



Trinity Hall Association – Secretary's Report 2024-25

Membership of the Committee remains as approved at the 2024 AGM, with two Members co-opted since the meeting, who are proposed for formal election at the 2025 AGM. Three Committee Members are recommended for re-election – including the President – and two Members will step down at the 2025 AGM.

We continue to think about the diversity of the Committee and seek interest from all years of matriculation, with current members ranging from 1967 to 2012. We offer remote facilities for Committee meetings and the AGM, to encourage more overseas alumni/ae to take part, and we now have two members based in Europe.

Four regular meetings of the Committee were held over the year, with September's and February's in College, the November session online and the June meeting in London at the RAF Club. Routine business has included allocation of the THA Student Awards and a range of alumni events, including the usual Annual Dinner in September 2024, a London event in February 2025 and a regional Alumni Dinner in June 2025, while the 2025 AGM Panel Discussion will be streamed online.

We continue to monitor the Association's financial position and aim to show a return to net assets by the end of the next reporting period.

The 2024 Annual Dinner attracted 114 guests, from matriculation years 1955 to 2024. We are very pleased to report that 140 places for the 2025 Dinner were snapped up within the first few weeks of availability and we look forward to a well-attended Anniversary evening.

The Tower of London's Ceremony of the Keys in February was a highly popular event and will be repeated to allow more Alumni to experience it. The atmospheric Ceremony of the Keys takes place every evening as the Tower is secured for the night - a tradition dating back some 800 years. For 65 THA guests in February, the Ceremony was preceded by an entertaining tour of the Tower by one of the practised Yeoman Warders and the evening included access to the Warders' bar for drinks.

Held in Cardiff on 7th June, the regional Alumni Dinner took place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, located at the edge of Bute Park close to Cardiff Castle. Guests said they particularly appreciated the Welsh location and the evening was fully booked, with 39 attendees, alumni ranging from matriculation years 1959 to 2001. We enjoyed an informative tour of the College followed by Dinner in the Anthony Hopkins Centre - formerly the stable block of Cardiff Castle, one of only two stable buildings designed by William

Burges. Added interest lay in the collection of 19th and 20th century paintings on the walls of the dining room.

Applications for the THA Awards covered a range of diverse and interesting projects and reflect today's changing priorities for community needs: an intergenerational project supporting access to nature in Cambridge; addressing climate change and sustainable farming in Ireland; assessing the impact of societal attitudes to displaced people from queer and trans communities in Turkey; hospital volunteering in Vietnam; supporting orphaned boys in Peru and working with local staff on educational material for conflict-affected communities. Three of the Awardees gave brief insights into their projects just before the 2024 AGM, with similar presentations scheduled for 2025. Project reports are published on the THA Section of the College website as the students submit them.

On behalf of the Association, the Committee thanks The Reverend Cortland Fransella and Dr David Billett for their years of service on the Committee: Cortland's calm interventions and wise counsel have always been valued by previous Presidents and Committee Colleagues; while David as both Secretary and Events Member maintained a rigorous approach to the administration of the Committee, and also managed a significant workload, delivering several delightful events in unusual and interesting venues. He also bore much of the stress of the litigation against the Association and his fortitude helped to carry the THA through these most difficult years.

As ever, we offer particular thanks to Rachelle, Liz, Rebecca and the team in the Development Office and to the Master and the wider College Staff 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 2025