THE PRESIDENT

A famous philosopher, I think it was Kierkegaard though I haven’t Googled it, said that while life must be understood backwards, it must be lived forwards. I feel very much that way over Brexit. So I’m a fully paid-up member of the SUMO club, and you can Google that. Hint, it’s not about Japanese wrestling. The MO stand for ‘move on’ if that’s any help.

My real concern from a Trinity perspective is the uncertainty surrounding our overseas graduates and undergraduates studying here at Trinity and our home students who are planning to study, live and perhaps work in the soon-to-be-shrunken European Union. Our graduate population is predominantly (over 60 per cent) from outside the UK and of those many come to us from a first degree at a European university. Overall, Oxford students come from 150 countries—its academic staff from ninety-eight—and Trinity is a fair microcosm of that.

We need to ensure that students and staff (academic, administrative and support) from EU countries can continue to work and study here and to emphasise how much we will continue to be a welcoming destination for the brightest and best minds. We will also prioritise securing opportunities for our researchers and students to access vital pan-European programmes and build new global networks. Our overseas students bring wonderful enrichment to life at Trinity and make a significant contribution to the University’s research and teaching. I believe that more widely they have a positive impact on the British economy and society. In first proposing the idea of a new building for Trinity, which I did more than ten years ago, one of my prime motives was to bring a substantial number of graduates onto the main site to integrate them more fully into the Trinity experience. I hope that my aim will be achieved early in my successor’s tenure, though it has clearly escaped me in mine.

Setting aside the unfortunate circumstances of Oxford’s rapid development as a university—when in 1167 Henry II recalled our, what would then be called English, students from France (an early example of Brexit?)—our international academic links go back to the late twelfth century, when in 1190 the first known overseas student, Emo of Friesland (in the north of the Netherlands), arrived to study at the fledgling University of Oxford. It’s a pity that we cannot claim him for our own at Trinity, but he arrived about a hundred years before even our ‘ancestor’, Durham College, had been founded in the 1280s and some three and a half centuries before our own foundation in 1555. Well, as a college we’ve tried to make up for it in recent years.

To maintain our reputation as one of the world’s leading international research universities we need to attract the best possible talent from around the world to come and carry out research in Oxford. I hope that however discussions and negotiations unfold over our exit from the European Union, nothing occurs that would put our ability to bring such talent into Oxford at risk. One area which is definitely at risk is British universities potentially finding themselves cut out of EU research programmes, including the flagship Horizon 2020 programme, which is funded at nearly £80 billion over seven years. As one of the UK’s largest research universities, Oxford stands to be particularly badly hit. So an early priority in this new, challenging era will be to secure opportunities for our researchers and students to access vital pan-European programmes and build new global networks. In a time of uncertainty, one thing is clear, that there will be an even greater reliance on fundraising if we are to continue to attract and retain the most talented students and staff from around the world.

I started with a philosopher; let me finish with a poet. We need as a college and university to believe, as Seamus Heaney put it, in ‘the books stand(ing) open and the gates unbarred’ and in being ‘here for good in every sense.’

SIR IVOR ROBERTS, KCMG

FRANK BARNETT

It is with great sadness that the college learned of the death of Frank Barnett, Emeritus Fellow.

Frank Barnett, Fellow and Tutor in French from 1952 to 1986, was Trinity’s first Fellow in Modern Languages. After his retirement he returned to live in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he died, peacefully, on 5 August, aged 93.
Peter McCulloch, Fellow and Professor of Surgical Science and Practice, chairs the IDEAL Collaboration, which hosted a very successful international Conference at St Catherine's College in April. Delegates came from the US, Canada, Australia and China as well as the EU and UK. IDEAL has proposed global principles for conducting and reporting studies of surgical operations, to deal with the recognised difficulty of conducting randomised trials in surgery.

Maria del Pilar Blanco, Fellow and Tutor in Spanish American Literature, is co-investigator in the AHRC-funded international research network *Science in Text and Culture in Latin America*, which held its final symposium in Cambridge in July. The network, which brought together an impressive number of renowned and emerging scholars from across the world, has hosted three other conferences since 2015: in Trinity, San Juan in Puerto Rico, and Buenos Aires.

Chris Butler, Fellow and Professor of Primary Healthcare, has been elected a fellow of the Academy of Medical Science and has been selected as an NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) Senior Investigator. Senior Investigators are the NIHR’s pre-eminent researchers and represent the country’s most outstanding leaders of clinical and applied health and social care research. Professor Butler was also one of forty-seven world-leading UK researchers elected this year to the prestigious Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Fellows are elected for their contribution to medical research and healthcare, and to the generation of new knowledge in medical sciences and its translation into benefits to society.

Sam Vinko, Junior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Physics, and a Research Fellow in the Department of Physics, has been awarded the 2016 Young Scientist Prize in Plasma Physics by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Dr Vinko received the award at a ceremony during the International Conference on Plasma Physics, in Taiwan in June. As part of the prize, Dr Vinko gave a lecture during the conference. The Young Scientist Prize is granted by the IUPAP to researchers with up to eight years of research experience following a PhD.

Susan Perkin, Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry, and Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry, and Charlotte Williams, Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry from September this year, have both been awarded prestigious prizes by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Susan Perkin has been awarded a Harrison-Meldola Memorial Prize for her contributions towards understanding the structure and behaviour of liquids in thin films. The prize is awarded for the most meritorious and promising original investigations in chemistry and published results of those investigations. This award follows on from Professor Perkin’s recent awards of a European Research Council Starter Grant of €1.5 million and a three-and-a-half-year Leverhulme Trust grant to fund her research.

Charlotte Williams—who succeeds Professor Russ Egdell, who retired in 2014, and will join Trinity’s small team providing tutorial teaching in Chemistry—has been awarded a Corday-Morgan Prize for her work, in particular in recognition of her contributions to the catalytic activation of renewable resources to make polymers and fuels. The Corday-Morgan Prize is awarded for the most meritorious contributions to chemistry.

The prizes will be awarded at the RSC prize ceremony in November and Professor Perkin and Professor Williams will both undertake lecture tours in the UK in association with their prizes.

Mirjam Brusius, Mellon Junior Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Fellow in the Faculty of History, is the 2016 recipient of the Aby Warburg Prize, awarded quadrennially to early career researchers. Dr Brusius has made an important contribution to Warburg scholarship in her dissertation, in which she examined the photographic pioneer W H F Talbot as a forerunner of Warburgian museological knowledge-making through the means of photography. Her postdoctoral research continues to draw on Abraham ‘Aby’ Warburg and embeds his oeuvre in the history of ideas through questions of cultural transmission and the cultural significance of antiquity in European museums. The Aby Warburg Prize is awarded by the city of Hamburg. It was established in 1979 by the senate of the city for excellence in the humanities and social sciences, in memory of Hamburg-born Aby Warburg (1866-1929), who founded the London-based Warburg Institute.
The year-long project to renovate the chapel officially came to an end on 23 April and the reopening was marked with a service and dinner to thank those who had made donations in support of the work.

The service of evensong was led by the Chaplain, with the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher (1969), Bishop of Dorchester and acting Bishop of Oxford, as preacher; it was attended by the Chancellor, Lord Patten. In his sermon, Bishop Colin reflected on what the chapel meant to previous generations of students and its likely influence on those yet to come. He noted that while there is undoubtedly a decline in more formal religious worship, this is being balanced in the younger generations by an increasing interest in spirituality and that the chapel still has an important role to play in the life of the college.

The service was followed by a dinner in Hall for all who had supported the Chapel Appeal and representatives of the organisations involved in the work. After dinner, the impressive new lighting was switched on, illuminating both the interior and the Front Quad façade, much to the delight of those gathered to watch outside.

Another special evensong service was held the following day, the first Sunday of term, for current members of College to mark the reopening. The preacher was the Very Revd Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church. The last of the reopening events, on 11 May, included a service held to coincide with a visit to College by the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Timothy Dakin, the college’s Visitor, and a dinner in Hall for everyone who had worked on the project.

The final stages of the work had included fitting the flooring around the pews, finishing and waxing the

A page from the chapel benefactors book

Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, giving the blessing at the first service in the restored chapel
woodwork, and the refitting of the last pieces of the Grinling Gibbons carvings, after which everything was given a final clean before the fixtures and furnishings were returned, including a new altar frontal. Work on voicing the organ continued during the course of Trinity term. The chapel is now once again a central part of college life and the transformation it has undergone has been admired by many over the past few months.

The appeal, which has now passed £700,000, has attracted support from across the board and donations continue to be received. The college is immensely grateful to all those who have given to the project, and as a mark of our appreciation the names of all the donors to the chapel restoration appeal will be recorded in a special illuminated benefactors book. Gifts received before the chapel reopening have already been recorded, while the names of those who have given since will be added shortly.
TREASURES OF THE OLD LIBRARY

The Old and Danson Libraries contain a wealth of rare books which relate to the research, as well as the personal interests, of members of Trinity. A regular series of events is held to make the collections more visible to the college, and to encourage social and intellectual exchange between members of the SCR and the MCR and college staff, enabling them to come together around discussion of a single item, or a selection of items, from the libraries. There were three talks during Trinity term.

_The Antiquities of Athens_ by Stuart and Revett (1762) was presented by Alex Breton, a graduate medical student. _The Antiquities_ was the first systematic study of the majestic ruins found in Athens, a study intended to bring the refinement and elegance of Athens’ Golden Age to eighteenth-century Britain. The meticulously-detailed engravings became a reference work for architects for decades, and were instrumental in the development of the Greek Revival style in Europe and the United States.

Katie Schulz, studying for a DPhil in Classical Languages & Literature, led a session on a selection of books from the Danson Library representing the ‘golden age’ of children’s illustration in the early twentieth century, including works by Edmund Dulac, Stephen Gooden and Arthur Rackham.

_The History of Java_ by Thomas Stamford Raffles (1817) was the book presented by Yuza Setiawan, who is studying for an MSc in Social Science of the Internet. Raffles was a British statesman, heavily involved in the conquest of Java from Dutch and French military forces during the Napoleonic Wars. He was Lieutenant-Governor of British Java from 1811-15 and was later involved in the founding of Singapore. Trinity has several copies of the first edition of his _History of Java_, including Raffles’ own copy.

OLD LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY

Next year will mark the 600th anniversary of the construction of the Old Library. The library, which predates the foundation of Trinity by nearly 150 years, was built as the library room of Durham College (the house of study in Oxford of the Benedictine monks of Durham Cathedral Priory).

The first reference to a library building at Durham College is an entry in the college accounts book from 1417 which records that the construction, using specially purchased timber, cost £42. Although the interior of the library has undergone significant change over the intervening years the exterior stonework and some of the interior structure remains. The books housed in the original library were returned to Durham, or otherwise disposed of, at the dissolution of the monasteries. The current book collection was begun by Sir Thomas Pope as part of his foundation of Trinity College and grew by donation and purchase over the next three centuries, providing the main source of teaching and research material in Trinity. It now comprises, along with the adjacent Danson Library, some 8,000 volumes, many of which are rare and valuable.

Various events and exhibitions are planned for 2017 to mark this important library milestone, highlighting both the history of the library and some of the treasures it contains. One will be a fundraising event, as there are several sections that have yet to be catalogued, and in a collection of this size and age, there will always be books in need of conservation. Further details will appear in the Programme of Events sent with the _Report_ in December.
SUMMER EIGHTS

Summer Eights was a week of mixed results for TCBC. M1 had a very disappointing week, dropping four places, but they retained a position in Division 1. W1 fell one place and are now seventh in Division 2. M2 rowed seven times over the course of the week, being the sandwich boat on three of the four days, to hold their position over the week—a hugely promising result given the quality of the crews surrounding them. W2, a scratch boat of some new novices and some former rowers, sadly got spoons.

 ARTS WEEK

This year’s Arts Week included an art exhibition in the Danson Room

Much Ado About Nothing was the choice for the Lawns Play. Mimi Prickett as Conrade (left) and Helen Record as Beatrice (right)

Daniel Thomson as Benedick

GRYPHON SOCIETY DEBATE

The Gryphon Society held a debate on Britain’s membership of the EU, with The Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP (1988) joining seven current students speaking to the motion This house believes that membership of the EU is an unjustifiable infringement on UK sovereignty. A large audience filled Hall for the occasion, with the debate and questions, chaired by Tim Sharp, conducted in friendly good humour. The motion was defeated.

For the motion were Jacob Rees-Mogg, Phoebe McGibbon, Bishan Morgan and Freddie Hopkinson; against were Tom Kirk, Armen Bodossian, Harry Macpherson, and Henrique Laitenberger.
When I arrived at Trinity four years ago, to start work on my DPhil in Genomic Medicine and Statistics, I could not help but be overwhelmed by this entirely new environment, which was like nothing that I had ever experienced before. After four years, I now know that what makes this place so special is not the big and impressive buildings, but the people who inhabit them; it is not the grand dining hall, but the people who provide the excellent food, it is not the famous blue gates, but the friendly and welcoming porters in the lodge, it is not the unique and elegant chapel, but the support and care of the Trinity welfare team, and not the nice and cozy Middle Common Room, but the MCR members who have come and gone since I arrived, which have made my time in Oxford an incredibly exciting experience that I would not have wanted to miss.

Something I have particularly enjoyed about my experience as a graduate student at Oxford is meeting so many different people from around the world. Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, Greece, Cyprus, Poland, Slovenia, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the US, the Cayman islands, Indonesia, Brazil, India, China, Japan, Canada, Australia, Kenya and South Africa are just some of the countries that have been represented in the Trinity MCR during the four years I have studied here. I think this multi-cultural experience is a particularly special feature of the graduate community.

The German explorer Alexander von Humboldt once said that the most dangerous worldview is the worldview of people who have not viewed the world. I believe that the welcoming of international students at Trinity is one of the most important contributions that the college can make for this country, especially during these times of political uncertainty about the importance of cultural diversity.

As MCR President during the last year, I have tried my very best to represent this excitingly diverse group of members, and the committee and I have worked very hard to make sure that the MCR remains a friendly and supportive place. We have tried to make sure that all issues raised by students were followed up, and I am very grateful to the President, the bursars, and the Fellows for their help and support with this task. It has been busy at times, and also sometimes difficult to combine lab work with attending meetings in College and answering the long list of daily emails. But my time as MCR President has been absolutely fantastic and I am so pleased to have had this opportunity.

During the last four years, I have met a lot of great individuals at Trinity, but I have also experienced just as many occasions when people have left Oxford, and moved on to pursue their careers. And now, at long last, it is my turn to leave. I am looking forward to new adventures and building on the research I have been conducting over the past four years, but I am sad to leave this wonderful community behind. The reassuring thing is knowing that open-minded Trinity will always be here and it is comforting to think that every year new students will be welcomed, and will be sharing this same life-changing experience.
A MONTH IN MEXICO CITY

Last summer, Lucy O’Sullivan, who has just completed the second year of a DPhil in Medieval and Modern Languages, travelled to Mexico City to research the murals of Diego Rivera (1886-1957), prominent painter of murals and husband of Frida Kahlo, and the archives of writer Juan Rulfo (1917-1986), writer, screenwriter and photographer. The title of Lucy’s dissertation is ‘Diego Rivera and Juan Rulfo: Post-Revolutionary Body Politics (1920-1965)’. The trip was made possible thanks to donations from a number of Old Members.

I was in Mexico City for a month to carry out research on Diego Rivera and Juan Rulfo. My first week was spent exclusively at the Museo Frida Kahlo in Coyoacán, where I had the opportunity to consult essays, photographs and personal archives from the digitalized personal archives of Rivera, with a further week at the Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CDI) where Rulfo worked from 1962 to 1986. I was able to interview current CDI employees who had worked alongside Rulfo and was given access to a number of his otherwise-inaccessible essays, interviews and professional documents, offering an insight into an aspect of the writer’s career about which very little has been written.

I then visited the Fundación Juan Rulfo, which holds more than 6,000 negatives of his photographs, where I consulted rare publications about the author and spoke for some time with the director Victor Jimenez, who had known Rulfo personally, as well as reviewing every newspaper clipping that contained references to Rulfo from the early 1950s to the late 1970s. I attended a book launch and colloquium on Rulfo’s only novel, Pedro Páramo, which was coordinated by the Fundación at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and spent a number of days at the Biblioteca Nacional and the Hemeroteca Nacional, both located in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). I had access to the reserve archive of the Biblioteca, and consulted books on muralism and Mexican art unavailable outside Mexico. At the Hemeroteca Nacional I reviewed microfilms of key newspapers and magazines from the 1920s and 1930s that mentioned Rivera or the muralist movement.

The weekends were an opportunity to visit all of the Diego Rivera murals located in Mexico City and the surrounding areas, and also to make use of the vast collections at the Biblioteca Nacional UNAM and the Biblioteca Vasconcelos to consult rare books on Mexican photography and art and visit yet more museums.

Having never seen Rivera’s murals in situ, the trip was invaluable to the development of my thesis. My time in Mexico was extremely enjoyable and fruitful and enabled me to contextualize my existing research, while also suggesting alternative avenues of investigation.
EVENTS

Events in the Easter vacation began with Trinity’s dinner, hosted by the President and Lady Roberts, at the biennial North American Reunion, which this year was held in Washington DC. Closer to home, Trinity fielded a team of nine players, some joining the team for the first time, at the Intercollegiate Golf Tournament at Frilford Heath; the team did well and achieved one of its aims, comfortably beating Balliol. A Gaudy for years 1977 to 1981 had a particularly high turnout, filling Hall to capacity. Further afield, the Director of Development and Estates Bursar hosted a reception for Old Members and Friends in Singapore.

Trinity term began with events to mark the much-anticipated reopening of the chapel (see page 4). The biggest events of the college year, Graduation and the Parents Lunch, took place over one weekend in the middle of May, making the most of a large marquee on the lawn. The Graduation celebrations were attended by 390 graduands and their guests, with lunch before the ceremony and a celebratory champagne tea after returning from the Sheldonian. The following day 340 current students and parents were entertained by tours of the Old Library and college silver, an archive exhibition and the chance to listen to the choir in the restored chapel, before sitting down to lunch in the marquee.

Later in May there was a return visit to the Yorkshire Grey for the Informal London Drinks, a dinner for current and former students in Materials, preceded by a talk by Dr Mike Jenkins, Fellow & Tutor in Materials, and the Boat Club’s annual Eights Week dinner.

The Ralph Bathurst Society Dinner in June included a talk by Roger Michel (1984) and Dr Alexy Karenowska and a trip to the
Ashmolean for a reception and exclusive preview of the exhibition ‘Storms, War & Shipwrecks: treasures from the Sicilian seas’. For the last weekend in June the rain just about held off to allow those who matriculated in or before 1959 to enjoy their Gaudy drinks in Garden Quad before dinner in Hall and, two days later, for a largely rather-younger group of visitors to the Family Garden Party to play on the lawns, have their faces painted, be entertained by Clunky and Wanda the clowns, and to visit the tortoises in the President’s Garden.
TELETHONS

During the Easter vacation, the college held its third spring telethon campaign, the aims of which were to thank Old Members and Friends for their support, reconnect with those with whom we have not spoken in some time and invite support for the Annual Campaign.

Fundraising is, of course, only one aspect of the telethon and we would like to thank again everyone who took a call. Your participation is important—regardless of whether or not you have given to Trinity—and it remains greatly appreciated.

Of those who were asked to make a gift, over 60 per cent chose to do so, raising more than £85,000 for Trinity in cash and pledges, which was a fantastic response. This brings the total raised by telethons in the last financial year to over £230,000. Thank you again to everyone who has made a gift.

RETIREMENT OF ROSEMARY STRAWSON

Rosemary Strawson, who will be known to many Old Members and others who have enquired about holding an event at Trinity, retired in June after seventeen years as the Conference and Functions Administrator. A farewell gathering of Fellows and staff in the Beer Cellar was also attended by many former Trinity staff.

Rosemary’s first job was as Fellows’ secretary at Exeter, from where she went to the Cherwell Boathouse, waitressing and cooking (and some punting after hours). Other posts have included research for Brookes Hospitality Department, where she also did her degree, working for a charity which teaches yoga and meditation in prisons (of which two of the trustees turned out to be Trinity members), as well as stints in the wine trade and as an au pair and cook in Australia, Switzerland and France.

Rosemary says that she enjoyed the continuity of dealing with regular clients, some of whom she got to know well, and found the one-off events for Old Members—weddings, birthdays and anniversaries—particularly interesting and rewarding. For several months, between the retirement of Michael Poyntz and arrival of David Mills, Rosemary was acting Domestic Bursar and especially remembers Michael Beloff’s help during that time.

Rosemary is looking forward to doing more volunteering at the Oxford Playhouse (where she first got involved, distributing flyers and posters, in 1984), and other Oxford arts venues, to enjoying visits with the Friends of the Ashmolean and Friends of the Botanic Gardens and NADFAS events. Recalling her chalet cooking days in the Alps, she’s also looking to doing more cooking for friends and more experimentation in the kitchen.
In the sixth of this series of articles to commemorate the First World War, offering a brief synopsis focused on the scale of the conflict, the casualties and the immediate impact on Trinity's members, John Keeling, Domestic Bursar, writes about the Battle of the Somme and the courage of one of Trinity's most distinguished members, Noel Chavasse.

Even in protracted wars some individual battles, such as Stalingrad, Gettysburg and Waterloo, stand out as being particularly significant. Sometimes they were the war’s turning point, sometimes they were the bloodiest, and sometimes they were the last stand or the defining clash of arms. For the British in the First World War, the Somme stands apart, not just because of the scale of the casualties but also because the nature of them; walking across ‘no man’s land’ into a murderous hail of machine gun fire came to epitomise the futility of the slaughter. Trinity’s part in the six-month period between June and December 1916 is, unsurprisingly, also dominated by the Battle of the Somme; the list of the fallen, on the next page, tells its own story. The first day of the battle, 1 July, was the worst day in the British Army’s history with 57,470 casualties (19,240 dead) and by 18 November, when the battle drew to a close, the number had risen to 419,654.

By June 1916, after almost two years of war, manoeuvre was almost non-existent; the Western Front had become a static war of attrition. The German Army was well dug-in in trenches and defensive fortifications protected by mines and barbed wire. The area between the armies, no man’s land, was covered by artillery and machine guns so that any attack inevitably resulted in heavy casualties. In most assaults the attackers lose three times as many men as the defenders, usually more if surprise cannot be achieved, so after two years of heavy losses why did the British risk so much? A brief look at the political and military context can only provide some of the prevailing rationale at the time.

At Chantilly in December 1915 the principal Allies—France, Britain, Russia and Italy—agreed to launch simultaneous offensives against the Axis armies whenever the Germans threatened a major breakthrough. To that end, Russia mounted a new assault on the Eastern Front in March and by summer had lost almost a million men. On the Western Front, the German Army still occupied a large tract of France and Belgium, including much of their coal and steel producing areas; accepting the status quo meant that aggression had prevailed. France therefore saw no option but to continue attacking to evict the German Army from its soil. The initial plan was for France to play the major role in the Somme offensive with Britain supporting the northern flank, but by June the French Army was being bled dry by the Germans, especially at Verdun (‘the Blood Pump’) where France lost 185,000 men between March and June. France was in danger of losing the war of attrition and desperately needed Britain to honour its Chantilly commitment and attack in the Somme to relieve the pressure.

Politically, the Government was still recovering from the debacle at Gallipoli in 1915. Churchill had resigned but Asquith remained as Prime Minister, albeit distracted by events elsewhere, like the surrender at Kut in Mesopotamia in April and the Easter Rising in Dublin. Lloyd George had become Minister of Munitions, and made a good fist of it, but then became Secretary of War when Lord Kitchener was drowned en route to Russia in June 1916. The only good news was that the Royal Navy had not ‘lost the war in an afternoon’, as Churchill had feared, at Jutland on 1 June, and by preserving the effectiveness of the Grand Fleet, the campaign to starve Germany into surrender remained on track.

Militarily, there had been major changes at the top. Douglas Haig replaced John French as the British Expeditionary Force’s (BEF) Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) and General ‘Wully’ Robertson had left France to become Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS); at least Lloyd George’s principal military advisor knew the Western Front well. But the other BEF Generals, Plumer, Rawlinson, Munro et al, were not impressive and only Allenby
TRINITY’S FALLEN DURING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

In the build up to the battle:

1 June  
Charles Jefford Fowler (1906), Lieutenant, Royal Fusiliers

29 June  
Charles Francis Simonds (1897), Major, King’s Royal Rifle Corps

30 June  
Allan Oswald Miles (1908), Second Lieutenant, Gloucestershire Regiment

From the first day of the battle:

1 July  
Bertram St George French (1912), Captain, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment)

1 July  
Bernard Sydney Harvey (1907), Captain London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade)

1 July  
Philip Giesler Norbury (Scholar elect), Lieutenant, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

1 July  
Maxwell Alexander Robertson (1894), Captain, Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers

3 July  
Percival Beckwith Wace (1902), Captain, Royal Berkshire Regiment

6 July  
Christopher Herbert Counsell (1908), Second Lieutenant, Hampshire Regiment

14 July  
Robert Colin Boyd (1911), Captain, Devonshire Regiment

14 July  
Henry John Butter (1906), Captain, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

15 July  
Richard Moore (Scholar elect), Second Lieutenant, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own)

19 July  
Harold Church (1902), Captain, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

23 July  
George Tarik Wakeford (1913), Second Lieutenant, Royal Berkshire Regiment

28 July  
Lennox Robert Murray Napier (1909), Captain, Cameron Highlanders

3 August  
Noel Muschamp Vickers (1899), Lieutenant, Yorkshire Regiment

5 August  
Thomas Geoffrey Brocklebank (1901), Captain, Royal Field Artillery

5 August  
George Sainton Kaye Butterworth (1904), Lieutenant, Durham Light Infantry

10 August  
Reginald John Elliott Tiddy (Fellow), Lieutenant, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

25 August  
Guy Wollaston Bartholomew (1899), Captain, King’s Royal Rifle Corps

30 August  
Thomas Russell Crawley-Boevey (1899), Captain, Gloucsershire Regiment

3 September  
Herbert Guy Hele Copeman (1910), Second Lieutenant, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

11 September  
Ronald Fawcett Carrier Tompson (1902), Lieutenant, Grenadier Guards

13 September  
Edward Holland (1895), Second Lieutenant, Scots Guards

15 September  
John Robert Trinder (1909), Major, London Regiment (London Irish Rifle Brigade)

19 September  
Louis Forde MacGrigor Campbell Murdoch (1893), Second Lieutenant, Scots Guards

26 September  
John Atholl MacGregor (1899), Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards

28 September  
Laurence Guy Holt (Scholar 1913), Captain, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

3 October  
Ernest Alan Fulton (1900), Second Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment

15 October  
Vincent Gerald Narey (1911), Second Lieutenant, Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding) Regiment

16 October  
Archibald Douglas (Scholar elect), Second Lieutenant, Royal Field Artillery, attached Royal Flying Corps

23 October  
Eyres Bolton Massy Delmege (1908), Captain, East Lancashire Regiment

13 November  
Edward Wilfrid Estridge (1904), Second Lieutenant, East Yorkshire Regiment

Of the five Trinity members who fought on the German and Austro-Hungarian side, one was killed during the course of the Battle of the Somme: Gustav Felix Hans Karl Schwabach (1908), 9th Feldarmee, who died on 30 September.
would become a household name, principally because of his successful campaign from Cairo to Damascus, and the role Lawrence of Arabia played in it.

To the beleaguered French, the British ‘big push’ had been a long time coming but it was still premature in Haig’s eyes. He had wanted another six weeks, as the BEF had expanded exponentially to over one million men. ‘Kitchener’s New Armies’ were numerically four or five times more numerous than the BEF of 1914, but they were largely untrained, especially at higher formation level. The pre-war, experienced professionals had been almost wiped out and the new troops—including the ‘Pals battalions’—had plenty of enthusiasm and commitment but were woefully inexperienced. Crucially, they were poorly practised in all arms battle procedures, especially the close integration of artillery.

In May, sixteen French divisions were moved from the Somme to reinforce Verdun. This meant that the British had thirty-seven divisions in the Somme area but the French were reduced to twenty-six; the general offensive would therefore have to be led by the British. Haig was thus compelled to commit a million men to battle—the largest force in the British Army’s history—before they were trained and ready and at a place he did not choose. Indeed, the Allied C-in-C, Joffre, had selected the Somme precisely because the Germans were so strong there and therefore, in a war of brutal attrition, it would provide the greatest relief to Verdun. Apologists for Haig’s apparent indifference to heavy casualties point out that whilst he undoubtedly felt the pain, he couldn’t show it; soldiers expect their commander to exude confidence and optimism at all times, especially in dire circumstances.

However, he must take the blame for a predictable battle plan which played to German strengths. Massing so many British and French divisions on a twelve-mile Front, along with a seven-day artillery bombardment, made surprise impossible. The latter had limited effect because the German defenders were dug in, in chalk, up to thirty feet underground. The assaulting infantry often followed too far behind the artillery’s creeping barrage which meant that the German defenders had time to emerge and man their machine guns. Critically, the shells had not cut the barbed wire so the Germans had more time to bring their guns to bear on the hapless infantry who were snared on layers of wire. German artillery then shelled the British troops caught in the open in no man’s land and carnage resulted.

By November, combined British and French losses on the Somme were just over 600,000 and the French lost 348,000 more at Verdun. German casualties were 570,000 on the Somme and a further 400,000 at Verdun. So it was not just the British Army that lost the cream of its youth, indeed in the course of the war France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Romania, Serbia and especially Russia suffered far more. In broad terms, of over 8 million military fatalities ‘only’ 10 per cent were British, and of the overall 37 million casualties about 8 per cent were British. But the gruesome losses suffered by others do not dilute the horrific impact that the bloodbath on the Somme had on Britain. It still stands apart and was also the grimdest chapter in Trinity’s history.

Of the thirty-six Trinity men who died during these six months, thirty-four were junior infantry officers (the other two were Royal Flying Corps). Leading from the front meant a higher rate of casualties and German snipers were particularly adept at picking off officers. The perception of officers living in chateaux while the ‘lions’ did the fighting is true of some of the generals and their staffs, but the mortality rate for officers up to the rank of brigadier exceeded that for the men. One of the intriguing aspects of the Trinity list is that ‘only’ four fell on the first day of the Somme and that the others were fairly evenly spread across the period. One can only marvel at the courage of those who continued to do their duty once the horrors were so manifest. Raw bravery on day one may be understandable but sustained courage, day after day, and after burying so many of one’s friends, requires something even more laudable.

On the subject of courage, one Trinity man stands apart from all others.

Captain Noel Chavasse (1904) was the only man to be awarded two Victoria Crosses in the First World War. An Olympic athlete—he represented Great Britain at the Olympics of 1908—he had enlisted on the first day of the war and by the start of the Somme had spent almost two years in the front line. As a doctor serving with an infantry battalion he was invariably in the most dangerous part of the battlefield and had been awarded a Military Cross in January 1916. There was less hyperbole in citations in those days but the account, following, of his actions in winning his first VC at Guillemont, on August 9 1916, nonetheless indicates someone with unimaginable reserves of bravery and altruism. His courage and self-sacrifice were indeed ‘beyond praise’.
NOEL CHAVASSE

Noel Chavasse was recommended by his Commanding Officer for a Military Cross for his work during the Battle of Hooge, Belgium on 10 June 1915, but the recommendations were lost at Divisional level and not one of the battalion received any recognition for his actions. Noel Chavasse was finally awarded the Military Cross, recorded in the London Gazette of 14 January 1916, but there was no citation due to the lost recommendation and the length of the list.

The London Gazette of 26 October 1916, included the citation for the award of the Victoria Cross to Noel, following his actions at Guillemont on 9 August 1916:

**Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, MC. Royal Army Medical Corps, att’d King’s (Liverpool) Regiment (Liverpool Scottish)**

> For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty (Guillemont, France).

> During an attack he tended the wounded in the open all day, under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy. During the ensuing night he searched for wounded on the ground in front of the enemy’s lines for four hours.

Next day he took one stretcher-bearer to the advanced trenches, and under heavy shell fire carried an urgent case for 500 yards into safety, being wounded in the side by a shell splinter during the journey.

The same night he took up a party of twenty volunteers, rescued three wounded men from a shell hole twenty-five yards from the enemy’s trench, buried the bodies of two officers, and collected many identity discs, although fired on by bombs and machine guns.

Altogether he saved the lives of some twenty badly-wounded men, beside the ordinary cases which passed through his hands. His courage and self-sacrifice were beyond praise.

In 1917, at the 3rd Battle of Ypres, he worked desperately to save as many lives as possible, and despite serious injuries, he defied orders to withdraw, but died later of his wounds. He was posthumously awarded a second VC, the only man to win the medal twice in the course of the First World War and only one of three ever to do so.

FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIONS

TWICKENHAM GATES

In April the Rugby Football Union (RFU) unveiled the Rose and Poppy gates at Twickenham, as a central part of the RFU’s commemorations of the First World War, and a wreath was laid in memory of the six Trinity rugby Blues who fell in the War.

Following the short service, with music from the Royal Military School of Music and attended by local and national dignitaries and military representatives, the Trinity wreath was laid alongside the gates by Lewis Anderson, current DPhil student and Trinity rugby Blue, who played in his sixth and final Varsity match last December. Ian Ritchie (1972), CEO of the RFU, joined him for the wreath laying.

Trinity lost six rugby Blues in the First World War—only one other Oxford college (University) lost more. They were: Maxwell Robertson (1894), Harold Hodges (1904), Thomas Allen (1907), Frederic Turner (1907), Allan Gilmour (1908) and David Bain (1910).

Lewis Anderson and Ian Ritchie alongside the Rose and Poppy Gates
CHAVASSE EVENTS

In May several members of Trinity attended a lecture and dinner at St Peter’s College, the first of a series of events to commemorate members of the Chavasse family, founders of St Peter’s, and Trinity alumnus Noel Chavasse in particular (see opposite). The lecture was given by General Sir Nicholas Houghton, Chief of the Defence Staff of the British Armed Forces, who examined the criticism often levelled at the military leadership during the First World War and its portrayal in popular media. Sir Nicholas also offered his thoughts on leadership in the modern armed forces and spoke of the inspiration that figures such as Noel Chavasse still provide.

On 9 August, a memorial paving stone commemorating Noel Chavasse was unveiled outside St Peter’s College Chapel by the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire—Noel and his twin brother Christopher were born in the adjacent vicarage, now part of St Peter’s. Also at St Peter’s, on 23 October, Trinity’s chapel choir will join the St Peter’s choir for a special service to mark the publication, on 24 October 1916, of the full citation for Noel Chavasse’s first Victoria Cross; the service will include a performance of Henry Walford Davies’ Requiem.

On 2 February 2017, Trinity will commemorate Noel Chavasse with a lecture, ‘Part of the Family’: The Medical Officer on the Western Front, given by Professor Mark Harrison, Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, followed by a dinner in Hall. As places are limited both lecture and dinner will be by invitation only and anyone who would like to receive an invitation should contact the Alumni Relations Officer.

THE SOMME COMMEMORATIONS

On Friday 1 July, Arthur Thorning (1963) and Clare Hopkins, archivist, represented Trinity at the national commemoration of the Battle of the Somme. The event was held at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, and those present included Princes Charles, William and Harry, David Cameron, Irish president Michael Higgins and French prime minister Manuel Valls. The story of how the Battle unfolded was narrated by Charles Dance, Joely Richardson and Jason Isaacs, and was vividly illustrated by extracts from the letters and diaries of those who fought, read by representatives of today’s armed forces.

The 141 days of the Somme offensive have come to epitomise the wasteful, grinding, industrial horror of the

Captain Henry Butter of the Black Watch (1906), who fell on 14 July 1916, was an only child and his mother sent his silver hip flask, engraved with his initials and the date of his death, to his college friend, Wilfrid Ingham (1906).
First World War, but this commemoration focused particularly on the heroic sacrifice of the men who served, especially the Pals’ Battalions of Kitchener’s volunteer army, for many of whom the Somme was their first experience of battle. It was especially poignant to listen to the haunting melody of George Butterworth’s (1904) *The Banks of Green Willow* while schoolchildren laid wreaths on the French and English graves that lay before the Memorial. During two minutes of silence, thousands of paper poppies and cornflowers (the French flower of remembrance) drifted down onto the Memorial steps.

The Thiepval Memorial is an immense brick and stone arch, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and completed in 1932. It stands majestically on a hilltop, commanding panoramic views across a peaceful and beautiful landscape that one hundred years ago was the scene of bitter fighting and appalling slaughter. On the faces of the piers are inscribed the names of 72,000 British and South African soldiers who are ‘the missing’ of the Somme. At the end of the service, Arthur laid a wreath in memory of the thirty-one members of Trinity who lost their lives.

**OLD MEMBERS’ NEWS**

Paul Green’s (1964) recent publications include *Babalon and Other Plays* (Scarlet Imprint, 2015) and *The Polyverse* (Mandrake of Oxford, 2016).

Michael Tait (1965) has published *Too many priests? Melchizedek and the others in Hebrews* in the series *Scripturae* (Il pozzo di Giacobbe, 2016).

Martin Prozesky (1966) writes, ‘A new venture for me is providing ethics training for anti-corruption workers from the Commonwealth countries in Africa, in Gaberone, the capital of Botswana.’

Robert Parker (1967) has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA).

Oliver Nicholson (1969), after thirty years at the University of Minnesota, teaching Late Antiquity and Later Latin, is retiring home to Devon, where he will continue his work as general editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*.

Louise Jury (1984), having spent her career since Trinity as a journalist on newspapers including the *Guardian* and the *Independent* and, most recently, as chief arts correspondent of the London Evening *Standard*, has now joined the Creative Industries Federation, the new membership body for the arts, creative industries and cultural education. She is director of communications and strategy and part of the senior management team.

James Waggett (1984)—after twenty years in private client stockbroking with major Australian firms, James finally went independent in November 2015, establishing wealth management firm, Waggett Wealth Advice Ltd, offering a personalised service to a limited number of generally high net worth clients. In addition, James continues to raise development capital for unlisted private companies—typically in the disruptive tech space—raising some US$10m in seven Australasian transactions over the past two years. Since 2012 he has lived, with his wife Sara and three children, in New Zealand’s South Island (having emigrated originally to Sydney in 1993) and would welcome contact from Old Members living in South Island.
Marina Dudenhöfer (née Chaciewicz, 1990) writes, ‘I have been working as a translator for the European Commission for three years now. This has included learning Polish and Estonian.’

Martin Kuijer (1996) has been appointed by the Dutch government as a (substitute) member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), the Council of Europe’s advisory body on constitutional matters. The role of the Venice Commission is to provide legal advice to member states in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Commission has sixty member states: the forty-seven Council of Europe member states, plus thirteen other countries (such as the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Morocco and Tunisia).

Heather Bacon-Shone (1997) has been licensed as a civilian mariner and is sailing aboard the USNS Yukon, based out of San Diego, California.

Christian Jung (1998) writes, ‘Since November 2015 I have been a Visiting Research Fellow at King’s College London, funded by the Erwin Schroedinger programme of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Also in 2015, I was elected Associate Visiting Researcher at the Max Weber Kolleg of the University of Erfurt in Germany. In the last year I have published several articles and reviews among which is ‘Alpträume der Vernunft. Über Geisterseher, Mystiker und Philosophen’ in Der Blaue Reiter 38 and ‘Prinzipienerkenntnis nach Aristoteles— Zur Deutung von Analytica posteriora II 19’ in: Salzburger Jahrbuch für Philosophie 60.’

Manon Mathias (2002), pictured (left) with her thesis supervisor, Dr Caroline Warman (Jesus College), recently published Vision in the Novels of George Sand (Oxford University Press, 2016), and the book launch was held in the Sutro Room in January.

**MARRIAGES**

Mike Travis (1966) to Bobbie Richards, on 8 April 2016, in London.

Peter Strawbridge (1976) to Jane Collins, 2 July 2016 in Trinity College Chapel.

Sinead Doyle (2003) to François Hoehl, on 2 July 2016, at St Bede’s Roman Catholic Church, Weaverham, Cheshire. A number of Old Members were present, including Justin Kueh, Vicky Simon, Julie Chan, Matthew Thomas (all 2003). Damian Clements (2004) and Caroline Chamberlain (née Holroyde) and Sam Roots (both 2005).

Caroline Holroyde (2005) to Andrew Chamberlain, on 20 February 2016, in London.

**BIRTHS**


To Andy Hull (1997) and Myriam Cherti, on 27 February 2016, a son, Sami Cherti Hull.

To Chris Ogle (1999) and Rosie, on 23 October 2015, a daughter, Martha Patricia Ogle, a sister to Noah and Freddie.

To Matthew Thomas (2003) and Alison, on 27 June 2014, a son, Evan David.

**DEATHS**

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

Archibald George Charles Forde ‘Archie’ Campbell Murdoch (1929), on 29 June 2016

Marcus James ‘Mark’ Gent, OBE (1943), on 23 March 2016

(John) Michael Barrowclough (1944), on 26 December 2015

Captain Martin Ellis Sydney Evans (1944), on 9 March 2016

The Hon Giles Rowan St Aubyn, LVO (1944), on 10 July 2015

Group Captain (Donald) Brian Robinson (1945), on 17 March 2016

Dr Peter Greaves Taylor Fogg (1948), on February 2016

Sir (Arthur) David Saunders Goodall, GCMG (1950), on 22 July 2016

Charles Edmund Hoghton Hull (1950), on 20 February 2016

Simon John Anstey (1957), in March 2016

Stephen Christopher Hardisty (1957), on 8 April 2016

Christopher Rodney Peter Carver (1966), on 9 April 2016


Andrew James Morris Gifford (1981), on 19 February 2013

Sarah Elizabeth Chavasse (1984), in 2015

Coleen Marie Hanson (Visiting student, 1991), on 12 September 2015

**Offers to contribute obituaries or information for the 2015-16 Report would be very welcome.**
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GAUDIES AND REUNIONS
Friday 16 September 2016
**GAUDY 1960-1966**
If you have not received your invitation, please contact the Alumni & Events Officer.
Saturday 25 March 2017
**RECENT LEAVERS DINNER**
for all who matriculated in or after 2003

2016
Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September
**THE TRINITY WEEKEND**
Saturday 24 September
**MATHS DINNER**
Monday 26 September
**SAN FRANCISCO EVENT**
Tuesday 27 September
**LOS ANGELES EVENT**
Friday 30 September
**NEW YORK DINNER**
Saturday 1 October
**BOSTON DINNER**
Saturday 15 October
**BENEFACTORS LUNCH**

2017
Saturday 4 February
**WILLIAM PITT SOCIETY LUNCH**
Saturday 18 February
**MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER**
Friday 3 March
**LAW SOCIETY DINNER**
Sunday 14 May
**PARENTS LUNCH**

For the latest list of events and further details, see the events listing on the website: www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/events/

For more information or booking enquiries, contact the Alumni & Events Officer.