



TRINITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE OXFORD – SUMMER 2021



TOPPING OUT – Marking progress on the Levine Building

PLUS Carrying on in lockdown • Researching treatments for COVID • Prince Philip at Trinity

Returning to Trinity

I am writing this introduction to the newsletter as we embark on our fourth non-standard term in a row. Throughout Hilary term our students found themselves once again studying remotely, following a last-minute change in Government guidance in January. I pay warm tribute to them for adapting to this unwelcome situation. The fortitude shown by this generation of students is to be commended. Notwithstanding the tireless efforts of our academic colleagues to deliver a first-class academic experience online, our students' wider social experience of university has differed greatly from their hopes and pre-COVID expectations.

During Hilary term, I spoke to over 100 students about their experience of studying remotely. Their circumstances were varied—some, living in private accommodation or Trinity's off-site rooms, were in Oxford; others were working from home, scattered across the world as far afield as China and Australia.

'We're enjoying the noise, laughter and camaraderie of students who have been absent for too long.'

I applaud the creativity of the small group of our international students who set themselves up in an Airbnb in Tunisia—a 'Trinity abroad' campus—in order to keep each other company throughout another long lockdown!

We're thankful that the Government's most recent advice has made it possible for a larger number of students to return for Trinity term and we're enjoying the noise, laughter and camaraderie of students who have been absent for too long.

The return of students is all the more poignant as we mourn the loss in January of first-year student Oliver Bultitude. Oliver came up to Trinity from Northumberland in October to read PPE. In a short space of time, he made an indelible mark on our community. Oliver relished college life and lived it to the full: in just one term he developed a close-knit friendship group; he was a distinctive figure around college with his colourful array of bandanas; and despite undergoing chemotherapy treatment for bone cancer, Oliver maintained his studies and thrived academically. We were devastated when this talented young man, who showed so much promise, passed away at home, following a rapid deterioration in his condition after Christmas. Our hearts go out to Oliver's younger brother Max, and to his parents, Justin and Kate, who



supported Oliver to fulfil his dream in taking up his offer of a place to study at Trinity. He will be greatly missed.

Keeping in touch

Throughout the past year, we have worked hard to maintain regular contact with both current and former students. The Alumni and Development team has managed a steady stream of online events—from talks given by Fellows and Old Members involved in researching treatments for COVID, to careers lectures bringing together current students and alumni, online wine tastings, five talks about life post-COVID, and weekly presentations about the progress of our new building. It has been an enormous pleasure to have regular online contact with Old Members across the globe, and this will undoubtedly form a significant part of our future programme.

The Levine Building takes shape

When some of our students were last in College, the new Levine Building was a large hole in the ground. As they return, they are discovering a new three storey building, complete with windows and slate roof, and a view through the scaffolding to the beautiful Bath stone that clads it. Our construction firm, Gilbert Ash, has done an astonishing job of keeping the development on track in the most difficult circumstances. Fortnightly site visits

have confirmed our hopes in relation to the quality of the building’s design and its realisation. The fundraising is moving forward apace and we have been enormously touched by the generosity of our Old Members in helping to bring this building into being. Director of Development Sue Broers believes we are on the ‘home straight’ in terms of raising the final £1.6 million, and I warmly commend the project to all members of our extended community. Every gift, large and small, will help to bring about this transformation for future generations of Trinity students, and we couldn’t be more grateful.

Research and teaching

Despite everything, our Fellows have continued to achieve distinction in their respective fields. We are delighted that Charlotte Williams, Professor of Chemistry, has been recognised with two significant honours, being awarded the OBE in the (delayed) Queen’s Birthday Honours in the autumn and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society earlier this year.

In recent months, Fellow in Spanish Dr María del Pilar Blanco, has been awarded funding from the British Academy to conduct archival research on, among other things, polio vaccination campaigns in Cuba and Puerto Rico; Fellow in French Professor Katherine Ibbett, was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship which will enable her to work on her latest book project; and Junior Research Fellow, Dr Karol Mazur, was awarded British Academy funding to support his research investigating micro- and macroeconomic consequences of agricultural policies pursued in developing countries.

Professor Peter McCulloch was awarded the title of National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator for his work to make surgical procedures better and safer. The Senior Investigators are among the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR. And no description of this year would be complete without mention of the work of Professor Chris Butler who has led PRINCIPLE, Oxford University’s Platform Randomised Controlled Trial to find evidence of an effective COVID-19 treatment for use in the community that can significantly shorten recovery time.

I’m grateful to all our Fellows and lecturers who have shown so much dedication this year to supporting our students in extraordinary circumstances.

Hilary

Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE



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On the cover

As construction of the Levine Building reached roof level, the occasion was marked with a reduced-scale and socially distanced topping out ceremony.



Re-imagining events during lockdown



Above: Ben Lake MP (top right) and some of those he spoke to at one of the Virtual Trinity Weekend events; the events were managed by Ana Fabian (top left) who was the Alumni & Event Officer maternity cover last year. Below: Leigh Brown gave a talk on rosé wine.

As lockdowns and restrictions continued, the autumn 2020 events moved online. Very successful talks and discussions for the Virtual Trinity Weekend included seeing the pandemic from a historical perspective with Dr Ian Archer (1978), and a culinary discussion with Julian Smith, Trinity’s head chef. We were also very privileged to hear from Ben Lake MP (2011) about life as a member of parliament.

In Michaelmas term we held a series of panel events looking at ‘Overcoming the Second Wave of the Pandemic’, with invited Old Members speaking on three topics: mental health, vaccines and economics. This was followed by several career-oriented talks aimed at students, giving an opportunity to hear from Old Members about career choices, taking risks and career development, followed by sessions on working in journalism and the civil service.

Rather more social were the two Virtual Wine Tasting events, in which Master of Wine, Michael Palij, talked us through a variety of red wines

from Bordeaux and Italy. These were followed by a talk about making rosé wine from Leigh Brown, daughter of Trevor Brown (1960), and a popular gin tasting, welcoming Michael Palij back to talk to us about six different gins and the processes involved in producing them.



In lieu of the carol services, the archivist, Clare Hopkins, produced an entertaining online exhibition recalling Trinity Christmases over the centuries, and the choir provided a recording of Christmas music.

In Hilary term we held another series of panel discussions, ‘Imagining the Post-Covid World’ and are grateful to all the Old Members who joined the panels. The topics included the arts and entertainment industries, the future of higher education, defining success in a virtual world, the world’s top economies, and climate change and energy.



We also started a new series, ‘Trinity Tomes’, in which Old Members and Trinity academics discussed their recently published books. For the

first two events we heard from J Doug Holladay (1979) about his thought-provoking book *Rethinking Success*, and from Tristan Franklins, Junior Research Fellow in Classics, about his work *Revisiting the Codex Buranus*. In Trinity term Eleanor Fitzgerald (2010) discussed her novel *The Forest* and writing through trauma; Claudine Toutoungi (1994) read from her poetry anthology *Two Tongues*; María Del Pilar Blanco, Fellow and Tutor in Spanish American Literature, introduced us to *Geopolitics, Culture, and the Scientific Imaginary in Latin America*; and Geoffrey Batchen, Professor of the History of Art, enlightened us about the use of negatives in *Negative/Positive: A History of Photography*.

There have been some tangible benefits to holding events online, particularly being able to include Old Members from across the world—at the ‘Climate Change and Energy’ discussion, in March, we had speakers from France, the USA and New Zealand, which was wonderful. We have also recorded many of the events for those unable to join them

‘There have been some tangible benefits to holding events online, particularly being able to include Old Members from around the world.’

at the time (see the Trinity College Oxford YouTube channel to find the recordings).

We can’t wait to welcome you back to in-person events again, but we certainly aim to continue holding some online events in future.

Finally, we thank Ana Fabian, who finished her time as Sarah Jenkinson’s maternity cover in February, and who managed the switch to online events so admirably.

Topping out the Levine Building



JCR and MCR presidents Nadia Hassan and Joe Hickie, at the topping out ceremony

■ Since the last newsletter, several milestones have been reached in the Levine Building's construction: in November, the entire concrete structure reached its full height and this was marked with a socially-distanced 'Topping-Out' ceremony; the roof was completed by March; and in early April, the building was connected to mains electricity. The fundraising campaign has also continued to gain momentum and has raised almost 90 per cent of the £15 million fundraising target. Thank you again to everyone who has contributed so far.

We look forward to being able to welcome Old Members and Friends back into College, so that they can see the building for themselves. In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy reading about its progress in the update that has been enclosed with this newsletter.

A Blue Plaque challenge

At the onset of the third lockdown in January, with all teaching in Hilary term conducted from home once again, Fellow and Tutor in Maths **Ian Hewitt** sought some activity to get him out of the house.

■ After my running club set us a post-Christmas challenge to take selfies next to as many blue plaques in Oxford as possible, I decided to try and visit all 119 plaques in Oxfordshire, using allowable exercise, which in practice meant running or cycling from home.

The plaques are administered by the Oxford Civic Society and are surprisingly well dispersed across the county. Luckily Oxford is right in the middle, which meant with some careful route planning I could visit the far-flung plaques in a series of weekend bike rides.

The wintry weather and many flooded roads made this more of a challenge than anticipated, but it took me to many beautiful places.



The range of individuals commemorated is fascinating: inventors, artists, athletes, writers, bell-hangers, campaigners and pioneers of all sorts. They were not all straightforward to find—particular mystery surrounded Agatha Christie's house, which was not where the all-knowing internet had suggested (luckily

I stumbled on it while looking for another one).

Three of the plaques have a Trinity connection: double VC recipient Noel Chavasse, on the wall of Magdalen College School, folk-play enthusiast Reginald Tiddy, on the village hall that bears his name in Ascott-under-Wychwood,



Ian Hewitt facing the challenges of cycling in the low-lying parts of the county

and Sir Hans Krebs in Iffley. JRR Tolkien's blue plaque is famously on the house—and childhood home of Tolkien's son Christopher (Trinity, 1947)—that became the home of Michael Maclagan, Fellow and Tutor in History from 1939 to 1981.

Carrying on during lockdown



While Trinity quads and gardens were deserted during the Hilary term lockdown, much was going on out of sight and ‘virtually’.

Amongst the many events and activities was a multi-media performance of Edgar Lee Masters’ *Spoon River Anthology*, in which art, music, and audio came together for one night only in the darkness of the new moon on 13 March. Meanwhile, the Trinity Players went online to put on *And the Walls*



Spoke, which featured a range of monologues exploring issues of constrained femininity, sexuality and the historical difficulty in expressed female narratives in a performance piece that aimed to reclaim female narratives that have often been drowned out by other voices.

The JCR ran a fundraiser for Brain Cancer Research in March, with members of college (including

the Librarian, President and several Fellows, alongside JCR members) posting photos of themselves in silly hats to raise awareness.

The JCR and MCR held a joint, online Holocaust Memorial Day ‘light a candle’ event, with music from the chapel choir. As part of the event, the President spoke about Robert Townsend Smallbones (1903), who was consul general in Frankfurt until the outbreak of WW2, and devised a visa scheme—later known as the ‘Smallbones Scheme’—which enabled German Jews to be released from concentration camp and emigrate to the UK, saving some 48,000 lives.

To help maintain morale, funding from the Trinity Society and Roger Michel (1984) supported well-being initiatives for students. For those resident in Oxford, the activities included pottery painting kits, kindly provided by Roger Michel, food treats from local businesses, seed kits or succulent plants for their rooms, and an invitation to choose a book to read for pleasure from Blackwell’s for World Book Day. For those at home, there were deliveries of sweet treats or make-your-own-terrarium



kits. Some groups took up the offer of a Disney channel subscription, meeting up online after watching a film to chat about what they’d seen.

As students returned to College, in-person events have been possible once again. The wonderful and very well-attended Eid celebration in Trinity term was the first college-run student event held in a very long time. It included a moving introduction from a member of the MCR about what Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr mean to her. And the refreshments were provided by, and supported, two local family businesses and were delicious!

Arts Week, adapted to COVID restrictions, made full use of the airy marquee in Garden Quad.



MCR pizza night, relocated to Garden Quad



Essay prize winners

Margaret Howard Prize

■ Conrad Kunadu (*above left*), last year's JCR president, won this year's Margaret Howard Essay Prize for his essay on the concept of 'methodological whiteness'.

The prize, established by Gillian Howard in memory of her mother, sets three essay topics that are not subject-specific and will encourage undergraduates in any subject to think about the social and ethical context in which it is studied. Conrad's essay addressed the question: "*Methodological whiteness*"[...] is a way

of reflecting on the world that fails to acknowledge the role played by race in the very structuring of that world, and of the ways in which knowledge is constructed and legitimated within it (BHAMBRA, 2017). *With reference to your own academic field, do you find the concept of 'methodological whiteness' useful, and why?*

Richard Hillary Prize

Kwan Ann Tan and Gabriel Blackwell (*above centre left and right*) shared first prize in this year's Richard Hillary Prize for Creative Writing, for their short

stories 'Oracle' and 'The Gentleman's Game'.

Established in memory of Richard Hillary (1937), author of *The Last Enemy*, the £500 prize is awarded for the best piece of creative writing by a Trinity student.

Alaina Bullen and Alex Schweich were joint runners-up and received honourable mentions for their stories.

Douglas Sladen Prize

Ernest Lee (*above, right*) has won the Douglas Sladen Prize for the second year running.

The prize is awarded to the best original essay on any topic by a Trinity undergraduate. It was

established in 1964 by the widow of Douglas Sladen (scholar 1875). Ernest Lee's winning essay was titled, 'What's in a name? Understanding the "Global City" through Global Justice.'

This year's runner-up, was Conrad Kunadu, also winner of the 2021 Margaret Howard Essay Prize. His essay was titled 'Reinventing The Wheel: Towards a Deleuzian Social Ontology'

More information and the winning essays for all the prizes can be found in the news section of the website.

Prize for Greek verse

■ Undergraduate Ben Goodrick has been awarded the University's 2021 Gaisford Prize for Greek Verse.

The prize has been awarded by the Faculty of Classics since 1855 and is given for a composition in Greek verse. Ben's winning entry was a translation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, 5.3.192-218, which includes the lines:

My conscience hath a thousand

*several tongues,
And every tongue brings in a
several tale,
And every tale condemns me for
a villain.*

This is the second year running that Ben has won a university translation prize—last year he won the Chancellor's Prize for Latin verse composition.

Ben has explained, 'I enjoy verse translation because...it allows

immense freedom and poetic licence in departing from the original.

'In this passage, from the morning of the Battle of Bosworth, Richard's carefully mirrored rhetorical questions bring out pained and violent indecision, and it was exciting to convey the fierce self-questioning of this twisted and haunting character.'

TCBC fundraiser, and a new boat

■ In January, the Boat Club completed a 48-hour fundraiser. Participants faced some cold weather, with many venturing out in the snow and in minus temperatures, but covered a grand total of 1,275.6km, in a combination of running, cycling and erging, surpassing the 1,000km target, and raising £1,173.50. The Boat Club is very grateful to all who contributed so generously; the money raised will go towards ensuring training camps and other events can go ahead as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

TCBC also received a generous donation from David Latham (2000) enabling an upgrade of some of its older ergs to PM5 monitors—it was particularly appreciated, as land training was exceptionally important when it was difficult for the crews to get out on the water. In Hilary term, training and zoom socials ensured that both fitness and morale remained high, pending a return to the river.

Some time ago, Honorary Fellow Geoffrey de Jager generously funded a new boat for the men's First VIII and in June, in a socially-distanced celebration that had been



Geoffrey and Caroline de Jager at the launch of the new boat for the men's First VIII

delayed by the pandemic, the TCBC committee welcomed Geoffrey and Caroline de Jager to the Boat House, where the boat, the *De Jagerbomb*, was duly toasted. The college is extremely grateful to the de Jager family for its generous support of the Boat Club.

Green impact award

■ Trinity has been recognised by the University for its efforts to make college a more sustainable place to live, study and work.

In the 2020 Green Impact programme, Trinity was recognised with a Silver award for its work in promoting sustainable practices and environmental awareness—one of five colleges to feature in this year's list.

The awards are run by the Oxford University Environmental Sustainability team to encourage staff and students to come together in teams to make their workplaces more sustainable.

The college's submission highlighted the many ways in which sustainability and environmental awareness are being embedded in college life, reflecting the values of students, staff and the Governing Body. For example the college kitchens prioritise sourcing local and seasonal food whenever possible, offering a range of vegetarian and vegan menu items, using Fairtrade ingredients and reducing food preparation waste, while the college's grounds and buildings are being adapted to promote biodiversity and reduce the college's environmental footprint by the use of energy-saving devices and controls, and monitoring energy use carefully.

The award recognises the efforts of teams across College in putting shared values into practice and provides great momentum in making even greater steps as they work towards a Gold award.

Greening Trinity's gardens

Among recent, student-driven initiatives in the college grounds have been an experimental sowing of wildflower seeds in the garden by Kettell Hall (in place of the lawn, recently removed for construction work) and adoption of college bees, which will live in the President's Garden and be cared for by the President's husband, and by assistant gardener Bob Dunn. To help support bee populations, the MCR has been providing its members with packets of wildflower seeds to sow at college or home.



Beyond the classroom

■ Trinity's postgraduate students and academics are offering super-curricular enrichment to secondary and sixth-form pupils at state schools as part of a new series launched by the Access team.

Trinity Talks: Beyond the Classroom involves an academic or a graduate student delivering an online, interactive teaching session, with topics ranging from the politics of Brexit and the future of plastics, to the sequencing of the human genome and Virginia Woolf's modernism.

The idea was conceived by a graduate access rep, Rachel Hindmarsh, who wanted to build on the MCR's existing work with the undergraduate access initiatives and to find a way to connect engaged and ambitious school pupils

from under-represented backgrounds with postgraduate students, as emerging specialists in their field, who are both committed to the aims of access work and would benefit from extra experience in teaching.

The Access team is particularly keen to support pupils' learning journeys and hopes that the series of specialised talks will inspire secondary school students, by offering a taste of the innovative research postgraduates are engaged in, while in return the postgraduates will find it inspiring to present their work beyond a university setting.

The first talk of the series took place in March, when Eilidh MacFarlane discussed the Brexit divide in British politics. Some of the subsequent talks can be found on the Trinity YouTube channel.

A new member of the Access team

Chris Cottell is Trinity's new Access Officer for Oxfordshire, succeeding Emma Johnson, who has moved to an education policy role at the Department for Education.

■ My first four months have absolutely flown by, despite the restrictions!

Before taking up this job, I read Music at Hertford, continuing on to an MA Music at Goldsmiths, as well as time working in Christ Church and the Weston (New Bod) libraries.

I'm really enjoying the position, as I get to work in the region where my parents grew up, while working in a sector which has huge personal significance as an Oxford alumnus. As a disabled, state-school applicant, I felt I didn't meet the image of an Oxford student, while in other ways, I realise I completely fit the cliché. But on arriving at the University, these images were all broken up, as I saw what real Oxford students were like: friendly, diverse, and sharing nothing much besides their keen subject interests.

Just as I learnt that it's possible for any student from any background to excel here, I want to share that truth, and to build up the resources and systems to reinforce it. I look forward to using my skills in research and supporting learning to continuing that work at Trinity, and perhaps working with some of you along the way.



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Celebrating educational success stories

■ Trinity has helped celebrate students, teachers and other educational professionals from across the North East of England who have received national recognition for making outstanding contributions to their communities.

Lord Glenamara Memorial prizes are awarded for inspirational contributions to schools and wider communities. Among the prizes awarded last autumn was an Excellence in English award, sponsored by Trinity on behalf of Oxford University. The Award was given to teacher Kay Straughan from Gillas Lane Primary Academy in Sunderland, one of Trinity's link regions for outreach activity, and presented at a virtual ceremony by Head of Access, Hannah Rolley.

The Trinity-sponsored prize was one of a number of extra awards added in 2020, and it is being sponsored again this year. The increased scope of the prize forms part of Opportunity North East (ONE), a programme aimed at improving educational and employment outcomes in the region.

Leverhulme research fellowship



■ Professor Katherine Ibbett, Caroline de Jager Fellow and Tutor in French, has been awarded a one-year Leverhulme Research Fellowship to work on her book project *Liquid Empire: France Writes the River, 1530-1700*.

The project follows literary rivers across texts from France and the Americas, thinking about those rivers as tributaries to a wider oceanic history. In exploring rivers from the Seine to the Mississippi, across a period of time from France's earliest Atlantic ambitions, to its codification of the slave trade, it asks how the small scale of riverbank writing paradoxically allows us to trace France's expansionist poetics and politics.

Professor Ibbett has already carried out substantial research for this project in libraries in the UK, France, the US and Canada, and for most of this year she aims to sit tight at home in Oxford (which even after the past year she still quite likes) and write a draft of the book. Next spring she plans to spend some time in Paris and Aix to look at archival material for a final chapter. Finding time for research can be difficult, especially with extra challenges of the the pandemic, and the Leverhulme fellowship will allow Professor Ibbett to get back to this project in earnest.

British Academy awards

■ María del Pilar Blanco, Fellow and Tutor in Spanish American Literature, has won research funding from the British Academy.

As part of the British Academy/Leverhulme Small Grant programme, Dr Blanco will be funded for two years to support initial work on her third monograph project, *The Weak Child: Twentieth-Century Illness and the Politics of Developmentalism*, including archival research on, among other things, polio vaccination campaigns in Cuba and Puerto Rico (when circumstances permit), and to organise a symposium at TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities).

The funding will allow Dr Blanco to begin archival work in Cuba and Puerto Rico on a new project that considers the weak child within the context of hemispheric relations and expanding US interventionism in the Caribbean region, from the Spanish American War of 1898 until the Cold War.



■ Junior Research Fellow Karol Mazur has won funding for his research from the British Academy.

As part of the British Academy/Leverhulme Small Grant programme, Dr Mazur will be funded for two years to support his research on a series of interrelated projects investigating both micro- and macroeconomic consequences of agricultural policies pursued in developing countries. These include the impacts of the Farm Input Subsidy Programme in Malawi and formalizing land rights in Ghana.

The Grant will support Dr Mazur's research in an emerging field of macro-development, integrating macroeconomic theoretical models with micro datasets for answering development questions. This funding will allow him to hire a research assistant, visit or host his research collaborators, and present the ensuing work at international conferences.



Double honours



■ During this academic year, Professor Charlotte Williams, Fellow and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry, has been recognised with two significant honours.

In October, in the delayed Queen's Birthday Honours List, Professor Williams was appointed an OBE for services to Chemistry. In May it was announced that Professor Williams would be one of the 52 scientists who will become fellows of the Royal Society in honour of their exceptional contributions to science. It is an enormous honour in the world of science and richly deserved.

Professor Williams is recognised internationally for her work on the development of sustainable polymers, including plastics that are biodegradable, recyclable and sourced from waste plants. Her work includes catalysts enabling carbon dioxide copolymerization, lactone ring-opening polymerization and selective catalysis from monomer mixtures (switch catalysis). In 2011, Charlotte founded Eonic Technologies which is commercialising catalysts to transform CO₂ into products (eonic-technologies.com).

£2 million ERC electrolyte research grant

■ Professor Susan Perkin, Fellow and Tutor in Physical Chemistry, has been awarded a grant of £2 million from the European Research Council (ERC) to support a project investigating concentrated electrolytes. She is one of eight Oxford University researchers to be awarded grants as part of the Consolidator Grant competition for mid-career researchers. The funding is part of the EU's current research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, and worth in total €655 million.

Professor Perkin's ELECTROLYTE project will study electrolytic materials, ranging from battery electrolytes, to the interior of



halophilic organisms, with the aim of uncovering the fundamental physical principles determining their collective properties and interactions.

Professor Perkin said of the award, 'This grant will enable our experimental and theoretical work looking into the fundamental nature of interactions and structure in concentrated electrolytes. I am excited about the prospect of getting started on this work together with my team, and honoured to work under the auspices of the ERC.'

Senior Investigator award



■ Peter McCulloch, Professorial Fellow in Surgery, has been awarded the title of NIHR Senior Investigator for his work to make surgical procedures better and safer.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigators are among the most prominent and prestigious

researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of patient and people-based research within the NIHR research community.

Researchers are awarded Senior Investigator status on the basis of their internationally excellent research, its quality and volume, its relevance to patients and the public, and its impact on improvements in healthcare and public health.

Professor McCulloch founded the Quality, Reliability, Safety and Teamwork Unit (QRSTU), which is dedicated to studies of quality and safety interventions in surgery, and has worked with the NHS Institute and the Health Foundation on work to make operating theatres safer.

He will receive a discretionary award of £20,000 per year of appointment to fund activities that support his research, and will become a member of the college of Senior Investigators.

New Honorary Fellow



■ Dr Doyin Atewologun, dean of the Rhodes Scholarships, was elected an Honorary Fellow of Trinity in May.

Dr Atewologun is an internationally-recognised expert on leadership, diversity, intersectionality and organisational culture. She is also a psychologist, scholar practitioner, and a regular media contributor.

She currently serves as a member of the Health & Wellbeing Response Taskforce for COVID-19 NHS staff.

RMS honorary fellowship



■ Professor George Smith, Emeritus Fellow and former Tutor in Materials, has been appointed an honorary fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS). The honorary fellowship is the RMS's most prestigious accolade, reserved for those who have made the most outstanding contributions to microscopy or related branches of science throughout their careers.

This honour followed Professor Smith having been awarded the Royal Society

Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize for 'pioneering and leading the development of engineering alloys through the invention and application of the three-dimensional atom probe, making profound contributions to basic understanding and industrial applications'. The Prize—a medal and a gift of £2,000—is awarded biennially for excellence in basic research in functional or structural material.

Researching treatments for COVID and COPD

Photo credit: John Cairns



■ A trial led by Chris Butler, Fellow and Professor of Primary Care, has found that early treatment with inhaled budesonide, a common corticosteroid, shortens recovery time in patients with COVID-19 who are at higher risk of more severe illness. The PRINCIPLE trial in 1,779 participants reports that budesonide is the first widely available, inexpensive drug found to shorten recovery times in patients aged over 50 who are treated at home and in other community settings.

PRINCIPLE (the University's Platform Randomised trial of INterventions against COVID-19 in older peOPLE) was established in March last year and led by Professor Butler and the Nuffield Department

of Primary Care Health Sciences. It is the world's largest Phase 3 platform randomised controlled trial to find clear evidence of an effective COVID treatment for use in the community that can significantly shorten recovery time. As one of the UK government's national priority platform trials, findings from PRINCIPLE have potential to change how COVID is treated in its early stages in community settings in the UK and internationally.

Antibiotics research

However, the trial has also concluded that the common antibiotics azithromycin and doxycycline are generally not effective treatments.

Azithromycin and doxycycline, often used to treat respiratory tract infections, have been used by some doctors in the hope of treating COVID in the early stages of the illness. After a review of the interim analyses of the PRINCIPLE trial, the trial investigators concluded that there is no beneficial effect in patients aged over 50 who are treated with either antibiotic at home in the early stages of COVID.

Research Paper of the Year

An international research team led by Professor Butler won the 2020 Royal College of General Practitioners

Research Paper of the Year Award.

The research, with colleagues from Cardiff University, King's College, London and from universities in Norway, Spain and the Netherlands, found that a simple finger prick blood test can reduce antibiotic use in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and supported by Oxford University's Primary Care Clinical Trials Unit. The importance of patient and public contributors is recognised as key to the success of the study.

Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the study demonstrated that using a c-reactive protein (CRP) finger-prick blood test resulted in 20 per cent fewer people using antibiotics for COPD flare-ups. There were no negative effects on patient recovery and wellbeing during the first two weeks following GP consultation. The research shows that safely reducing the use of antibiotics in this way may help in the battle against antibiotic resistance.

The Research Paper of the Year award is presented annually across six categories to recognise individuals or group of researchers who have undertaken and published an exceptional piece of research relating to general practice or primary care.



Making artificial intelligence responsible

■ Marta Kwiatkowska, Professorial Fellow in Computing Systems, will be part of a major global initiative to pursue responsible artificial intelligence.

Professor Kwiatkowska was nominated by the European Commission and has been invited to join the Responsible AI Working Group of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) initiative. The international initiative was formed to promote responsible AI grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth. It seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities, and brings together experts from industry, government, civil society and academia.

OxVax: developing vaccines against cancer



■ A new immuno-oncology spinout company, OxVax, has been created to deliver vaccines capable of targeting various forms of cancer. OxVax's research is based on the work of Professor Paul Fairchild, Fellow and Tutor in Medicine, and Tim Davies from the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology.

The company is developing an off-the-shelf next-generation vaccine platform capable of inducing a potent anti-tumour immune response. The platform is based on a unique proprietary population of dendritic cells—which are critical to inducing immune responses in the body. Dendritic cells show T cells the antigens that mark out a tumour for destruction, allowing them to find and destroy it.

The company's technology allows the bulk manufacture of these dendritic cells from stem cells derived from donor's blood. When combined with tumour-associated antigens, OxVax will be able to create a vaccine which can train the body to target and eliminate tumours.

Professor Fairchild, who will chair the company's Scientific Advisory Board, said, 'Our research has shown how stem cells can be used to create potentially unlimited numbers of a rare cell type of the immune system responsible for orchestrating the immune response to solid tumours. We believe that access to these cells can open the field of cancer vaccination and transform the treatment of some of the most intractable cancers.'

Award in endocrinology

■ Dame Frances Ashcroft, Professor of Physiology, has been awarded the Dale Medal by the Society for Endocrinology.

The Dale Medal is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding studies that have changed our understanding of endocrinology in a fundamental way. The Dale Medal is the highest accolade bestowed by the society.

Professor Ashcroft's research focuses on the role of ion channels in the release of insulin from the pancreas in response to rising blood sugar levels.



Improving liver transplants

Dr Fungai Dengu, in his second year of a DPhil, is a general surgery registrar and clinical research fellow working on innovative approaches for modifying donor livers before transplantation. New technologies could lead to a dramatic improvement in outcomes, as he explains here.



Liver disease is the only major cause of death in the UK that is still rising each year and has seen a 400 per cent increase in incidence over the last 30 years, becoming the leading cause of premature death in 35-50 year olds in the UK.

Liver transplantation is the only successful treatment for end stage liver disease and the demand for this treatment is increasing, resulting in a need for more donor organs to meet this demand. Unfortunately, although more people are opting to donate their organs, many livers are deemed unsuitable or ‘marginal’, and only a small proportion of these higher risk livers ever get transplanted because of the fear they may never function in the recipient, resulting in terrible consequences, such as the need for urgent re-transplant or death.

One way to overcome this problem is to preserve the liver on a machine (OrganOx metra device™) that pumps blood with oxygen, medicines

and nutrients through it at normal body temperature, as opposed to storing it on ice, which can be harmful to the organ, especially in marginal donor organs. This new way of preserving livers reduces organ damage at the time of transplant, while allowing us to see if the liver is functioning before implantation, which has increased the number

‘These therapies have the potential to dramatically improve outcomes after transplantation.’

of ‘marginal’ donor livers we can confidently use and extended the time we can preserve organs safely from 8-12 hours to 25 hours.

Crucially, it also provides an opportunity to ‘treat’ the liver ‘ex situ’ with novel therapies that can recondition the liver by initiating regeneration and repair (e.g.

mesenchymal stem cells), or modulate immune responses to prevent organ rejection after transplantation.

My research is supervised by Professor Peter Friend and within his group my work focuses on harnessing novel therapeutics to modify livers ex situ prior to transplantation. We are investigating innovative approaches, such as cellular and RNA therapies. In collaboration with Trinity Fellow Professor Paul Fairchild we are exploring the delivery of stem cell derived dendritic cells, which if originally derived from the recipient may be able to mask the donor organ from the recipient immune system and reduce the burden of toxic anti-rejection drugs required after transplantation. The latter, which may be interference (RNAi)/ gene silencing or, similar to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, messenger RNA (mRNA) delivery for expression of desired proteins, is of particular interest.

By combining our ex-situ preservation platform with these therapies, we are able to overcome some of the challenges previously associated with systemic delivery where only a small amount of the therapy reaches the desired organ and there can be unwanted off-target effects. Through targeting the liver directly and the use of endogenous delivery mechanisms we can potentially maximise their efficacy and minimise off-target effects or systemic complications such as immuno-thrombosis.

These therapies have the potential dramatically to improve outcomes after transplantation and we are working towards this clinical translation.

‘BODIES ALL OVER THE PLACE’

PRINCE PHILIP’S VISIT TO TRINITY

The late Duke of Edinburgh visited Oxford many times during his seven decades as consort to the Queen, but only once did he come to Trinity. **Hugo Brunner** (1954, Honorary Fellow, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire 1996-2008) and **Clare Hopkins**, Archivist, describe the occasion.



The Duke of Edinburgh with President Norrington, following the Queen and Harold Macmillan into college. Photo: J W Thomas

It was on 4 November 1960 that the Duke of Edinburgh accompanied the monarch on a somewhat whirlwind tour of Oxford that took in the Town Hall, Christ Church, the Clarendon Building and the Sheldonian, St Anne’s, Lady Margaret Hall, and the new St Catherine’s College, where the Queen laid the foundation stone. The longest stop was at Trinity, where the royal couple were invited to lunch, for the simple reason that Trinity’s President (later Sir Arthur) Norrington was Vice-Chancellor at the time.

Arrangements for the lunch were made by Robin Fletcher, the domestic bursar. He was confident that all was in order for the occasion, though, in a memoir written for the archives, he recalled remarking to the Warden of Rhodes House as they processed together through Front Quad that

‘only Providence could interfere’.

And so he did.

The Queen was escorted into Trinity by the prime minister, Harold Macmillan—in his role as Chancellor of the University—while Prince Philip followed behind in conversation with Norrington. (In the photograph, the President appears to be making some remark about Balliol College next door.) According to the meticulous ‘Timetable of Arrangements’ the procession arrived at the President’s Lodgings at 1.15 pm, and the royal guests took sherry with the Fellows, before proceeding to Hall at 1.25 pm. The lunch began smoothly enough.

There were three courses: Salmon Trout in Aspic; Braised York Ham with Trinity Salad; and Pineapple à la Reine. Prince Philip was seated between Harold Macmillan and the President’s wife, Joyce Norrington.

It is thought to have been Mrs Norrington who explained at some length that the ‘Trinity Salad’ put before him was inspired by a passage in the 11th book of Homer’s *Iliad*. ‘That’s alright,’ replied the Prince, with his customary candour. ‘I have been brought up to eat *whatever* is put in front of me.’

The lunch was intended as a relaxing break in a busy day, but, in the event, it was to offer some moments of high drama as well. The first sign of trouble was noted by Lady Hayter, wife of the Warden of New College. She was sitting next to the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Macclesfield. Her diary records that he ‘was rather quiet and when I turned to him and saw his eyes closing and his colour changing, I realised he was ill. There was just time for the Regius Professor of Medicine Sir George Pickering to get to him and help him to be lowered to the floor’ by the fireplace. As scouts loosened his uniform, Lord David Cecil, who was seated nearby,

‘The lunch was intended as a relaxing break...in the event, it was to offer some moments of high drama as well.’

went across the Hall to apprise Lady Macclesfield of the situation, bowing to the Queen as he passed in front of her. Then he conducted the troubled countess, he bowing again, she curtseying to Her Majesty on the way, to her husband, who was still recumbent on the hearth stone. He was deathly pale and

Lady Macclesfield, overhearing the assessment of Professor Pickering, ‘I am afraid he is a goner,’ herself passed out. Fortunately, they both recovered before long. So much so that Lord Macclesfield (then aged 72) made to resume his seat. But, much to his annoyance, he and his wife were sent home—on, it was afterwards rumoured, the instructions of the Queen. She had responded to the collapse of the Lord Lieutenant by saying to the President, ‘I think we had better not notice.’

The Queen and the duke could not but notice the next resounding crash that occurred, halfway through the

meal, in the centre of Hall. Richard Cadman, Trinity’s renowned head scout, had tripped over a gown while collecting plates, and had to be lifted back to his feet. Then aged 86, he was still eight years from his retirement.

Nothing further went amiss until the end of the meal. On Prince Philip’s right, the Chancellor stood to propose the Loyal Toast and then made to sit down. But, as Robin Fletcher recorded, ‘the chair behind which the vigilant scout Mr Mulligan had been stationed for its withdrawal and propulsion refused to move forward into place. It had become entangled in the cancellarial gown, and Mr

Macmillan, the prime minister, sat down on thin air and almost to the ground before the situation could be retrieved. He is said to have uttered no complaint but simply to have enquired, ‘Is the press present?’ to which luckily the answer was ‘No’.

After lunch the Queen and the duke walked to the Junior Common Room to have coffee with the JCR presidents of the men’s colleges. The Queen greeted the JCR secretary David Evers with words which he recalled clearly. ‘We’ve had a wonderful lunch; bodies all over the place!’

Trinity Salad

The dish which Prince Philip so heroically consumed fell sadly out of favour in the years following the royal luncheon. In 1960 it had been prepared under the supervision of Jim Butterfield (chef and head chef 1925–75), but it was actually the creation of a distinguished former bursar, Robert Raper (Fellow 1871–1915).

Raper was a popular albeit somewhat Machiavellian figure in Trinity, and well-known in Oxford as the founder of the Careers Service. But it was from his work as a classics tutor that he took his culinary inspiration. His Trinity Salad was based on Homer’s description of a ‘kykeon’ mixed by Hecamede for King Nestor and his companion Machaon, as described in *The Iliad*, book 11 lines 624–41. A new translation has kindly been made for the Newsletter by Tristan Franklins, Junior Research Fellow in Classics.

And for the two men did fair-tressed Hecamede make a concoction—she whom elderly Nestor won at Tenedos, when Achilles sacked it, the daughter of great-hearted Arsinous, and whom the Achaeans chose for Nestor because he was the best among them in counsel. First, she placed before the two men a beautiful, well-polished table with feet of cyanus [enamel?], and on it, a bowl of bronze into which she put an onion as a relish for their drink and pale honey; next to these, she put barley-groats. Beside them, she set a stunning cup studded with gold nails, which elderly Nestor had brought from home: its handles were four, and, about each, two golden doves were feeding; there were two supports beneath. Another man, struggling, could not move it, when full, from the table, but Nestor raised it up with no trouble at all. In this, the woman, like goddesses in her appearance, mixed for them a concoction with Pramnian wine, onto which she grated goats’ cheese with a bronze grater and scattered white barley-meal. She encouraged the two men to drink the concoction when she had made it.

Mr Butterfield’s recipe, which has been published, seems rather overdressed and unimaginatively Anglicized to modern palettes, but fortunately the current head chef, Julian Smith, has exquisitely captured the essence of the ancient poetry in a delicious ‘modern take’ of a meal that dates back nearly 3,000 years. As COVID

Trinity Salad 2021 (Jules Smith)

Serves 4 - 6
depending on portion size

Ingredients:

1 x large Cos or Romaine lettuce, cut into strips, washed and dried
50g Goat’s cheese per portion, cut into small cubes
1 Spring onion per portion, washed and finely sliced

Dressing:

15g Banyuls, pickled walnut, or sherry vinegar
15g Rice vinegar
10g Wholegrain mustard
10g Honey
1 small Clove garlic, finely minced
45g Walnut oil
45g Extra-virgin olive oil
5g Fresh tarragon, finely chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix the dressing ingredients together in a bowl then add the lettuce and thoroughly incorporate. Share between bowls.



Scatter over the goat’s cheese cubes and spring onion. Serve straight away.

Banquet starter version

(shown above)

Dressing as above
Goat’s cheese as above
Spring onion as above
Pickled walnut slices - three per portion
30g Cooked beetroot cubes per portion
Goat’s cheese puree
Mixed micro salad leaves
Tagette flowers

restrictions continue, college members and friends are encouraged to try this at home. Please raise a glass to Trinity as you enjoy your meal!

Clare Hopkins
Archivist

Changes in the library

For the library, as elsewhere, this academic year has been focused on learning to do things differently. While the pandemic has altered many of the work routines and study habits we took for granted, it has been heartening to see the important role the library continues to play in students' university experience.

After a six-month closure, we reopened the doors to the temporary Lawns Pavilion reading room in September. Since then, readers and staff have adapted to change on all fronts. In place of our usual face-to-face greetings, our newest members were offered virtual Freshers Week inductions. The once-bustling reading room is now dotted with socially distanced students wearing face masks. The ability to browse and borrow library books has been substituted with the option to click and collect them. Before being returned to the shelves, those books now face a short quarantine in our library marquee. To help all our readers get up to speed with these changes, they were treated to an inspired JCR YouTube video tour.

With the new year came new challenges of keeping pace with national restrictions. While most students were out of residence during Hilary term, the reading room closed once again and staff switched to



posting books and scanning chapters. New books were ordered swiftly to students' homes and guidance was given on navigating Oxford's plethora of digital resources.

But as our users know, libraries are more than a book distribution hub: they are a place to discover new books and enjoy reading as a source of solace and surprise. This academic year, book displays created by or with our readers have gone online. In a bid to offer a more personal touch, the library team also ran a 'Blind Date with a Book' campaign. Readers were set up with a mystery title from our contemporary collections and supplied with hot

chocolate. As reading fatigue set in during the third lockdown, surprise short stories were sent out to students as a pick-me-up.

Libraries are also a place for students to come together. Maintaining this sense of community has required some creativity. Those missing the library have been able to download video call backgrounds of their favourite library views and join livestreamed Zoom study sessions. Students have formed a Trinity Library book club, which began with a lively online session discussing Sally Rooney's *Normal People*.

While the main library building has been closed, the team—augmented by energetic student helpers—has taken the rare opportunity to stock-check our 50,000 volumes in preparation for the day we can offer unfettered access again. As I write, the silence of the War Memorial Library is punctuated by the sound of drilling and hammering as the Levine Building takes shape next door. This is an audible reminder of the opportunities ahead, as we plan for the new and upgraded facilities the Levine Building will provide. In the meantime, adaptation remains our watchword as we endeavour to meet our readers' needs.

Emma Sillett
Librarian

Emma Sillett writes:

I'm delighted to have joined Trinity as librarian following Sharon Cure's retirement last summer. My predecessor has left big shoes to fill, and I have started at a time when many changes are afoot. I am immensely grateful for Sharon's meticulous planning and thoughtful guidance, and I feel fortunate to have joined such a wonderfully supportive team.

With various building projects, service adaptations and rare books initiatives on the horizon, there are exciting times ahead!

I was bitten by the college library bug as a trainee at Jesus College, following my degree in Medieval English and History (University of Birmingham). Since then, I have developed a blend of student-focused experience and rare books expertise at Corpus, Merton

and most recently Christ Church, where I was reader services librarian for three years.

I want to help students get the most out of our books, services and study spaces. My aspiration is for the library to be our readers' first port of call. I am also responsible for the Old Library and Danson Library, and the rich and varied collections held within. Conserving and

sharing this precious part of Trinity's heritage is an important aim of mine.

Since joining the college, I have experienced its famed friendliness at first hand, and I look forward to getting to know you all better. I am eager to learn more about your interests and to share with you some of my favourite treasures from Trinity's captivating book collections.

Library exhibition highlights scholars of colour

A new exhibition on display in the Lawns Pavilion reading room highlights the work of 12 scholars of colour. Organised by Professor Katherine Ibbett, Caroline de Jager Fellow and Tutor in French, the exhibition highlights a diverse group of scholars and writers from the UK and beyond. The sitters were nominated by Fellows, focussing on scholars whose work they want to introduce to the wider college community.

The sitters include professor of international law Dapo Akande; classical scholar Katherine Harloe; poet and literary critic Tsitsi Ell Jaji; physical chemist Carla Pérez-Martínez; French scholar Debarati Sanyal; mathematician Pranav Singh; and barrister Alexandra Wilson.

The portraits were created in lockdown, with photographer Ben Peter Catchpole working remotely with the subjects via Zoom. Each subject's laptop served as a camera, and subjects were photographed at home. The results are fuzzily informal and suggest the real warmth of each encounter.

Professor Ibbett describes the exhibition as signalling 'a firm commitment to diversity in representation at Trinity—in the pictures we show in public areas, in our reading lists, and in the decisions we make about the future of our



Above, top row: Robin Mitchell, associate professor of History at California State University Channel Islands; Carla Perez-Martinez, nanotechnologist & UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, London Centre for Nanotechnology at UCL, former JRF of Trinity; Debarati Sanyal, professor and head graduate adviser in French, University of California, Berkeley
Second row: Pranav Singh, lecturer in Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing at the department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Bath, former JRF of Trinity; Dapo Akande, professor of Public & International Law, University of Oxford (also pictured below); Alexandra Wilson, barrister and author
Bottom row: Tsitsi Jaji, associate professor of English and African & African American Studies at Duke University, North Carolina; Katherine Harloe, professor of Classics at the University of Reading; Niranjn Thatte, professor of Astrophysics, University of Oxford

academic community.' Some of the subjects already have a Trinity connection, and it is planned to invite others to spend time at Trinity at some point in the future.

Photographing the Exhibition

'This project was certainly different to anything I've done before. Firstly it was during what has been a difficult time for all of us. To photograph someone, often miles away, in various places around the world without even holding a camera, felt like such a challenge. It isn't necessarily an original idea to take photos remotely, but I had to decide on the best methods while retaining consistency. It was a pleasure photographing every one of them. Shining a light on diversity within academia is very important, so I was delighted to participate in the project.'

Ben Peter Catchpole



Meet the new head gardener



Kate Burtonwood, who enjoys travel and discovering flora and landscapes in other parts of the world, at a tea plantation in Munnar, Kerala, India.

Kate Burtonwood is Trinity's new head gardener. She has been getting to know the gardens since arriving at Trinity in January, and here she introduces both herself and some of her plans.

I don't think I have stopped telling people how happy I am to be at Trinity. The scope, scale and style of the gardens is truly breathtaking for a central Oxford location, and this combines with the college and garden history (medieval through to modern) to make a very special space.

That said, the current time is fraught with challenges. The most evident is the Levine Building project and the huge impact this has had on the Wilderness area of the garden. It also affects other key areas, perhaps less talked of, such as Kettell Hall, Library Quad, the Lawns and the gardeners' facilities. I have been gradually working my way through the plans to find out what is in store and work out what I need to do. It is exciting, but daunting. I started in the gardens just as England's January lockdown was imposed. It was sad to have the gardens largely empty and to only be able to imagine what it would be like when students and visitors would be here.

Before coming to Trinity I worked in a range of

gardens, historic, public, and private, and of a range of sizes. I was lucky enough to get a traineeship at the Oxford University Botanic Gardens and this informed much of my maintenance knowledge and planting style. However, it also taught me that the focus of gardens can be education and conservation—and that this goes hand-in-hand with being a horticulturist. So whatever we undertake as we regenerate the gardens in the coming years after the building work, I know it must be done with supporting nature and the longevity of planting at Trinity in mind.

We are making a start on this. Along with Lynne Adam, Domestic Bursar and Garden Master, and with the support of the Garden Committee, I have been looking at changes we could make. This includes not just using peat free compost in



One of the new tree circles in Front Quad, created to reduce competition from grasses and avoid soil compaction from mowing

the gardens, but looking for opportunities to buy plants which have been grown without peat. We also look to buy plants without pots, or in pots which are made of recyclable materials. We will be looking at the equipment we use in the gardens, and, where we can, will change to electric kit when replacing petrol-powered machines.

I have started looking at the potential for more wildflower plantings around college, to provide food for key species, not least bees, and also provide habitat for a range of creatures. We are starting with a very small area near the Cottages by introducing perennial wildflowers. While these are less showy than planting annuals, which will flower and die in a short space of time, it is a more sustainable way of creating a meadow and one which supports more species in the long term.



We are also considering the lawned areas of college and how we can maintain the spaces in this style, but without using large amounts of chemical fertilisers and weed killers, which has been the norm for many decades. We know we need to reduce our water usage. As the climate changes and we are often faced with periods where it stays drier for longer, but unsettled weather brings flooding at other times, we must consider how to manage water and manage lawn plantings to cope with this.

I am lucky to be supported by a strong team through this time, as Aaron and Bob have two decades of experience at Trinity between them, and a strong legacy of conservation, wildlife focus and naturalistic planting from my predecessor Paul Lawrence.

Five tips from Kate to support sustainability in your garden

Plastic Free

Look for products which are not packaged in plastic. Black plant pots are not recyclable other than by specialist means. Many garden centres now offer plants in different coloured pots, which are more easily recyclable, or plants grown in pots made of degradable fibres. If you are buying large amounts of potting compost, manure or topsoil, consider contacting a local contractor who could deliver this loose or in a tonne-size bag rather than buying small, plastic-wrapped bags.

Peat Free

You may not realise you are buying peat when you buy plants or compost. It has been a mainstay of the industry for many decades and unless a product is labelled 'Peat Free', it will contain peat. Peatlands are a valuable and vanishing habitat for plant and animal species, and also act as a carbon sink, and so destroying them for use in garden products is deeply unsound in environmental terms.

Limit Watering

If you water well, you will find you water less often and this will save another valuable natural resource. Rather than spraying



water over plants, water down around the roots and into the soil, as this is where the plant takes in water. Give your plants a good, thorough soaking and the water will sink down to the lower levels of the soil, and therefore last longer and encourage your plant to root more deeply. This will mean you water less often. You could also investigate choosing plants which require less watering—but do take care to read their full care needs and note whether they can withstand winter temperatures or will be happy if the area they are in becomes waterlogged during wet seasons.

Areas for Wildlife

Leave some older and decaying material in your garden. Dead wood, leaf piles and

longer grass offer valuable habitat and food sources for creatures of all shapes and sizes. Making water available—whether through a pond, or just a birdbath-size splash—is essential for animals. Be proud of providing this rather than worrying that others will think it looks untidy. These methods are becoming the norm for a growing number of people, including celebrated gardeners and garden designers.

Limit Pesticides

Gardens often find their balance without intervention from spraying. You may suffer from a few weeks where pests eat plants in your garden. But often these pests are parts of the food chain and will be eaten by creatures you wish to welcome into your garden. Try seeing if your garden can weather a few attacks by pests and bounce back before reaching for chemical control. While these may advertise that they kill certain pests, they will kill any other similar creatures (such as bees or butterflies) and may be harmful to humans and pets. Also remember that caterpillars will turn into butterflies (or moths) so if you want to see these beautiful creatures in your garden, you may have to put up with their young eating a few of your plants.

Banqueting at home

■ The mailing of the last Newsletter contained a booklet of recipes devised by Head Chef Julian Smith, which aimed to allow recipients an opportunity to try creating at home dishes normally enjoyed in Hall at Trinity.

A number of people emailed to let



us know how they had got on and how much they had enjoyed trying the recipes.

Helena Lamb, daughter of Drew Lamb (1990), wrote to tell Julian Smith that she had challenged herself to create a five-course dinner using the recipes. Pictured is the main course: cumin-spiced duck breast, with olives, carrot puree and saffron fondant potatoes.

Jacari celebrates 65 years



■ 2021 marks the 65th anniversary of Oxford student charity Jacari. Since the 1950s, thousands of University of Oxford students have been actively involved with Jacari, campaigning for equal opportunities and empowering children to speak English with confidence. Now an award-winning charity, Jacari provides free one-to-one tuition to refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children in Oxford.

Jacari is now looking to reconnect with its former members and volunteers from the last 65 years. If you were involved with Jacari, its alumni engagement officer, Natasha Wooldridge, would be delighted to hear from you: alumni@jacari.org, 07843 801167



Latest News

All the latest news from Trinity, including more information on many of the news items in this Newsletter, can be found on the website, trinity.ox.ac.uk/trinity-news

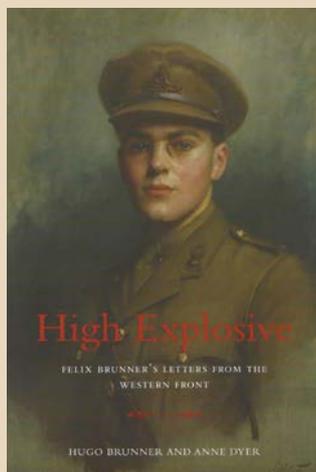


Queen's Award

■ Seacourt, printers of this magazine and the Report, has won, for the fourth time, The Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category for its outstanding achievements in sustainable development.

Seacourt has pioneered many innovations to the printing process to find new ways to create the highest standards of print work using fewer resources and minimising waste. Trinity is delighted to have worked with Seacourt for many years in the production of its printed publications.

Old Members' News



Hugo Brunner (1955) put his lockdown time to good use, producing, jointly with Anne Dyer, an edition of his father's letters home from the Western Front in the First World War. Felix Brunner (1915) served for two years as a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, and *High Explosive* (Perpetua, 2020) is a vivid and engaging account of his experiences. Like so many survivors of the trenches, Felix never talked about the War, but his letters, plus the useful narrative that connects them, are an eloquent testimony indeed.

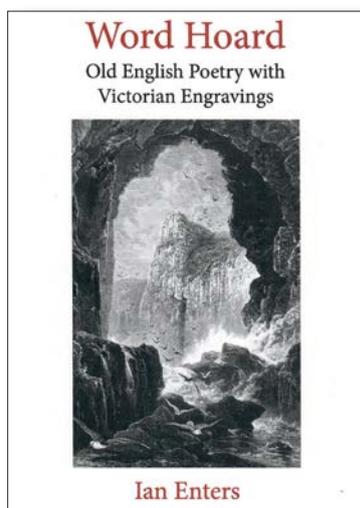
Hamish Mackenzie (1955) has published *A Highland Legacy: the Maitlands of Tain, their work and their world* (Grosvenor House, 2020). In his retirement in Ross-shire, Hamish has been researching the Maitland family of architects, who, between 1842 and 1922, designed buildings across the Northern Highlands: farm buildings, mansion houses, castles, public buildings, commercial premises, churches, schools, suburban villas and whisky distilleries. The book is a blend of biography, of history during a period of social, religious, political and technological change, and of the stories behind buildings that form an important part of the built heritage of the Northern Highlands.

Peter Armstrong (1962) has published *Not For Nothing: searching for a meaningful life* (Christian Alternative, 2020). He writes, 'The book is not academic, but rather a memoir and exploration of a form of faith that I can find credible in the 21st century. Included in the dedication are Tony Kenny (Lecturer 1963-64), who inspired my fascination with philosophy when he and I were new at Trinity, and Leslie Houlden (Chaplain 1960-70), who changed the course of my life in crucial ways.'

Roger Baresel (1966) has been elected to the Council of the Chelsea Arts Club and has written a play about James Whistler, one of the club's founders, scheduled for

performance at the club, once lockdowns are lifted.

Chris Barlas (1966) has written 'Fake', a video monologue, produced by Elysium Theatre Company and performed by Karren Winchester. It features a woman who falls for conspiracy theories, and Chris hopes it carries an important message for anyone who is tempted to fall for such things. It can be found by searching on YouTube for The COVID-19 Monologues Vol 2 #.



Ian Enters (1966) has published *Word Hoard*, a collection of Old English poetry from the Exeter cathedral archives that Ian

has translated and presents with notes and an introduction, along with three poems of his own, inspired by Lindisfarne.

Jeremy Ingpen (1968) has edited and translated *Two Martyrs in a Godless World: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Alexander Men* by Michel Evdokimov, with an afterword by Olivier Clément. This brief study introduces readers to the German Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Russian Orthodox priest, Father Alexander Men. 'These two martyrs each confronted a hostile, totalitarian world, and their lives show how to speak about Christ in a world that has forgotten God. Contrasting the lives of two 20th century martyrs to Nazi and Soviet power, Michel Evdokimov challenges us to meet the world on its own terms and to meet God in the form of our neighbour.'

Peter Stothard (1969) has published *The Last Assassin: The Hunt for the Killers of Julius Caesar*.

Richard Corbett (1973) was awarded a CBE in The Queen's New Years Honours list.

Stephen Platten (1973) was awarded the Lambeth Cross by the Archbishop of Canterbury and has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA)

An article by **Jon Huggett (1975)** and Mark Zitter on 'Leading boards in a virtual world' has been published in *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

Michael Pepera (1976) has published his first book, *KWEKU: a Ghanaian at boarding school in 1960s and '70s Britain* (Amazon, 2020). 'Part-fictional, part-autobiographical, it aims to explore thought-provoking attitudes to race and culture within an entertaining context, and includes events based on Michael's real-life experiences while at Trinity.'

Doug Holladay (1979) has published *Rethinking Success: Eight Essential Practices for Finding Meaning in Work and Life* (HarperCollins, 2020).

Throughout a varied career, Doug has taught generations of executives as well as students in his popular MBA course at Georgetown University how to use a holistic approach to defining and reaching success in life and business. In *Rethinking Success*, he offers eight proven practices that re-imagine success; placing meaning, authenticity and connection with peers at its heart.

The Institute for Digital Archaeology (IDA), of which **Roger Michel (1984)** is founder and executive director, has used CGI to recreate the voice and visage of John Keats, to mark the bicentenary of his death. More about the art and science behind the project can be found at digitalarchaeology.org.uk.



Emily Yiolitis (1994) was appointed the Republic of Cyprus' minister of justice and public order in June last year. She is in charge of overhauling Cyprus' whole judicial system, including the fight against corruption. Emily was previously head of corporate law, competition and taxation at Harneys LLC and has repeatedly been included in the Citywealth magazine's IFC Power Women Top 100 list, which 'recognizes women with achievements that shape public opinion, contribute to the promotion of business excellence in their jurisdiction, and consolidate the reputation of the financial services sector'.

Huw van Steenis (1988) has been appointed to the Oxford University Investment Committee. He joins his contemporary **Andre Stern (1988)** who also sits on the committee.

Paul Hardy (1991) has been appointed to an industrial relations post in the Irish Civil Service.

Stephanie Bisby (née Cage, 1994) has completed training as a Unitarian minister, and made denominational history by being both the first student to graduate from the newly formed Unitarian College and (as far as is known) the first minister to celebrate her valediction online. She commenced her ministry with York Unitarians on New Year's Day 2021.

Claudine Toutoungi (1994)

has published her second poetry collection, *Two Tongues* (Carcenet, 2020). It is described as a 'surreal and startling collection that takes on the dislocations and double takes of modern life and weaves from them poems of wit, grit and delicious abandon.' Claudine appeared on BBC Radio 4's *Front Row*, reading some of the poems, and *In Touch* (both still available on BBC Sounds: 5/11/2020 and 22/12/2020 respectively).

Georgios Petrochilos (1995)

has been appointed Queen's Counsel. In addition to being an English barrister, he is an *avocat à la Cour* in France and an Advocate of the Greek Court of Cassation. In 2014 Georgios co-founded Three Crowns, a law firm focusing exclusively on international arbitration and public international law. He is based in the Paris office of the firm, which has meanwhile grown to have a staff of about 100, including 13 partners, across four offices. Georgios appears regularly in the International Court of Justice and other international courts



Kai Bruckerhoff, photographed at the European Central Bank

and tribunals; and he also sits as an arbitrator in investment-treaty, commercial, and sports-related cases.

Dougan McKellar (1997) has been appointed to the AstraZeneca BioPharma R&D group, as Director: Machine Learning & Visual Analytics, based in Cambridge.

Kai Bruckerhoff (2005) was selected by *Capital*, a leading German business magazine, as one of Germany's 'Top 40 under 40' in 2020, in the category 'politics and government'. Kai currently works as counsellor to the Executive Board at the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

Tom Mackenzie (2005) has published *Poetry and Poetics in the Presocratic Philosophers: Reading Xenophanes, Parmenides and Empedocles as Literature* (Cambridge, 2021). Of the Presocratic thinkers traditionally credited with the foundation of Greek philosophy, Xenophanes, Parmenides and Empedocles are exceptional for writing in verse. This is the first book-length, literary-critical study of their work.

Future Leaders fellowship

■ **Patrick Dunne (2008)** was recently awarded a £1.5 million UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship to study the difference between matter and antimatter in a type of particle called the neutrino.

Patrick's research centres on the differences between neutrinos and antineutrinos. These differences could help to explain one of the most fundamental questions in physics: why is there so much more matter in the universe than antimatter?

Now he's been awarded this fellowship, Patrick will be able to lead precision measurements of this phenomenon. The fellowship will allow Patrick to progress this research and his career in particle physics, while the funding from it means that he can hire a postdoctoral assistant



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and an engineer, and develop prototype components for future experiments.

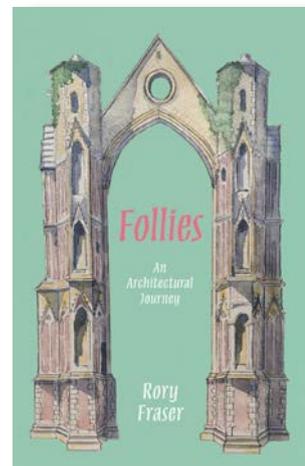
For Patrick, the opportunity to answer these huge scientific questions has even wider implications that further our scientific understanding. Having been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, he is conscious of a real lack of positive role models for people with autistic spectrum conditions. It is known that children often become interested in physics and science when they hear about these 'big questions' being answered. Being granted the opportunity to work on this kind of question himself means that he can show that it's possible for people with disabilities to be involved in this kind of really important science.

Katharine Wilkinson (2006) has co-edited, with Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, an anthology, *All we can save* (One Word, 2020), that intermixes essays with poetry and art by more than 40 North American women at the forefront of the climate movement.

Tim Wigmore (2009) has published *The Best: How elite athletes are made* (John Murray, 2020). *The Best* reveals how the most successful sports people in the world get to the top and stay there, examining the path to sporting greatness; exploring origins, serendipity, practice, genetics and the psychology of excellence, as well as of sports science and cutting edge technology. The book includes personal stories and interviews with top athletes.

Last year **Christina Fleischer** and **Mathis Clément (both 2013)** launched *Moxy*, one of the UK's first creative non-fiction magazines. Recently recommended by Penguin, *Moxy* publishes a range of emerging and established writers from around the world. Past topics for pieces have included the philosopher Emanuel Levinas, military service in Singapore, and an encounter with

a local Uyghur in China's Xinjiang province. You can read all their pieces for free, online at moxymagazine.org. With hoped-for funding from readers, Christina and Mathis have ambitious plans for the magazine.



Rory Fraser (2015) has published *Follies: An architectural journey*, an illustrated travel account of Rory's journey painting England's follies in the summer after he left Trinity. From towering monastic ruins, to the modern 'man cave', it features treasonous renaissance symbols, lavish banqueting houses, temples to lost loves, Chinese pagodas, and nuclear bunkers. It has been described by *The RIBA Journal* as providing 'welcome escapism from today's troubling times.' and was an *LRB* book of the week.

Marriages



Sarah Oakley (1991) to Group Captain Darren Thorley, on 26 September 2020, at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke. It was a COVID-19 compliant ceremony; in addition to the vicar and the happy couple, there were two witnesses, the photographer and the verger!



Claus Groot (2008) to Stéphanie Gerritsen (Regent's Park, 2020), on 22 August 2020, at Castle Doornenburg, Gelderland, the Netherlands. Jonathan Lindsell (2008) was a witness.

Births

To **Domenico Maiorano (1991)** and H el ene Guillon, on 27 June 2020, a daughter, Aur elia.

To **Luke Anthony (1999)** and Rosemary, on 14 September 2020, a son, Edward Luke John, a brother for Isobel.

To **Matthew Johnston (1999)** and Joanne, on 18 April 2021, a son, Frederick Leo, a brother for Robert.

To **Frances Hedges (2004)** and Ross Melton, on 14 December 2020, a daughter, Cassandra Rose Melton.

To **Catherine Weston (n ee Hartley, 2004)** and Matthew, on 8 April 2020, a daughter, Zoe Aletheia, a sister for Emma Grace.

To **Caroline Chamberlain (n ee Holroyde, 2005)** and Andrew, on 29 January 2020, a son, Ferdinand George Alexander.



Edward, son of Luke Anthony (left) and Freddie, son of Matthew Johnston, wearing 'Trinity Gang—latest edition' T shirts made for them by Jenny Veli c (n ee Merrifield, 1999)



To **Matt Mair (2007)** and Louise Thomson, on 21 September 2020, a son, Bruno Alexander.

To **Poppy Tasker (2008)** and Tim Bullock, on 1 April 2019, a daughter, Anastasia Bullock.

Deaths

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

Professor Bernard Sidney Smith (1943), on 31 January 2021

Nicholas William Cranfield (1944), on 2 June 2015

Peter Eyre Hutson (1944), on 17 January 2013

William 'Bill' McCaughey Taylor (1944), on 21 March 2021

John Alston Morrell TD (1945), on 19 January 2021

William Graham Boustred (1946), on 16 January 2021

The Hon Sir William Alan Macpherson TD (1947), on 14 February 2021

Patrick Thomas Gordon-Duff-Pennington OBE DL (1948),
on 9 January 2021

(William) Patrick Rolleston Dockar-Drysdale (1949),
on 9 December 2020

(Robert) Murray Young (1950), on 17 April 2021

Michael Peyton Foliott Blakiston (1951), on 25 May 2021

Charles Gamble Grant (1951), on 6 February 2021

Charles Augustine Kaye Cullimore CMG (1952), on 5 February 2021

John Adrian Millbourn (1954), on 10 June 2021

Anthony 'Tony' Gordon Randall (1954), on 18 January 2021

Simon Foulkes Wilkinson (1956), on 13 February 2020

Arthur Thomas 'Tom' Lowry (1958), on 25 March 2021

Thomas 'Tom' Bethell (1959), on 12 February 2021

James Piers Mackenzie-Mair (1959), on 9 March 2021

Aidan Rhodri Williams (1961), on 8 April 2021

Christopher 'Chris' Philip Mackenzie Ashton (1965), on 5 May 2021

Philip Donald Metcalfe (1968), on 3 November 2011

Robert 'Bob' Jones (1969), on 10 August 2020

Sir (Michael) Roger Gifford (1973), on 25 May 2021

(Robert) David Murray Sears QC (1976), on 24 January 2021

Dr Wolfgang R Koelbl (1980), on 11 May 2019

Oliver Robert Thomas Bultitude (2020), on 31 January 2021

Nigel Hugh Gordon Armstrong-Flemming FCA (Honorary 1958),
on 21 February 2021

Offers to contribute or assist with obituaries for the Report would be very welcome: email report@trinity.ox.ac.uk

Forthcoming events

At the moment we are still not confident that in-person events will be able to go ahead this year, so we will programme more online events in the autumn, and hope to welcome you remotely. When we are happy they can take place in a safe manner, any in-person events will be advertised by email and on the website.

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This Newsletter is produced by the Alumni & Development Office. We welcome any feedback.



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