



110th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 27th September 2025

Held in the Leslie Stephen Room at Trinity Hall and online, starting at 17.45

MINUTES

In the Chair: Mr Guy Brannan, President

The meeting was preceded by a short talk from one of the 2025 student recipients of a THA Volunteering Award: the Awardee had taken part in a research project addressing treatment of queer and trans-gender refugees in Turkey. Having grown up near the Turkey/Syria border, the student offered valuable personal insights. They described the work - including some of the risks involved - and expressed appreciation for the THA funding. The Secretary commented on the unusual focus of this project, with a sincere wish that the resulting report would make a difference. The Committee were pleased to know that the Award had enabled the Awardee's participation in a project closely aligned with their personal interests and future aspirations.

Student volunteer reports will be posted on the THA section of the College website.

Papers for the meeting had been published in advance on the THA section of the College website and a link was provided at the meeting via a QR code. Paper copies of the Accounts were available, together with a printed leaflet presenting the Secretary's report, the Financial report and biographies of prospective Committee Members.

1. Attendance/Apologies

Some 22 members were present in person, with apologies from Committee Member, Graham Read, KC. Remote access was available and was attended by two Committee Members, Catriona McGill and Rajan Jain, and one prospective Member, Isobel Daley, as well as 3 other Alumni/ae.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 109th AGM held on 28th September 2024 had been published in advance on the relevant section of the College website. The President invited approval of the minutes, which was proposed by Emily Bosley, seconded by David Billett, and carried by a unanimous vote. The minutes were therefore approved.

3. President's Remarks

The President welcomed Members to the AGM and began his remarks with a minute's silence to remember alumni/ae who had passed away since the last AGM.

He summarised the year's work, which included four routine meetings and two successful alumni events, one at the Tower of London and the other in Cardiff, with a Dinner at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, both of which were fully booked. He also reported on the high number of Alumni/ae (136) booked in for the THA Annual Dinner that evening.

He mentioned that the Association intends to arrange an online discussion similar to the 2024 Q+A event with David Tyler, and invited suggestions for engaging speakers.

THA Awards had been granted to six students (graduates and undergraduates).

Suggestions had been offered for adjustments to the Rules adopted in 2024. They hadn't been received in time for consideration at the 2025 AGM and after due consideration, the Committee would present any recommended changes at the 2026 AGM.

The President thanked the Officers and Members of the Committee, particularly naming Lizzie Iron (Secretary), Brian Healy (Treasurer), Catriona McGill (Awards) and Lee Evans (Events), as well as recognising the invaluable support provided by the Development Office and College Staff.

He finished with sincere thanks to The Rev Cortland Fransella and Dr David Billett for their contributions to the Committee, and he recommended the proposed new appointments to be voted on later in the meeting.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary referred Members to her written Report, published in advance on the THA section of the College website and printed in the AGM leaflet at the meeting.

Key points were:

- Fulfilment of routine business as outlined by the President, including the approval of two financial procedures agreed at the 10 June Committee meeting and published alongside the THA Rules on the relevant pages of the College website.
- 114 guests had enjoyed the 2024 Annual Dinner, with the 140 places for the 2025 Dinner fully booked (ultimately settling at 136 guests); 65 alumni had attended the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London in February and the Association had welcomed 39 guests at the Cardiff Dinner in June.
- A summary of the 2025 THA Awards, with a remark on how the projects reflected current issues, including climate change, sustainability and areas of conflict.
- Thanks were expressed to retiring Committee Members, Cortland Fransella and David Billett, and to the Development Office Team and for support from College.

5. Financial Report

The Treasurer referred to his Financial Report, published in advance on the THA section of the College website and printed in the AGM leaflet for the meeting. He confirmed that the Committee had approved the Accounts to June 30th 2024, which were published on the THA pages of the College website.

Key points in the Report for 2024-25 were:

- The income from the endowment, granted by the College, was £24,700.

- Expenditure had been kept tight and well within budget, at £9,128, with Events costing £3,400 and THA Awards amounting to £4,500 (+ miscellaneous costs).
- With no further legal costs, the Association's net liability had decreased to £5,099, which should result in net assets by the end of the next financial year.
- This had also allowed an increase in the subsidy for the 2025 Annual Dinner places.
- The Treasurer confirmed that our only creditor was the College.

6. Re-election of President

The Rules require annual re-election of the President, who deferred to the Secretary for this item: Guy Brannan (1974) was put forward for re-election after one year in post. Guy's re-election was formally proposed by Sarah Webbe, seconded by Roger McKinlay and carried unanimously.

7. Committee Members

- a). The President noted the retirement of Cortland Fransella (1967) and thanked him for his commitment to the THA, specifically his generosity in sharing valuable contacts for meetings and events, his calm manner in discussion and his unfailingly wise comments.
- b). The President also noted the retirement of Dr David Billett (1968), thanking him for his years as both Secretary and Events Co-ordinator, when his administration was rigorously organised and he arranged several dinners in varied and interesting locations. Together with Roy Warden, former Treasurer, David had also borne much of the stress of the litigation brought against the THA, for which the President thanked him especially.
- c). Ramandeep Singh (2010) and Lee Evans (2010) both stood for re-election as Committee Members, after three years of service. Raman's re-election was proposed by Gillian Karran-Cumberlege and seconded by Cortland Fransella. Lee's was proposed by Roy Warden and seconded by Emily Bosley. Both were unanimously approved.
- d). Two new Committee Members had been proposed: Isobel Daley (2007) was proposed by Sarah Webbe, seconded by Cortland Fransella and unanimously approved. James Poynton (2018) was proposed by Lizzie Iron, seconded by Lee Evans and unanimously approved.

The President welcomed the re-elected and newly-elected Committee Members.

8. AOB

The President invited Karsten Wenzlaff, Trinity Hall's North German Rep, and Secretary for the Oxbridge Society of Hamburg, to speak about the University of Cambridge Alumni Advisory Board, which helps provide tools to support Alumni with world-wide networking and generally welcomes new volunteers.

Frank Morgan (1974) also mentioned that *Cambridge in America* had recently organised an event in his area of the USA, which he had welcomed.

The Secretary commented that there had been a request for the THA to undertake more activities for overseas Alumni/ae, but the Committee maintained that the College and other Oxbridge bodies provided such opportunities and are better equipped to do so. Meanwhile, the THA would continue to offer at least one online event per year.

The President invited questions, of which there were three:

Qstn 1. Referring to the Accounts, what was meant by the Donation Refund?

Ans: College had set up a Covid fund, to which the THA had contributed £5,000. Given the current financial situation, the THA had eventually been persuaded by the College to accept a refund of this donation.

Qstn 2. What draw-down rate is used for the income from the endowment?

Ans: Approximately 2.5%. This is at the discretion of the college and has resulted in an income of £20-25,000 in recent years.

Qstn 3. Referring to the one-minute silence, could the THA provide a list of deceased alumni/ae?

Ans: The College holds the relevant data to manage this information and lists deaths in the Annual Review. It would be unnecessary duplication for the THA to provide a list.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 18.30.

Lizzie Iron, Secretary
2nd October 2025