Evgenia Kara-Murza, Vladimir Kara-Murza, Professor Peter Clarke, Mary Hockaday



AWARDS

King's Birthday Honours

Four alumni of Trinity Hall have been recognised in the 2025 King's New Year Honours, celebrating their achievements and service to politics, heritage and the military. RAF Captain Trevor Case (2018, International Relations) and RAF Squadron Leader Andrew Sweeney (2021, Engineering for Sustainable Development) were recognised with awards for their contribution to the military. Alumnus David Quarry (1984, History) CMG was awarded a KCMG for services to British Foreign Policy and International Security and Roger Evans (1966, History) was awarded an MBE for his services to Ecclesiastical Heritage in England and Wales.



> Wilf Vall

AWARD

Winners of the Trinity Hall Prize in Student Journalism

Current *Varsity* Editor-in-Chief and Trinity Hall undergraduate Wilf Vall (2023, HSPS) won the News category of the inaugural Trinity Hall Prize in Student Journalism for his piece, *Trinity backtracks on divestment/Trinity College master 'regrets' £250k fund for Ukrainian students*, which was published in *Varsity* and *The Times*. Wilf's work and that of three other prize-winners from across the University demonstrates the vibrant and enduring student journalism scene at Cambridge.

Thanks to Jim Passamano (1998) and Beth Sufian for making this possible.

SPORT

Sporting Successes

Lent term has seen Trinity Hall athletes excel in inter-college and University competitions. Blues athletes Lucy Harding (rugby), Viktoria Hunter (fencing), Ryan Ko and Zach Lyttle (water polo), and Deniz Ozer and Aram Sarkissian (football) have all competed against Oxford in Varsity matches, showcasing diverse sporting talent from across College. On the river, all four crews in Lent Bumps produced superb performances, cheered on by students, staff, Fellows and alumni through inclement weather and tough competition.



> W2 on Day 2 of Lent Bumps



Diary dates

8 May
Spotlights: Space Near and Far

10 May
Concert – Bach Dialogues III

17 May
Concert

7 June
THA regional event in Cardiff

12 July
50th Anniversary for 1975

19 July
Reunion for matriculation years up
to 1963

6 September
Reunion for 1967, 1968 & 1969

13 September
25th Anniversary dinner for 2000

25 September
60th Anniversary lunch for 1965

26–28 September
University Alumni Festival

27 September
THA AGM, Cambridge dinner &
THA webinar

See our upcoming events at
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events



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