

FRONT COURT

Trinity Hall Cambridge



HIGHLIGHTS

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TRINITY
HALL
CAMBRIDGE

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Message from the Master

by Mary Hockaday | Master

When I arrived at Trinity Hall as an undergraduate, there were already female students in every year, and I was supervised and went to lectures by women. I rather took it for granted. I now look back and reflect that if I had been four years older, I would not have been able to be at Trinity Hall at all. I now understand that few of the women who taught me were full Fellows.

A great deal has changed in the 50 years since Trinity Hall opened its doors to female students, first postgraduate and then undergraduate, which is what we're marking at College over the months ahead through events and other initiatives. 'Celebrate' isn't quite the right word for an anniversary which perhaps should have come several centuries earlier. But we will celebrate the contribution women have made and do make to Trinity Hall, fully integrated now into every part of College life.

You can see that in the fascinating accounts by alumna Dinah Pounds about her service as Mayor, and by postgraduate Ella Wood about her work on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

The historic change was brought home at General Admission, when all our finalists gathered in the Senate House for their graduation ceremony. They were welcomed and presented in eloquent Latin by Dr Suf Amichay, our female Praelector, to me, Trinity Hall's first female Master, wearing gowns and caps in the tradition of those worn for centuries by men. I was very glad General Admission fortuitously fell outside the summer heatwaves. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor's gown is heavy!

I'm confident you'll enjoy the 'Out of sight' article, which explores some of the most important but sometimes hidden parts of the College, certainly parts which relatively few students get to see. Who knew the kitchens produce more than 66,000 meals every year?

Our Spotlight events theme for 2027 will be 'Humanities' as we celebrate the humanities in a world where most recently STEM subjects have perhaps been at the fore. You can find more details of all the alumni events for this coming year, including the anniversary of women, on our website. One exciting and important way we're marking the anniversary of women is by endowing a PhD studentship for a woman

studying a subject where women are underrepresented. I certainly want to celebrate the generosity of Catherine Stewart in helping us launch this important fund, as you can read on [page 14](#).

Finally, please do check the information on the back page about changes to our publications and let us know your preferences for print or digital.

I look forward to seeing you in College, London or abroad in the months ahead. ☺



> Mary outside the Master's Lodge

The Praelector

The Trinity Hall flag flies on a hot July day as 105 graduands line up in Front Court before the walk to the Senate House where they will officially become graduates of the University of Cambridge.

A hush settles over the group as students stand together in their gowns, listening closely as the instructions begin for this year's General Admission. Members of College are gathered around the edges to watch the familiar scene take shape, this time with a new leading voice.

Dr Suf Amichay, Praelector for Trinity Hall this year, stands with the graduands and talks them through what will happen next. She explains where they will stand, when they will move and what they will need to do once they are inside the Senate House. Before the practical instructions, she takes a moment to acknowledge what has brought them there.

"You can think back on the last few years and know that you've done something extremely hard and completed it," she tells them. "I hope you know that the College is really proud of you. You are part of this long tradition of people who come and seek knowledge and pursue it for yourself. In the spirit of medieval things, I'm going to now walk you through this ceremony, which, as you can see by the clothes you are wearing, is not a modern one."

That mix of reassurance, instruction and ceremony is close to the heart of the Praelector's role.

The word *praelector* is Latin in origin, generally understood as someone who reads out, lectures or speaks before others. At Cambridge, the Praelector is both a practical and ceremonial role. They prepare graduands before their graduation ceremony and speak on behalf of the College at the point when a student's achievement is formally recognised by the University. The office sits within the long ceremonial history of Cambridge. The University describes elements of the degree ceremony as having their origins in its earliest customs, around 800 years ago, and Latin remains part of the formal proceedings today. Much has changed in the life of the University since then, but graduation still preserves a strong sense of order and continuity through the procession,

the sequence of colleges, the formal presentation, and the recognition of graduands as members of a College as well as the wider University. Our Archive holds a definite reference to praelectors from 1882, but as Cambridge's fifth oldest college it's likely praelectors have been part of Trinity Hall life for much longer.

One of the most distinctive parts of the ceremony is the Latin. The Praelector presents each graduand in turn by taking their hand and saying:

"Dignissima domina, Domina Procancellaria et tota Academia praesento vobis hunc virum (hanc mulierem) quem (quam) scio tam moribus quam doctrina esse idoneum (idoneam) ad gradum assequendum (name of degree); idque tibi fide mea praesto totique Academiae."

"Most worthy Vice-Chancellor and the whole University, I present to you this man (this woman) whom I know to be suitable as much by character as by learning to proceed to the degree of (name of degree); for which I pledge my faith to you and to the whole University."

For most graduands, the Latin may be remembered as part of the atmosphere of a ceremonial tradition but for the Praelector it has to be accurate, fluent and timed with care.

As Suf leads the graduands out of Front Court to a chorus of applause, the practical preparatory work of the Praelector gives way to ceremony. Under the early afternoon sun, they process down Trinity Lane and along Trinity Street to the Senate House for the formal moment they become graduates.

For alumni, that moment may be sharp in the memory or almost lost among the photographs and congratulations that followed. Either way, it is part of the passage from student to graduate, with their Praelector guiding them through one of Cambridge's oldest ceremonies. 🎓



> Dr Suf Amichay in her role as Praelector



> Chuyuan Liu
Inside Out, Outside in



SENZA FRETTA

An unhurried gaze on Trinity Hall

Life as a Trinity Hall student can be busy and fast-paced. Early mornings on the river, lectures and supervisions throughout the day, and a full calendar of social activities make it easy to move quickly through spaces that, over time, fade into the background.

Earlier this year, a group of five Trinity Hall architecture students set out to slow down and bring College back into focus with the expert guidance of artist Luca Nostri and external Director of Studies Dr Sabrina Puddu. Moving thoughtfully and deliberately, the students explored the often overlooked details of College through a series of photographic diptychs – pairs of related images shown side by side – shaped by what they described as an ‘unhurried gaze’.

The workshop forms part of a wider programme that introduces architecture students to media that play an important role in architectural research and practice. Photography encourages students to think carefully about what they include within a frame and what they leave out, helping them make sense of the complexity of the spaces they study and design.

Each diptych was guided by a theme, and each student approached the same environment differently, whether through narrative, texture or abstraction, to create a layered and nuanced portrait of Trinity Hall. 📷



> Sylvie Denner
Worn Out



> Chris Chilvers
Impromptu I





The silver collection

by Dr Leila Mukhida | Silver Steward and Director of Studies in Modern and Medieval Languages

The following passages are taken from a longer article in *A Trinity Hall Treasury* exploring the history and significance of the Trinity Hall silver collection.

Treasure comes in different shapes and sizes. The term's etymological link to the word *thēsauros* (in Latin) and *thēsauros* (in Ancient Greek) suggests that treasure need not even be something tangible: it can be words or concepts, the value of which stems from their being part of a collection, and from the potential pleasures of finding one thing while looking for another.

On the (well-polished) surface of things, the silver of Trinity Hall might appear to be treasure in the most straightforward sense of the word. The value of the objects is self-evident: housed in the College's vaulted safe, their preciousness stems from the quality of silver and the expertise of craftsmanship, and the collection includes works by some of the finest British silversmiths of the past centuries. Yet it is

not these characteristics alone that lend the silver collection, often called the College's 'plate', the status of treasure. There are over 260 items dating from 1300 to the present day, objects which have been commissioned, bequeathed or donated to the College, or purchased for specific purposes.

One of the oldest items in the collection is a tankard from 1570 that was gifted to Trinity Hall by Mathew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, chaplain to Anne Boleyn, and Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University.

It is unsurprising that the silver of the collection often relates to drinking and feasting, for these activities – until recently, principally the domain of men – have been fundamental in the preservation of tradition and the fostering of connections within and beyond the College.

The preponderance of silver for dining has, at times, caused confusion. For instance, a silver bowl from 1716 with a flat handle and decorated with a winged stag's head bears a striking similarity to a porringer (a shallow bowl) – of which the College has many – and was catalogued as such for some time. But this is, in fact, a bleeding bowl (or bloodletting bowl), gifted to the College by former surgeon general Colonel Spencer. One former Trinity Hall butler has also claimed that the 1845 bourdaloue (a travelling chamber pot for those wearing skirts) gifted to the College to 'celebrate' the admission of women was, at one point, used as a gravy boat, which is perhaps unsurprising given its rounded shape,



> The 18th-century bourdaloue

© Gavin Kingcome



> Cornelia Parker tapestry *Thirty Pieces of Silver (Minus One)*

its handle and its place in the silver safe among the sauce boats and soup tureens.

Though the College now commissions far less silver than in the past – a notable exception being Cornelia Parker's tapestry – Fellows continue to donate objects when they leave or retire, and these are often contemporary pieces.

Ultimately, it is not only the pleasures of discovering synonymic silver objects like tankards, mazers and tuns that contribute to the treasure-like quality of the collection. If, as I suggest, the collection can be viewed as a kind of thesaurus, where one looks for one thing in the hope of finding another, then the infinite and surprising stories that would undoubtedly emerge from researching a single object are of great value. While this short piece discusses the collection in the context of the College and its social history, the production of silver – like tea, coffee and tobacco – is part of a history of empire and global trade, a history that extends far beyond the walls of Trinity Hall. 🍷

You can read the full article and many more in *A Trinity Hall Treasury*, available from www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/treasury



> Matthew Parker's tankard, 1570



A year as Mayor

by Dinah Pounds | 2005, Education | Mayor of Cambridge 2025–26

I was very honoured to be elected, first as Deputy and then as Mayor of Cambridge. Being part of the rich history of a city as great as Cambridge was exciting but also daunting. I am also only the 18th female Mayor of Cambridge and followed in the footsteps of some incredibly brilliant women.

I'm a musician by training and came to Cambridge in 2000 to teach at Long Road Sixth Form College alongside my husband Adam, who was Head of Performing Arts. We both studied for a Masters in Education at Trinity Hall. The College was so welcoming and supportive, and we still come regularly to evensong and High Table and keep in touch.

Feeling part of the University gave me confidence to take on a post in the Computer Science Department managing the Computer Science Tripos, and also to stand as Councillor for Romsey Ward, where I live. Local politics has always been a passion for me and, in particular, community arts and culture. I grew up in London in Waltham Forest where the philosophy of William Morris still underpins the council's ethos. Arts and culture should be accessible to all.

My Masters was in music education research, looking at the provision of instrumental teaching in schools and the impact of funding cuts and charges on quality and participation. My experience had been provision of a free instrument and tuition and it was evident that pupil opportunities have diminished drastically. My studies reinforced my belief that the provision of accessible arts, culture and community music is essential and should be encouraged and supported.

Adam and I formed the Academy of Great St Mary's Orchestra, which Adam conducts and in which I play flute. The orchestra has flourished and many of the players are members of the University who treasure the experience of making music as a relaxation and respite from their busy academic lives.

We also founded the Romsey Music Project and organise free monthly lunchtime recitals in varied styles, giving residents enjoyable music without the hassle of getting into the centre of town.

The Mayor of Cambridge is now a civic rather than a political role, usually awarded to a long-serving councillor with a strong community focus. There has been a Mayor of Cambridge since the time of King John, and Cambridge town and the University have always been closely intertwined, though not always happily! The historical tales of the relationship make fascinating reading but I'm pleased to say that it is now very positive.

As you would expect, my mayorship theme focused on arts and culture. Cambridge is a very diverse and international city and bringing people together through sharing music and traditions gives a sense of wellbeing, place and belonging. The figure of the Mayor as first citizen is universally welcomed.

No week was the same and I attended a huge number of widely differing events. Someone once said to me, "the wonderful thing about Cambridge is that everyone can feel at home anywhere". Strong communities are built in the confidence of finding a welcome. Sharing in cultural events from 'Little Bulgaria' to a celebration of African food and crafts, Christmas celebrations across the city and amazing Chinese New Year and Dragon Boat festivals all make Cambridge such a wonderful place to live and study.

The Mayor is also there to support those who have come to Cambridge for refuge and I joined events for Ukrainian

families, for Afghan women and others, and helped to make them feel welcome. The number of charities who offer support in Cambridge is astounding, as are the people who freely give so much of their time and talents to support people in need.

There were many exciting official events and commemorations during my term of office. We celebrated 80 years on since VE and VJ day, 75 years since Cambridge became a city, and 60 years twinned with Heidelberg with mayoral exchange visits. Mayor Würzner was bowled over by King's College Chapel and viewing the solar panels on the roof. I also attended the installation of the new Chancellor, Lord Chris Smith, and the awarding of an honorary doctorate to Stormzy for his generous scholarship programme which has supported 56 Black students to date with full tuition and living costs. It was so exciting to read a lesson at the famous King's College Carols service!

Whilst Deputy Mayor, I gave a welcome speech to delegates from India at a conference held by Addenbrookes' Department of Clinical Neurosciences and I chose them as my Mayor's charity. As the premier cycling city of the UK, it seemed to me very appropriate to help raise awareness of the work they do on neurotrauma and the importance of safety and wearing a cycle helmet.

The extensive role of the armed forces in Cambridgeshire came as a surprise to me and it was an honour to meet and work with so many dedicated people including our High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant. I awarded the freedom of the city to HMS Protector of the British Antarctic Survey and met the crew and officers.

Learning about the rich history of the city has been fascinating. A sort out in the Guildhall basement unearthed a cabinet with an astonishing collection of royal writs and charters, one from every monarch since Henry 1. The Mayor also chairs full City Council meetings and on my desk was a gavel for controlling rowdy behaviour amongst councillors, which fortunately I never needed to use! Closer scrutiny revealed an inscription. Crafted from the timber of the famous Washington Elm under which George Washington made his declaration of independence, the gavel was presented to the Mayor of Cambridge in the 19th century by the Mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts, presumably as a peace offering and a symbol of friendship. My final engagement as Mayor before handing over to my successor was to fly over Cambridge courtesy of Marshall's Airport and being allowed to take the plane's controls.

It has been a perfect year and one I shall never forget. 🍷

> Dinah Pounds during her time as Mayor of Cambridge



© Keith Heppell



A physicist at CERN

by Ella Wood | 2020, Natural Sciences; 2024, Physics

Walking into Trinity Hall's historic Front Court as an anxious, excited 18-year-old about to start my undergraduate studies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I could never have imagined that six years later I would be spending a year working in Geneva at CERN, home to the world's largest particle accelerator, as part of a PhD in particle physics.

At the time, I knew I found science fascinating and wanted to learn how the world around us works. Not knowing where to focus my attention, I relished the opportunity to continue studying subjects across the sciences through the Natural Sciences tripos. However, after a year of studying chemistry, physics, materials science and maths remotely from my P staircase bedroom I discovered, much to my dismay, that the chemistry I'd been excited by at school was really quantum physics! From there my journey into particle physics began, as I became captivated by our ability, as humans, to understand the smallest building blocks of our Universe. Despite my dwindling love for chemistry, thanks to my supervisor Dr Nick Bampos I gained something invaluable from those first-year chemistry supervisions: an aspiration to "be intellectually ambitious". It's a motto that now sits on a pink sticky note on my desk at CERN and has helped get me through some of the hardest moments of my degrees so far.

I have found role models and mentors hugely important whilst navigating my path into physics. From Trinity Hall Fellows, including my undergraduate Director of Studies, Dr Bill Balunas, and Tutor, Dr Gwen Wyatt-Moon, to my Master's project supervisor, Dr Paula Álvarez Cartelle, and current colleagues, I have been greatly inspired by working with some truly incredible scientists who remind me what is possible on a daily basis. By taking an interest in me and my work, they gave me a space to question, learn and grow which I will always cherish. It is without a doubt their support which means I am sitting here writing this article today, on the balcony of my flat in Geneva.

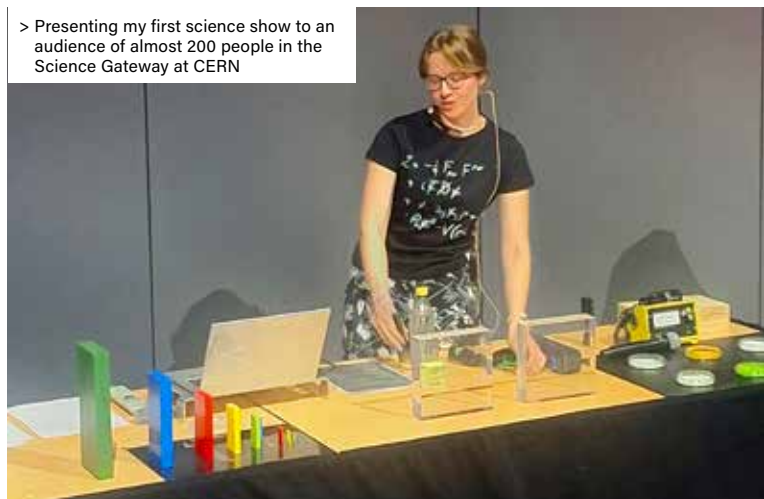
But what am I doing in Geneva? For my PhD, I am a member of the Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) Collaboration which runs the LHCb experiment 100m underground on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European particle physics laboratory, CERN. Here we are trying to understand the nature and origin of our Universe, by studying some of the smallest building blocks of matter, specifically a type of particle called beauty quarks. When protons travelling close to the speed of light collide at the heart of the LHCb detector, they produce vast sprays of particles, some of which contain beauty quarks. By studying hundreds of different decay processes of these particles with unprecedented precision, we can probe the fundamental nature of our Universe. I am especially interested in understanding why the Universe is made of matter. Our best theory suggests that matter and antimatter (the twin of matter with equal mass and opposite charge) were produced in equal quantities during the Big Bang. However, matter and antimatter also annihilate each other in pairs, leaving only energy. Therefore, without a violation of the symmetry connecting the two, we would expect all the matter to have annihilated with antimatter, leaving an energy filled Universe with no matter, and therefore no us! The symmetry that must be broken to generate this excess of matter over antimatter, is

called charge-parity (CP) symmetry. My research focuses on studying the violation of this symmetry in specific decay processes in data collected using the LHCb detector.

For me, one of the highlights of being in Geneva has been getting to participate in operating the 5600 tonne LHCb detector! Whilst the LHC is running, despite significant automation, we need two people in the LHCb control room to operate the detector 24/7. I've been lucky enough to take shifts both managing the quality of the data in real time and running the detector itself. Additionally, I undertook training to troubleshoot and recover the most common issues expected in one of our subdetectors, the RICH (or Ring Imaging Cherenkov) detectors which are particularly exciting as they allow us to identify different types of particles by measuring their velocity and thus inferring their mass. Being able to identify different particle species is crucial for us to study so many different decay channels with high precision.

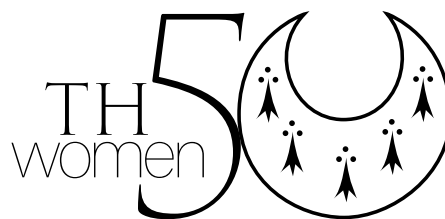
Beyond my research, I am very passionate about outreach and equal opportunities in STEM. Guiding tours of the LHCb experimental cavern has been incredibly special, as has presenting science shows in the Science Gateway, CERN's education and outreach centre. I am also actively involved in the Cambridge University Women in Physics Society and LHCb's Early Career Gender and Diversity Office. I strongly believe that physics is a human endeavour, woven with human stories which cannot be disentangled from the science itself. This has led me to start researching the history of women at Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory to share their stories with a wider audience, including in the newly re-displayed Cavendish Museum. Women remain a minority in physics and their voices, along with those of all underrepresented groups, deserve to be heard, both past and present. Through building supportive networks, creating opportunities for, increasing visibility of and actively listening to these communities, I believe we can build an environment where everyone can thrive in physics. 🍷

> Presenting my first science show to an audience of almost 200 people in the Science Gateway at CERN





MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Who gets to shape the future?

As Trinity Hall marks 50 years since the admission of women, a new PhD studentship will support women in under-represented subjects, currently STEM and economics. The lead gift grows out of one alumna's experience in rooms where women's perspectives were missing.

When Catherine Stewart (1977, Economics) began her career in political consulting in the 1980s, her work took her through London, Brussels and Washington DC, in environments she remembers as "almost exclusively male".

"When you are the only woman in the room you don't 'see' yourself as a minority," she says. "But as more women appeared in senior positions, I realised what had been missing and how different the dynamics could be."

"It was a sort of relief," she says, "to see other women operating in the way I did and to realise the unacknowledged and undefined challenges of being a woman in the men's world."

Those reflections have shaped her decision to make a lead gift towards a Trinity Hall PhD studentship for women in underrepresented subjects. The gift gives the initiative a concrete foundation from which others can help build a fully funded studentship, covering fees and living costs.

Women need to be present where decisions about society, technology and the economy are made. "Tech and politics are defining 21st-century society and the world economy. Women in research, teaching and leadership ask different questions, highlight different challenges and prioritise different issues," Catherine says.

Her own career included moments when she had to decide how to continue in a world largely shaped by men. Early on, after being undermined by a male colleague she had trusted,

she resigned and set up her own business. Her reaction was direct: "Well, **** them – I can do this better on my own."

And she did, though she is careful not to present success as something achieved alone. Her work was supported by others, including her deputy, a man who was, in her words, "happy to work for a woman". Her experience has left her with a clear view that women's contributions need to be recognised as integral to research, policy and professional life.

Professor Sasha Turchyn, Trinity Hall's Postgraduate Tutor, sees how much the right support can matter to women considering doctoral study. In subjects where women remain underrepresented, an academic future can be harder to imagine.

The decision to undertake a PhD often comes when students are weighing academic ambition alongside the kind of life and career they want to build. Sasha describes the PhD as "a marathon and not a sprint", requiring independent thought, persistence and the ability to work through uncertainty.

"The PhD prepares someone to be a problem solver," she says, "and to not be afraid to exist in a place of uncertainty, where they need to riddle through clues to figure out the answer."

Women remain underrepresented at PhD level in STEM subjects and economics. In 2023, only 38.7 per cent of STEM PhD admissions at Cambridge were women.

A fully-funded studentship gives the recipient the ability to say yes to doctoral study without piecing together support through loans, grants or part-time work. "Given the PhD is so challenging anyway, taking away the financial pressures makes a tremendous difference," Sasha says. "A fully-funded studentship allows the student the flexibility to fully engage with their research."

Master Mary Hockaday is herself an alumna, part of the early generation of women who came to Trinity Hall after they were first admitted in the late 1970s. "It set me up for life in so many ways," she says.

The College has since made progress in increasing the number of female Fellows, including in STEM subjects. Even so, Mary says, "one thing that hasn't changed, right across education and employment, is that female students are underrepresented in some STEM and other subjects."

Supporting women at postgraduate level is a necessary and practical response, says Mary. "Postgraduates are at the heart of a research university. They are the next generation driving cutting-edge research, which society needs."

Women were first admitted to Trinity Hall in 1976 as Fellows and postgraduates, followed by undergraduates in 1977.

Fifty years later, the College is looking at what progress has been made so far and where support is still needed.

Catherine sees the studentship as one way to extend opportunity. Even where role models are not yet obvious, she believes women can become them for those who follow. "There is confidence and strength in numbers," she says.

Her lead gift begins the work of endowing the studentship, while leaving room for others to help secure and sustain it. "This is for our daughters and our granddaughters," Catherine says, "to enable them to pursue their interests and give them more opportunities to contribute, live and work in a world that is co-designed by them and for them."

Fifty years after women first came to Trinity Hall, the studentship offers a way to mark that history through practical support for the next generation. Further support will now determine its reach. ●

To ensure that we can fully fund the studentship in perpetuity, we are encouraging supporters to make a gift to the PhD studentship for women in underrepresented subjects. Please contact Dr Rachelle Stretch or Donna Thomas-Watson at: development@trinhall.cam.ac.uk.

> Catherine Stewart in Front Court



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Out *of sight*

From the greenhouse to the flagpole, from the organ loft to the Master's study and the kitchens, we step inside five Trinity Hall spaces that many know of, but few get to see.

01 The greenhouse

At the centre of Wychfield Site on Storey's Way, next to the Porters' Lodge, sits Greenhouse Court, designed to reflect the Arts and Crafts style of nearby houses. We visit the greenhouse on the sunny southeast face of the courtyard on an early summer's day, entering through the rectangular brick doorway and ducking under the hanging grapevine to find the greenhouse caring for mainly orchids, cacti and succulents. Many of these succulents will find their way from the wooden potting bench to student rooms as part of the Pet Plant project. The greenhouse is the engine room for our swathes of beautiful, seasonal planting, providing



colour for the gardens, protecting tender plants in winter and propagating new plants. It is at its fullest when the bedding plants are waiting for the last frost to pass, explains Head Gardener Sam. "I think we're possibly the luckiest gardeners in the Cambridge colleges," says Sam. "We've got everything we need to produce our plants in-house."

"This little one is my favourite, and is kind of precious," she says when we ask about her favourite plant. The slow-growing *Platycerium Bifurcatum*, or staghorn fern, is often mounted on walls in much the same way antlers might be displayed. This particular one sowed itself five years ago, growing up in the greenhouse alongside successive generations of the succulent *Echeveria*, perfect for table decoration. The most recent batch of 24 travelled down to Central Site the week before our visit, in preparation for the 2026 Graduands' Dinner. We make the same journey as we duck back under the grapevine, past the lush summer flowers and out onto Storey's Way.

02

The flagpole

Down at Central Site, we walk across Front Court, past the roses, jasmine and wisteria, to climb E staircase. Fifty-eight steps carved into the stone wind clockwise until we reach the top. Leaning through the east window, peering over the chest-high balustrades, we see cyclists and pedestrians jostling for position on the cobbles of Senate House Passage below. To the left, neatly wound around a large metal hook, is the thick, grey rope that connects to the flag above. The Trinity Hall flag is flown on only a few special occasions, raised each time by one of our trusted Porters. The most special of those occasions are graduation days. More than 8,500 students have lined up, posed for photos and processed to Senate House under this flag since the 1970s, when our Archive records first mention the flagpole. The view from here has changed little over the decades, and few have enjoyed it from this vantage point, save the generations of corvids that have perched on the ledge of Caius Library to our right.



> View from E staircase, next to the flagpole

03

The organ loft

Our next stop provides another striking view from up high, but of a very different type. The temperature drops a little as we enter the organ loft, high within the Chapel, to see the organ closer than most people ever do. Installed in 2006, it was created by renowned Danish organ builder Carsten Lund and voiced for the intimate dimensions of our Chapel. From below, the organ sits behind the dark wood and metal gallery rail, its light wood case and red panels framed by ranks of silver pipes. Music appears in many places at Trinity Hall, although few are as hard to miss, or as hard to reach, as the organ. Up close as we are now, mere centimetres away, we notice things we've never seen before. Most of the pipes have a faint hammered texture, while a handful twist at the ends like corkscrews, the rust red panelling mirrors the red of the ceiling and, scattered around the loft, pencils, sheet music and books sit where they were last used. Staff whose offices are on I staircase are among the few lucky enough to hear the organ through the life of a recital, from first practice to final performance. This is especially memorable when Christmas songs are paired with the smell of warm mulled wine drifting up from the Buttery. As we're leaving the organ loft, a few visitors drift into the Chapel below, stopping in the aisle to take it all in.



> Carsten Lund organ



> The Master in her study

04

The Master's study

Across the landing and we enter the Master's Assistant's office, greeted by the ever-welcoming Heather before being shown down a short corridor to the Master's study. Light floods through the Victorian windows overlooking the circle of grass and the Old Library across the way. The room functions both as a place for discussion, with comfortable seating arranged around the fireplace, and as a private office for the crucial work of Trinity Hall's leader. The floor to ceiling bookshelves are stacked with fiction, literature, history and local records. In pride of place is a collection of seven books by alumni that Mary was given by a friend when she took up the role. They sit alongside a copy of C P Snow's 1951 satirical *The Masters*, "which all Cambridge Masters have to read," she says.

Around the room, Trinity Hall's traditions sit alongside more personal choices. A College painting of the Fellows' Garden hangs near contemporary works including a Gillian Ayres print that "just gives me joy" and a treasured Paula Rego print Mary values for its sense of struggle, perseverance and journey. There's a pause when we ask about her favourite object in the room before we're taken to a collection of treasured items sitting on the fireplace mantle: a photograph of much-loved grandparents, conkers collected at the start of the academic year, a blue star from the student Origami Society and an ink watercolour painting of Silly, Mary's late cat, by Barbara, the Master's Lodge Housekeeper.

Mary remembers sweeping past the Master's Lodge on her way from her student room on P Staircase, never imagining she would one day work inside it.

05

The kitchen

Our final stop takes us to a place every alum, student, staff member and Fellow knows indirectly. Tucked away off to the side of North Court, the kitchens produce more than 66,000 meals each year through the cafeteria, Formal Hall and Fellows' dining, before even counting the feasts, reunions and anniversary events that bring alumni back to College. Most of us, however, only ever see the finished results on our plates.

Executive Head Chef Derek meets us at the entrance and once inside we smell something sweet and rich, and hear pans clanging, the pot wash churning and sharp knives hitting chopping blocks. The kitchen has been in the same place since the 14th century and was last renovated in the 1990s. It was originally designed for silver service, not the range of catering the College provides today. The team have adapted with it, but Derek is excited about the College's Masterplan, which proposes new and improved kitchen facilities. Our chefs are multi-skilled professionals, all willing and capable of "mucking in where needed", as Derek puts it. Behind Junior Sous Chef Alessandro, diligently chopping vegetables for coleslaw, we find Pastry Chef Francesca and the source of the smell: a brown butter crumb in progress.

Derek is approaching 36 years at Trinity Hall and now focuses more on menu design and creation than the hands-on cooking he began with, but "I'm still as passionate about it as I was when I started at 16," he says. In the centre of the kitchen, a wall of neatly aligned A4 sheets records event names, dates, times and food requirements, each one part of an upcoming service. As the pace in the kitchen picks up, we wave our thanks and head back into North Court, more than ready for our next cafeteria lunch.

It's a fitting final stop, a place most of us know through what it sends out into College rather than what happens inside. 🍷

> Derek checking the next day's plans





News in Brief

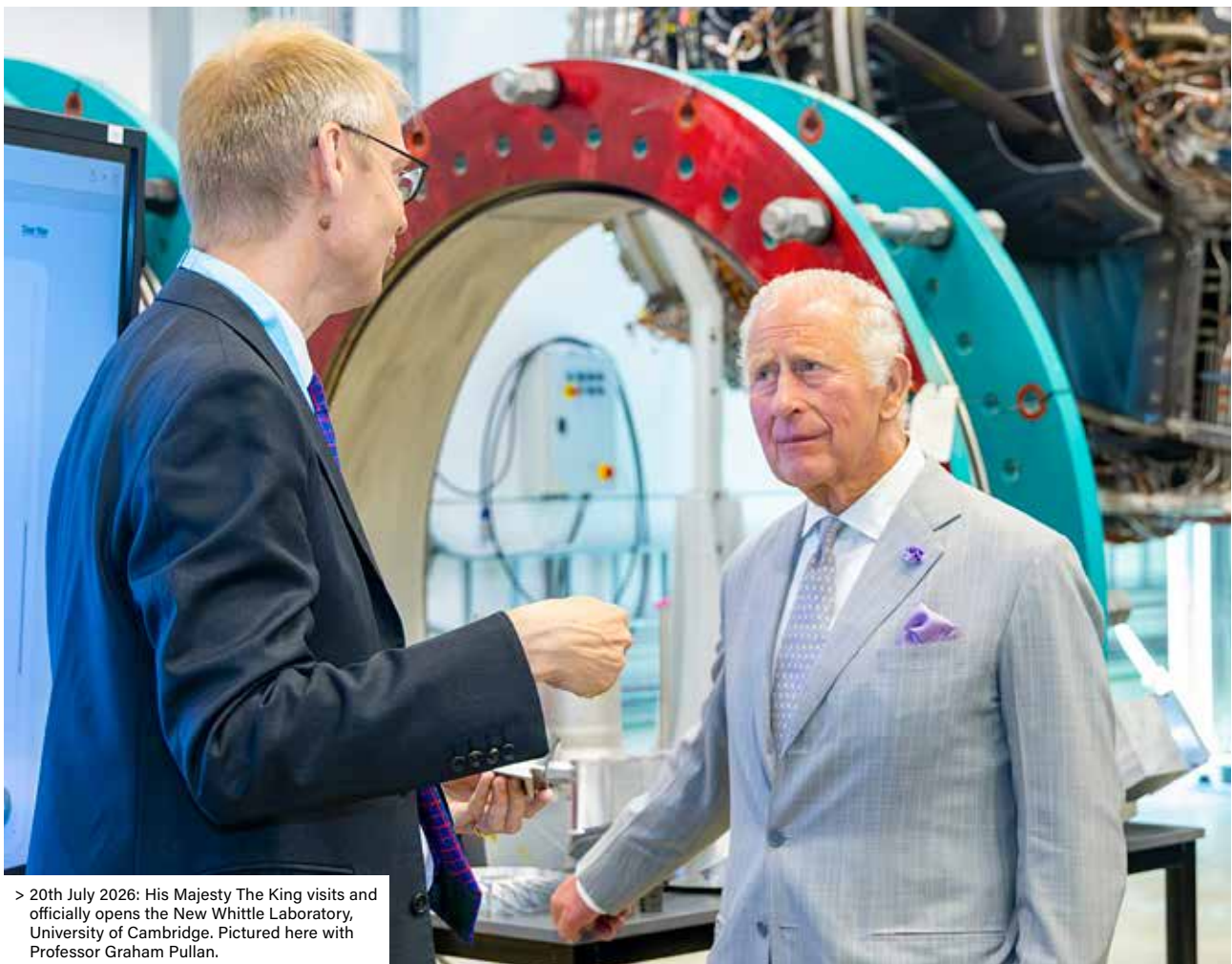
Read more at
trinhall.cam.ac.uk/news

COMMUNITY

Trinity Hall expertise helps shape New Whittle Laboratory

Members of the Trinity Hall community have played a significant role in the development of the New Whittle Laboratory, a £58 million facility officially opened by His Majesty The King in July. Based at the University's West Cambridge site, the Laboratory aims to accelerate innovation in aerospace, energy and power generation by reducing the time needed to develop new technologies from years to weeks.

Among those involved are Fellow and alumnus Professor Graham Pullan (1993), Co-Director of the Whittle Laboratory, alumnus Dr Elliott Grant (1990), who co-leads the Bennett Innovation Lab, alumnus Dr Nathan Clark (2015), and alumna Dr Julia Massabuau (2011), who helped deliver the opening event. The facility is expected to support advances in more efficient flight, energy storage and industrial electrification.

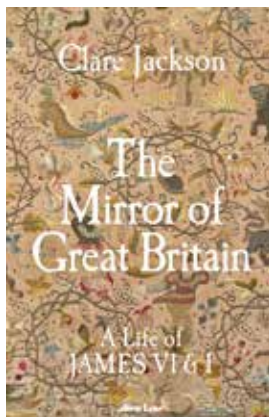


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> 20th July 2026: His Majesty The King visits and officially opens the New Whittle Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Pictured here with Professor Graham Pullan.

AWARDS

Professor Clare Jackson wins historical biography prize



Professor Clare Jackson, Fellow of Trinity Hall and Honorary Professor of Early Modern History at Cambridge, has won the 2026 Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography.

The award was presented for *The Mirror of Great Britain: A Life of James VI & I*, which judges unanimously selected from what they described as a particularly strong shortlist.

Praising the book as a “masterwork”, the judging panel highlighted its combination of original research, literary skill and historical insight.

Professor Jackson is widely known for her work on early modern British history and for bringing historical

© KRX Media



> Professor Clare Jackson and Flora Fraser, chair of the Prize and a Founding Judge presenting Clare with a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir *The Pebbled Shore*

scholarship to wider audiences through broadcasting and public engagement. The prize recognises biographies that successfully combine academic rigour with compelling storytelling.

SPORT

Success on the Cam at May Bumps



> W1 on the river during May Bumps 2026

© Oliver Neale Photography

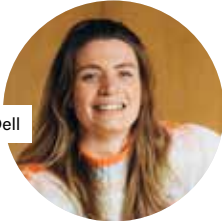
Trinity Hall Boat Club crews enjoyed a strong showing at May Bumps 2026, with notable performances across both the men's and women's divisions.

The standout result came from M3, which finished the week up three places after securing a hard-fought bump on the final day. M1 climbed two places, while M2 held its position after a determined defensive row on the closing day of racing. W1 maintained its place in the top women's division, while W2 competed in a challenging campaign against strong opposition. Overall, the week produced a mixture of gains, valuable experience and memorable racing for crews across THBC.

Boathouse Manager and coach Paul Townshend praised the commitment and resilience shown by rowers throughout the week as the Club looks forward to celebrating its bicentenary in 2027.



> Professor Alexandra Turchyn



> Dr Rebecca Dell

AWARDS

Major grants awarded to Fellows

Two Trinity Hall Fellows have secured major funding awards for research addressing some of the biggest questions facing science today.

Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Turchyn has received support through the European Research Council Advanced Grants scheme for a project investigating how the weathering of rocks beneath the oceans may have helped regulate Earth's climate over billions of years. Her team will explore the role of seafloor basalt in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and maintaining conditions suitable for life.

Meanwhile, Dr Rebecca Dell has received funding from the Natural Environment Research Council to lead research into Antarctica's ice shelves. Working with colleagues from Cambridge and the British Antarctic Survey, she will deploy sensors across two ice shelves to observe "hydrofracture" directly for the first time and improve predictions of future sea-level rise.

AWARDS

Polar Medal for alumnus Professor John Marshall

Alumnus Professor John Marshall (1973) has been awarded the Polar Medal in the 2026 New Year Honours for his contributions to polar research.

A geologist at the University of Southampton, Professor Marshall has taken part in 19 expeditions to Greenland and Spitsbergen and spent much of his career investigating some of Earth's most significant extinction events. His research has helped reveal how environmental changes, including the collapse of the ozone layer, contributed to mass extinctions hundreds of millions of years ago.

Reflecting on his work, Professor Marshall described the privilege of conducting research in remote Arctic regions and the opportunities they provide for discovery. The Polar Medal is awarded for outstanding service to the United Kingdom in the field of polar research.



> Professor John Marshall

AWARDS

WongAvery Scholar explores Cold War Chinese collections



> Ian Dubrowsky

Ian Dubrowsky, a doctoral student from the University of California San Diego, spent five weeks in Cambridge as the 2026 WongAvery Visiting Scholar, researching the Chinese collections at Cambridge University Library.

His work focuses on industrial development and labour history in Maoist China, including the Daqing Oilfield and the 1960 Laobaidong mining disaster. While examining rare catalogues, technical publications and archival materials, he discovered evidence of extensive international exchanges of knowledge that challenged assumptions about China's isolation during the Cold War.

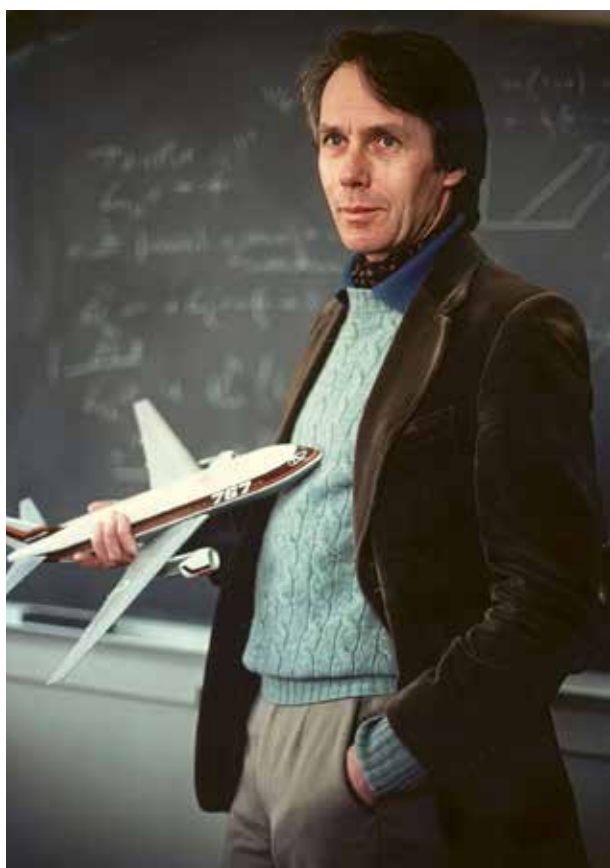
The scholarship enabled him to connect sources held in Cambridge with records at The National Archives in Kew, offering new perspectives on the global networks that shaped 20th-century Chinese industry.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Antony Jameson

1934–2026

Professor Jameson was an alumnus of Trinity Hall (1958), a Research Fellow of the College from 1960 to 1963, and later an Honorary Fellow. Trinity Hall and the University of Cambridge occupied a special place throughout his life, and the intellectual foundations established during his years at Cambridge shaped a career that would ultimately transform the fields of aerodynamics and computational fluid dynamics and establish him as one of the most influential aerospace engineers of his generation.



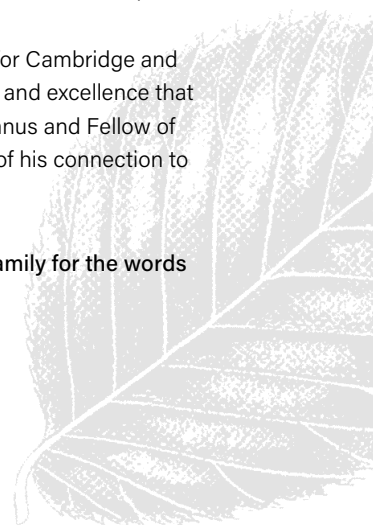
Widely regarded as one of the founding architects of modern computational fluid dynamics, Antony revolutionised aerospace engineering by bringing advanced mathematics and computational methods to the heart of aerodynamic design. His contributions fundamentally changed how aircraft are designed and optimised and continue to influence aerospace engineering, scientific computing and applied mathematics throughout the world.

Graham Pullan, Professor of Computational Aerothermal Design and Co-Director of the New Whittle Laboratory, said: "Antony Jameson was a true pioneer of computational fluid dynamics, particularly for aircraft. Over a long career, he made many remarkable contributions to the field and shared them widely, helping engineers all over the world."

A Fellow of the Royal Society, member of the United States National Academy of Engineering, recipient of the Daniel Guggenheim Medal, and other international honours, Antony's influence extended far beyond the institutions where he served. Yet those who knew him best remember not only his extraordinary intellect, but also his kindness, generosity, curiosity and commitment to teaching and mentorship.

Antony maintained a lifelong affection for Cambridge and for the traditions of scholarship, inquiry and excellence that Trinity Hall represents. As both an alumnus and Fellow of Trinity Hall, he remained deeply proud of his connection to the College throughout his life.

With thanks to Professor Jameson's family for the words and image.



IN MEMORIAM

Sir Ewan Harper CBE

1939–2026

Sir Ewan Harper was educated at Marlborough College, where he was a very able and successful pupil. He played hockey and golf well, though golf was then seen as outside the main life of the school. Towards the end of his time there, his older brother was killed in a flying accident while serving in the RAF during National Service, a loss that hit the family hard.

Ewan came into his own at Trinity Hall when he joined in 1958. Gregarious by nature, he enjoyed the company of positive, intelligent people and made many friendships that lasted well beyond Cambridge. He played Stymies golf and College hockey. Robert Runcie, then Dean, did much to shape his life.

After Cambridge, Ewan joined his father in the family business, Harper and Tunstall, originally based in Edgware and later relocated to Wellingborough. Ewan and Jenny set up their family home at Titchmarsh House, where they lived for more than 50 years with their son and three daughters. After the sale of the business, Ewan was able to pursue the work that interested him, particularly in education and the Church of England.

His knighthood in 2003 recognised his services to the Church of England. Much of this related to his role as a founding Trustee, Secretary and later Chairman of the Lambeth Trust, founded in 1983 to support the work and mission of present and former Archbishops of Canterbury. The Trust provided funds for initiatives in areas such as evangelism, the renewal

of religious life and work towards reconciliation, giving Archbishops and former Archbishops the resources to take personal initiatives beyond the usual processes of Anglican decision making. Ewan's role made him a valued confidante and supporter of several Archbishops of Canterbury. He retired from the Trust in 2014 after 31 years of service. He also directed the restoration of the historic Chapel at Lambeth Palace, which had never fully recovered from bomb damage in the Second World War.

Ewan also made extensive contributions to UK secondary education. He held several school governorships and

was CEO of the United Church Schools Trust for over ten years. He later became CEO and Founding Director of the United Learning Trust, which sponsored 21 City Academies, many in areas where progression to higher education was below the national average. This placed him at the vanguard of the academy movement in the early 2000s.

At Trinity Hall, Professor Andrew Murray recalls Ewan's keen interest in widening participation and outreach, particularly work supporting teachers advising university applicants. Ewan facilitated several

events, including a science conference for teachers at Trinity Hall, and was always eager to hear when applicants inspired by outreach work were motivated to apply to Cambridge.

With thanks to Paul Orchard-Lisle (1958), Revd Dr Stephen Plant and Professor Andrew Murray for their contributions.





Save the date



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THwomen50 in Law

Thursday 11 February 2027

6pm to 8.15pm

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
(22 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4BQ)

All law alumni, including those who studied law or who are working in the law, are invited to join us at this event which is part of our THwomen50 programme. The evening will start with a fireside chat between Mary Hockaday, Master of Trinity Hall, and Lady Justice Lieven of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales. The fireside chat will be followed by drinks and networking.

Save the date for this exciting event and keep an eye on our website for all upcoming events: www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/events

Print publication changes

Our alumni publications are evolving

We are making some changes to how we share our alumni publications, *Front Court* and the *Review*.

Alumni and friends are an important part of the Trinity Hall community and we recognise publications play a key role in keeping you up to date with the latest news from College. We want to ensure you are able to choose how you prefer to hear from us.

However, as a charitable organisation, we have to be mindful of the increased cost of print and postage, our limited resources and our environmental impact.

From 2027, *Front Court* will become an annual publication and will be delivered digitally by default, with print available for those who would like it. The *Review* will remain print as the default for UK alumni and digital as the default for alumni overseas.

You can choose how you receive these publications. If you would prefer to receive printed copies, or would like to switch to digital-only, you can update your preferences at any time. If you have previously told us that you prefer to receive publications by post, we will continue to send them in that format.

If you would like to change your preferences for 2027, please update them by Friday 5 March 2027.

This approach allows us to reduce print where possible while continuing to share news, stories and updates from the Trinity Hall community.



SCAN ME

to update your preferences or visit
www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/print-changes-form



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