



TRINITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE OXFORD – SUMMER 2023



Back in force on the river

Women's 1st VIII gets Blades

PLUS Decarbonising Trinity • Lawns Play returns • A special Trinity collaboration

Priorities and opportunities

In addition to the mix of news we normally include about college life and activities, this edition of the Newsletter is accompanied by two separate brochures: the College's Five-Year Strategy 2023-2028 and the Events at Trinity 2023/24 season brochure. I encourage you to explore both!

A digest of Trinity's recently approved five-year strategy sets out our ambitions and priorities for the period 2023-2028. We recently gave these a 'soft' launch in presentations to Old Members attending the Bathurst Dinner and the 'Fifty Plus Years On' lunch and it was good to receive early feedback and respond to questions.

Amongst our priorities, not surprisingly, investing in the academic and personal development of our students features strongly. One early manifestation will be a three-day personal development programme offered to all incoming second year undergraduate students just before the start of Michaelmas term this year. I'm grateful to Old Member Andrew Tucker (1973), whose generous support of this programme means that all second year students will be able to participate, free of charge.



A further priority is to ensure that Trinity's academics at all stages of their career development can flourish. We want to increase opportunities for early career researchers and, having already achieved our ambition to ensure that all DPhil students are fully funded at the point of entry, our focus will shift with the long-term aim of achieving the same for our Master's students.

Trinity's Access team, led by Hannah Rolley, will maintain its excellent work over the coming five-year



Trinity hosted part of the 2023 Target Oxbridge, with events in the Levine Building and de Jager Auditorium, as well as tours of other parts of the college and grounds

period to ensure that a diverse range of talented potential applicants are both inspired and supported to make competitive applications.

During the coming year we look forward to completing the construction of a new kitchen and the installation of a lift to provide access to four

'We want to increase opportunities for early career researchers and, having already achieved our ambition to ensure that all DPhil students are fully funded at the point of entry'

levels (from the Beer Cellar to the top floor of the SCR) of the west side of Durham Quad, and to reoccupying the much-missed Dining Hall. At that point we will wave goodbye to the 'temporary' Lawns Pavilion (which has truly served us well); then RHS Gold Medal-winning garden designer, Chris Beardshaw, will realise his new design for the long border, planting the garden in spring 2025.

A focus on reducing Trinity's carbon footprint will begin in earnest in the coming period, starting with the installation of ground source heat pumps to provide heating and hot water to the Jackson Building in Front Quad, for which we recently secured a government grant of £0.6 million. We're actively investigating other grants to enable Trinity to progress its own renewable energy projects.

I'm delighted to be sending out the Events at Trinity 2023/24 season brochure with this Newsletter. The programme speaks to our ambition to share Trinity's knowledge and resources to create wider public benefit, and I hope to welcome many Old Members and Friends throughout the season. The pilot season (2022/23) achieved over 3,000 ticketed attendances and there really is something for everyone in the coming year. We are indebted to Emeritus Fellow, Kim Nasmyth, for his generous support of the programme and for his challenge and encouragement to involve students in as many aspects of it as possible. May I urge you to join us for events that capture your interest, and perhaps to 'make an evening' of it and stay for dinner afterwards.

Hilary

Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE



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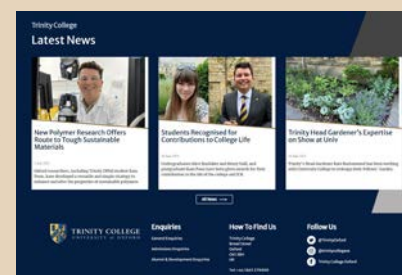
On the cover

Summer Eights success: Trinity women's 1st VIII won Blades in this year's competition. Read more Boat Club news on p. 14.



Keeping up with Trinity news

More details on the news stories in this edition, as well as all the latest news from Trinity, can be found on the website: trinity.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events



Staff news



Above: Gary Kinch at his retirement party, with Andy Hooper, Clerk of Works; right: Lana Ip, centre, with Ivor Roberts, Elizabeth Roberts, Michael Beloff, Judith Beloff and the President



■ Two members of staff who have worked for Trinity for many years retired recently.

Until his retirement, Gary Kinch, the college painter and decorator, had been the longest-serving staff member, having started at Trinity as an apprentice in 1979. After 44 years of keeping the college neatly decorated, we wish him well as he hangs up his paint brush.

Lana Ip has retired after 22 years as scout in the President's Lodgings, where she will be much missed,

having served during the tenure of three presidents and always provided a friendly welcome to visitors.

Over the summer vacation, we were very sorry to say goodbye to another well-known member of staff, Albie Freitas, who has managed the Trinity Bar, both in the Beer Cellar and currently in the Levine Building café, so well for the last nine years. He will be missed by everyone in College.

Conference and Events team

■ The Conference and Events team has seen some changes over the last couple of years. Louise Kernahan, Head of Events, has now returned to work, part-time, after maternity leave and as well as running the department, manages summer schools, weddings and commercial income. Megan MacLean has joined as the part-time Conference and Events Manager, responsible for internal and academic events, plus the logistics of the Events at Trinity programme, held in the de Jager Auditorium.

The team has said goodbye to Megan Kerry, Conference and Events Officer, who was away on maternity leave and has decided to take a different path. Tom Ryan covered as Conference and Events Officer, until August. We look forward to welcoming the new Conference and Events Officer, responsible for generating commercial bookings and to support the daily running of events in college, in September.

Please contact conference@trinity.ox.ac.uk if you would like to enquire about holding an event at Trinity. The facilities in the Levine Building are available to book all year round, with accommodation on offer during the vacations. The newly refurbished Dining Hall, along with the Beer Cellar, will reopen in summer 2024.



From left, Tom Ryan, Megan MacLean and Louise Kernahan

New Master of St Cross

■ Kate Mavor CBE (1980, Honorary Fellow) has been elected Master of St Cross College, and will take up the role in September.

Kate read Modern Languages at Trinity and was elected an Honorary Fellow in 2015. She has been chief executive of English Heritage since 2015, which she has led as it underwent the change from government body to independent charity. She was formerly the chief executive of the National Trust for Scotland and of the youth volunteering charity, Project Scotland.

Her early career was spent in book

Photo credit: Robert Taylor



publishing, international market research and educational tourism and she has served as a trustee of the National Youth Theatre. In the private sector, Kate was chief executive of the UK interpreting service, Language Line, where she led a private-equity-backed management buyout.

She has served as an external member of Trinity's Bursarial Committee, and in 2017 was one of the women featured in the MCR-led 'Feminae Trinitatis' portrait exhibition of notable female Fellows and alumnae.

Prestigious elections



■ Marta Kwiatkowska, Professor of Computing Systems, has been elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Kwiatkowska joins a company of notable members—from the earliest members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington, to Ralph Waldo Emerson, Maria Mitchell, and Alexander Graham Bell. International Honorary

Members have included Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Wislawa Szymborska, Laurence Olivier, Mary Leakey, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Akira Kurosawa, Lucian Freud and Nelson Mandela.

The academy was founded in 1780 to honour excellence and convenes leaders from every field of human endeavour to examine new ideas, address issues of importance to the United States and the world, and work together, as expressed in its charter, 'to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honour, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people.'

Current members represent today's innovative thinkers in every field and profession, including more than two hundred and fifty Nobel and

Pulitzer Prize winners. Professor Kwiatkowska has been invited to a formal induction in September, at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

■ Emeritus Fellow Kim Nasmyth has been elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Professor Nasmyth was one of 23 new international members who were announced in May.

The NAS recognises achievement in science by election to membership, and—with the United States' National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine—provides science, engineering, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organisations. Scientists



are elected by their peers to membership in the NAS for outstanding contributions to research.

Professor Nasmyth is the former Whitley Professor of Biochemistry; his scientific work has addressed the mechanisms by which genes are turned on and off during development, how DNA replication is controlled, and how chromosomes are segregated during mitosis and meiosis.

Major grant to fund decarbonisation project



'We are delighted to have been awarded this grant as it is a key priority for us to reduce our carbon footprint as a college.'

Chris Ferguson, Estates Bursar

The ground source heat pump project will heat the Jackson Building and ultimately reduce CO₂ emissions by about 115 tonnes a year

Trinity is delighted to have been awarded a major grant to decarbonise one of its listed buildings as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which will be a major step forward in one of the college's key priorities, to reduce our carbon footprint as a college.

The funding, initiated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, will provide over £624,000—around 40 per cent of the entire project cost—to decarbonise the Grade II listed Jackson Building, which houses common rooms, teaching rooms and student bedrooms. Gas boilers and electric panel heaters will be replaced with a ground source heat pump, and the heating and insulation systems in the building will be upgraded to improve its energy efficiency.

The heat pump will involve placing boreholes under the north side of the Lawns, going down to a depth of 160 metres, enabling heat to be drawn from underground water.

Construction is planned to take place from July 2024 to March 2025, after which the lawn will be fully restored.

The project will ultimately reduce Trinity's CO₂ emissions by around 115 tonnes per year through the switch from gas to electricity and an overall reduction in power consumption.

As the Estates Bursar, Chris Ferguson, explains, 'Trinity's students, academics and staff are acutely aware of the threat posed by global warming and are enthusiastically supportive of carbon-reduction measures. With high inflation and increasing pressure on college finances, this grant comes at exactly the right time to enable us to take this project forward, as it covers around 40 per cent of the total cost.'

'The switch away from gas boilers in this building will reduce the overall carbon footprint of the college's buildings by around 12 per cent, so it is an important step on our journey towards being carbon-neutral by 2035—and is something the whole college

community will be excited to see us take forward.'

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme provides grants to public sector bodies to fund low carbon heating, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, and aims to support the government's commitment to reduce emissions from public sector buildings by 75 per cent by 2037, compared to 2017 levels, as first set out in the 2021 Heat and Buildings Strategy.

Green impact award

Trinity was delighted to be one of six colleges to be accredited with a Gold Award in the University's 2023 Green Impact Awards, matching our placing in last years' awards. The awards encourage both physical improvements and changes in behaviour to improve sustainability.

£12 million fusion power industry partnership



■ A multi-institutional team that includes Dr Sam Vinko, Fellow and Tutor in Physics, will bring together a wide range of expertise to explore a new method for creating fusion power that it hopes could eventually be scaled to provide safe, clean, and abundant energy.

Support for the project comes from a combined £12 million from First Light Fusion, the company behind this new approach, Machine Discovery

Ltd, an Oxford AI startup, and UK Research and Innovation's Prosperity Partnership scheme.

Oxford researchers from the departments of Engineering Science and Physics will join forces with colleagues from Imperial College London, University of York, and the industrial partners to investigate specific phenomena relating to hydrodynamics and heat transport using X-ray imaging techniques they have developed over the years.

Nuclear fusion occurs when the nuclei of two atoms, for example hydrogen atoms, are combined to create a different element such as helium, releasing a huge amount of spare energy due to the difference in weight between the atomic ingredients and the newly created atom. Fusion is known to have transformational potential as a safe, clean, and abundant energy source if fusion conditions, which require intense heat and pressure, could be created.

However, techniques tried so far have only generated limited amounts of energy, leading to questions about the scalability of such methods and of fusion power in general.

Under the new partnership, the researchers will work together to study the behaviour of materials at extreme temperatures, pressures and densities, examining how heat, matter, and radiation flow at interfaces between those materials.

Dr Vinko's role in this collaborative effort will be to explore the behaviour of the extreme states of matter needed for inertial fusion energy science. Interpreting complex experiments is challenging, and the modelling requirements often exceed computational capabilities. Much of the work will be performed at large-scale laser and free-electron laser facilities worldwide, and will be combined with both computational physics and novel developments in machine learning.

Trinity's Charles Dickens letter

■ The Library's hand-written letter by Charles Dickens was the focus of Trinity term's Trinity Treasures talk, given by Dr Ushashi Dasgupta (2007), who took her undergraduate degree at Trinity and is now Fellow and Tutor in English at Pembroke College.

Dr Dasgupta showed how this slight and unfamiliar fragment of Dickens' writings could offer ways of exploring his career and literary style. The letter presents a snapshot of Dickens' brief, fraught time as a daily newspaper editor and his relationships with professional acquaintances. Among these colleagues was the addressee, J T Danson (whose books are now in the college's Danson Library). The letter showcases Dickens' 'art of the gracious request' and displays his famous 'tornado' flourished signature (*inset photo, right*).

This was followed by a chance of a close up look at the letter, together with the library's early edition of Dickens' *The posthumous papers of the Pickwick Club*. Attendees then enjoyed an opportunity to see other Victorian treasures on display in the Old Library.

Dr Dasgupta's first book, *Charles Dickens and the Properties of Fiction: The lodger world*, was published in 2020 by OUP.



SECOND YEARS' PRE-TERM WEEKEND

■ As you will see in the booklet sent with this Newsletter, one of the college's priorities for the 2023-28 strategy is to improve academic outcomes for students and enable them to contribute to the life of the college and beyond. These are students whose time at school was constrained by the Covid pandemic and, consequently, they did not have the same opportunities that earlier generations enjoyed.

The three-day course, offered free of charge to all incoming second-year undergraduates, aims to develop citizenship and leadership through talks, discussion and exercises; it will help the group to form closer links and to use their undoubted skills for the good of the Trinity community and in the wider world.

Led by Marcus Munafò, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research Culture and Professor of Biological Psychology at the University of Bristol,



Gracie Bradley (2008), director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, will be one of the speakers at the pre-term weekend

the course draws on the experiences of guest speakers such as Gracie Bradley (Philosophy & French 2008), director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, and Ben Lake MP (History & Politics 2011), who in 2019 was nominated for the MP of the Year award (for his work to support disabled people, to tackle inequalities and to bring communities together).

After sessions examining leadership and citizenship, the participants will work in groups to consider their personal strengths and weaknesses, before embarking on team building exercises, learning about the philosophy of negotiation, and honing presentation and communication skills. Finally, they will be asked to put their skills into practice by looking at a real-world problem and the course will end with presentations and dinner.

The college is deeply grateful to Andrew Tucker (1973), who has generously funded the course.

Recognised for contributions to college life

■ Undergraduates Alice Hardaker and Henry Hall, and postgraduate Kam Poon (*see facing page*) have been given awards for their contribution to the life of the college and the JCR.

Alice and Kam jointly won the Stirling Boyd Prize, which is awarded annually to the student whose attainments and influence on the life of the college are, in the opinion of the President and Fellows, of the highest value. Alice's nominations recognised her outstanding commitment to outreach activity in college, particularly during lockdown and in her support of work with offer holders.



Alice Hardaker and Henry Hall, joint winners of the Stirling Boyd prize



Kam's nomination underscored his contribution to the distinctive academic identity of the MCR though his championing of the MCR Research Showcase, which he launched last year.

Henry Hall has been given the David Evers Prize by the JCR; this prize was established by an anonymous Old Member, in memory of a Trinity friend. The prize is awarded annually,

through election by undergraduates, to a JCR member who 'best exhibits the fellowship, sportsmanship, character, generosity and good-humour which gives substance to the distinctive Trinity style'.

Polymer research for sustainable materials



Above: Kam Poon; below, Professorial Fellow Charlotte Williams

Oxford researchers, including Kam Poon, DPhil student and a past president of the MCR, have developed a versatile and simple strategy to enhance and alter the properties of sustainable polymers.

Thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) are attractive alternative materials to vulcanized rubber as they exploit physical crosslinking opposed to chemical crosslinking, which allows for mechanical recycling. TPEs are currently used in a wide range of sectors, from the automotive industry, to healthcare and have an annual global production approaching 5.55 megatons, with a market value of nearly \$34 billion. However, they are largely derived from petroleum and have limited abilities to degrade at their end of life.

A team in the Department of Chemistry has been developing new, oxygenated, sustainable TPEs which are made from bio-derived sources and/or carbon dioxide (CO₂). In order to make these exciting and

novel materials more industrially attractive, the thermomechanical properties must be improved to rival and outperform the petroleum derived market leaders.

Kam and his co-workers have



developed a generally applicable method to augment thermomechanical properties without the need for complete material redesign. By selectively functionalising TPEs with reversible metal-carboxylate crosslinks, the elastomers can exhibit an over 50-fold increase in stiffness and 21-fold increase in strength, without compromising elastic recovery. By employing small quantities of different Earth-abundant metals (sodium, magnesium, calcium, zinc and aluminium) these ionomeric materials have wide operating temperatures, high creep-resistance and remain recyclable and degradable.

It is hoped that in future, these materials could substitute high-volume petrochemical elastomers and be used in rapidly developing fields like medicine, electronics and robotics.

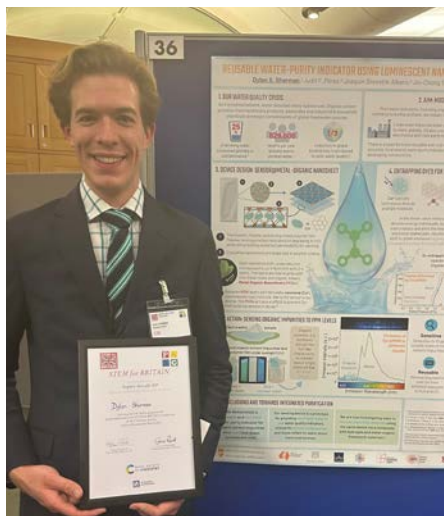
Led by Trinity Professorial Fellow Charlotte Williams, the work has been published in the journal *Advanced Materials*.

Kam is a DPhil student from the Department of Chemistry and is funded by the Oxford Inorganic Chemistry for Future Manufacturing Centre of Doctoral Training.

He explains, 'The beauty of this functionalisation strategy is how easy it is to tune material properties. By carefully selecting the metal used and the quantity employed we can manipulate the strength, stiffness, toughness and maximum strain the material can exhibit with the resulting materials remaining colourless and reprocessible. We hope this study is just the start, and this approach can easily be expanded to many other classes of polymer materials and used to create an exciting new generation of future materials.'

Kam is continuing to synthesise and develop new CO₂- and bio-derived materials as well as new approaches to fabricate them in his DPhil work. The team hope these new materials will help push us towards a greener polymer future.

Winning poster presentations



■ Dylan Sherman, a DPhil student, as well as college lecturer and Junior Dean, has won the silver medal in the Chemistry category at the STEM for BRITAIN event.

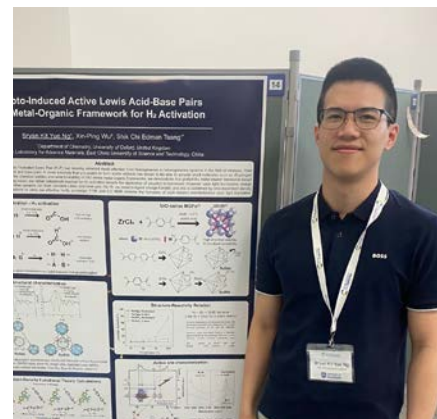
Dylan was awarded the medal for his poster presentation on creating a re-usable, cost-effective, and accurate local source water purity indicator for remote and developing communities, which uses porous nano materials to

identify hazardous organic solvent pollutants. The next step aims to integrate purification into the device.

The STEM for BRITAIN event is a major scientific poster competition and exhibition, organised by the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee and judged by professional and academic experts. It aims to recognise the outstanding science and engineering research being undertaken in UK universities by early-career researchers by giving them the opportunity to present their work directly to members of parliament.

Dylan is based in the Department of Engineering Science and was one of seven Oxford early-career researchers who were short-listed and one of three awarded a medal for their presentations.

Dylan enjoyed the challenge of making his research relatable and found that the poster format led to a real connection between sectors, enabling powerful one-to-one discussions with parliamentarians and professionals directly.



■ Postgraduate Bryan Ng has won a poster prize at the UK Porous Materials Conference of the Royal Society of Chemistry. His prize-winning poster, 'Modifying Metal-organic framework (MOF) materials for photocatalysis applications', outlined his research on MOF-supported CdS (Cadmium Sulfide) on improving hydrogen production performances from water.

Richard Hillary prize winners

■ Undergraduate Alexander Schweich and postgraduate Patrick Hegarty Morrish have shared first prize in this year's Richard Hillary Prize for creative writing, for their respective short stories 'To Build a House of Cards' and 'Visiting Home'. This is the second year in a row that Alexander has jointly won the prize.

The annual competition was established in memory of the late Richard Hillary (1937), author of *The Last Enemy*, which was a



Patrick Hegarty Morrish, left, and Alexander Schweich

bestseller after the Second World War.

The Hillary Prize, worth £500, is awarded for the best piece of creative writing by a Trinity student. This year's competition was judged by Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English, Wolfson College, and Trinity's Fellows and Tutors in English, Dr Kantik Ghosh and Dr Stefano-Maria Evangelista.

The winning entries can be found on the college website news section.

News from the MCR

MCR Showcase

■ Following the launch of the MCR Research Showcase last year, the MCR hosted three more evenings packed with brilliant presentations about the wonderful research our graduates are undertaking. There were presentations ranging from cyber crime and colonial Spanish literature, to the neuroscience behind our dreams and the history of photography.

Trinity graduates do some incredible work and we are so glad to have a platform for our whole college community to come together, learn, discuss and share ideas.

Kam Poon, academic rep

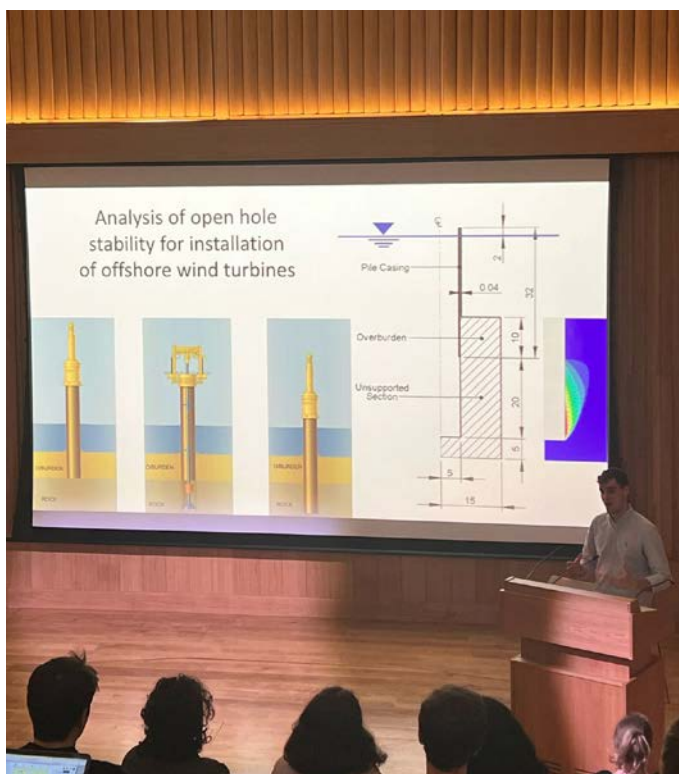
Social events

■ This term we had a number of MCR social events that helped our new and existing members to get to know each other and unwind. We organised a number of formal exchange dinners with different colleges, including St Hugh's, Balliol and Teddy Hall, which allowed our members to visit other colleges and meet students from other MCRs. To relax at the end of a week, we had regular casual 'Sips and Dips' events in the MCR, and also organised events specifically for the DPhil students across years to get to know each other (especially as the masters students were finishing up), including a 'Wine and Design' mug painting session.

Priya Manwaring, social secretary



Above: 'Wine and Design'; below left: MCR Showcase (photo, Kam Poon); below right: MCR Gala (photo, Sofia Savastano)



MCR Gala

■ We held the annual MCR Gala in May—the MCR committee worked hard to turn the graduation marquee into a fairy-lighted 'Enchanted Forest'. Not only was it a great night but we also had a charity auction and raised £2,480 for Oxford FareShare and Oxford Mutual Aid.

Ishbel Henderson,
MCR president



An academic strategy for the 2020s

In these Fellows' Pages, Trinity's academics write about their work and research. Here **Dr Rebecca Bullard**, who has been Senior Tutor since 2021, looks particularly at the development of the college's academic strategy, one of her first tasks on coming to Trinity.



What do we value most about academic life at Trinity? What are the challenges and opportunities that we're likely to face in the coming years? What kind of academic community do we want to become by the end of this decade? These were just some of the questions that Trinity's Fellows sought to answer as we developed an academic strategy to guide the college through the next half-decade of its long history.

It was a real privilege for me to lead the development of this strategy during my first year in post—not least because it provided a wonderful opportunity for me to get to know my new colleagues. I met Fellows for conversations across the whole of the academic year 2021-22 (despite the best efforts of Covid to interfere with the process: I was struck down on the eve of our planned strategy away-day!) I was also hugely grateful to the lecturers, graduate students and undergraduates who fed into discussions as they progressed. The

process gave me a real sense of the commitment that everyone at Trinity brings to this college's core purpose: to create a vibrant and inclusive academic community in which all members are enabled to do their very best work—and transform the world as a result.

The key themes

Three key themes gradually emerged out of our conversations: transition, collaboration, and flourishing.

Transition means creating opportunities that enable our members to move effectively from one stage of an academic career to the next: from school to university, undergraduate to graduate study, and from early career research to established academic posts. We want to remove barriers to progression, for instance by creating new funding opportunities for graduate students, and by investing in career development posts for junior academics.

Collaboration involves working

closely with partners (University departments and other colleges, national and international funding bodies, donors to and friends of the college) to maximise the impact of our college's academic culture. Conversation and co-operation are at the heart of academic life, and we want to make sure that we work with others wherever we can to benefit our own college, the wider University, and the world beyond it.

Flourishing invites us to prioritise the excitement and pleasure of academic work. We want to put the right support in place so that our students and academics can thrive both as individuals and as a community. As we recover from the pandemic, we want to ensure that all of our members can take advantage of opportunities for academic and personal development during their time at Trinity.

Implementing the strategy

You can read more about the academic strategy in the booklet that accompanies this Newsletter. Work on implementing the strategy has started in earnest: in the last year, we have appointed a new Academic Support and Development Lecturer to help undergraduates with essential academic skills; we have offered places to the first ever cohort of Foundation Year students at Trinity; and we have appointed Career Development Lecturers in Ancient History and Philosophy—to name just a few of the practical steps we have taken to bring our vision to life.

I am very excited about the direction in which our strategy will take us over the next five years, and I look forward to sharing updates with you as our work progresses.

Geoffrey Batchen

Professor of the History of Art



■ I joined Trinity in January 2020 as the fifth Statutory Professor in History of Art. Before coming to Oxford, I taught for nine years at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. But this followed

a long period of teaching in the United States, and, before that, at various institutions in my native Australia. This mobile career has given me experience of a number of different university systems, of which Oxford's is the most distinctive and difficult to master.

I began my studies in architecture, but soon moved to a BA degree at the University of Sydney, majoring in art history, and then a PhD at the same university. In between, I was lucky enough to be accepted into the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. It was there, in 1983-84, that I first began to take an interest in the history of photography, in part because so many important contemporary artists were then working in that medium. It was the moment of post-modernism, a proposition that the modern was an era about to be superseded. Photography, invented at the advent of modernity, seemed like a phenomenon on the front lines of this debate. So, I wrote my doctoral thesis about the multiple beginnings and possible ends of photography. This also became the subject of my first book, titled *Burning with Desire: The Conception of Photography*.

Since then, I have published a number of other books about different aspects of photography, including studies of photography's relationship to memory, of the history of photographs made without a camera, and of the role played by the negative in the making of photographs. Most recently, I have written two books about the work of England's inventor of paper-based photography, William Henry Fox Talbot, both of them issued by Bodleian Publishing. These last two books accompanied a pair of exhibitions that I curated for the galleries of the Bodleian Library. Curating exhibitions has always been a significant part of my practice, with examples shown in Brazil, Australia, USA, Netherlands, Iceland, UK, Japan, Germany and New Zealand. Travel is obviously one of the perks of my profession!

David Parker

Fellow and Tutor in Computer Science

■ I came to Trinity in September 2022 as the Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science, simultaneously taking up an appointment as a professor in the Department of Computer Science.

My research is in a field known as formal verification, which develops rigorous, mathematical

techniques for checking that software or hardware systems function correctly. My particular speciality is verifying probabilistic aspects of such systems, for example quantifying the worst-case probability that an air bag controller could malfunction, or that a cybersecurity attack could penetrate a computer network's defence.

I have a particular interest in building software that deploys these techniques automatically. I lead the development of the verification software PRISM (prismmodelchecker.org), which emerged from my PhD in the early 2000s, and is now an internationally leading tool in this area.

As a result, I was co-winner of the 2016 HVC award (for 'most influential work in the last five years in formal verification, simulation, and testing').

Increasingly, my research looks towards the challenge of verifying computer systems that deploy methods from artificial intelligence, building on ideas from fields such as machine learning and game theory.

My recent work on robust verification of autonomous systems won a 'distinguished paper award' at the prestigious international AAAI (Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence) conference, and I was selected to lecture at this year's inaugural European Summer School on AI.

Before coming to Oxford, I spent ten years at the University of Birmingham, which was my first permanent academic position. There I built a research group, supervised nine PhD students to completion and held various senior departmental roles. I had previously taken undergraduate and PhD degrees at Birmingham and completed five years of post-doctoral research at Oxford. Now that I am back in Oxford, I am relishing the challenge of steering the subject of Computer Science at Trinity. I have greatly enjoyed the past year and am looking forward to seeing the first students graduate this year.



Choir tour to Slovenia



■ This year's choir summer vacation tour was to Ljubljana, with performances in a number of venues, including the cathedrals in Ljubljana and Koper. The choir held a concert to raise funds for the tour earlier in Trinity term, which featured music by Handel, Elgar, Daley and Finzi.

Boat Club news

■ Three Trinity crews took part in this year's Summer Eights, which was a memorable one for the women's 1st VIII. They bumped every day and won blades, moving up to the middle of Division 2.

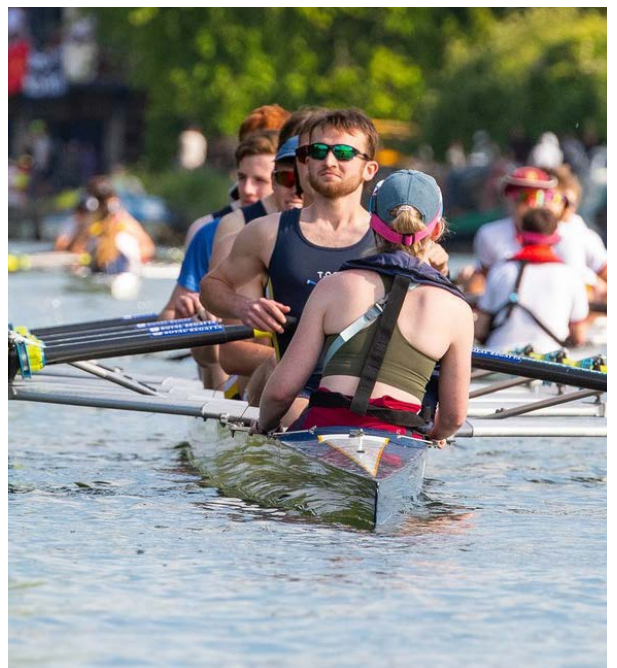
Despite a different line-up every day, and an unprecedented four coxes, the men's 1st VIII were also entitled to feel proud of their racing. They finished fourth boat in Division 2, a very respectable place to be.

It was also a good week for W2. Having qualified an impressive 10th across the women's crews at rowing on, their rowing improved every day of bumps racing.

Marathon fundraiser

Later in June members of the Boat Club undertook a marathon row in aid of Fulham Reach Boat Club's junior bursary. They rowed the 42km stretch of the Thames between Wallingford and the boathouse island in Oxford. The rowers had to contend with hot weather, as well as encountering a lock with broken gates, leaving them no choice but to carry their boat round on land.

Fulham Reach Boat Club, whose chairman is David Fitzherbert (1975), offers the junior bursary to support underprivileged secondary school children in accessing the sport.



Summer Eights (Photo credit: Nikola Boysova)

Trinity Players back on the Lawns

■ This Trinity term saw the revival of Trinity Players productions after a two-year hiatus. Marking their return, the Players staged Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on the Lawns. In the lovely Oxford sun, an all-star Trinity cast, and crew led by director Hannah Davis and producers Theo Finlan and Veda Dharwar had four sell-out performances.

The scene was set by medic Hur Shah, who entertained the

audience before the show with his authentic take on the melancholy Duke Orsino.

What followed was a chaotic mix of drunken antics from the trio Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Maria (Alice Yates, Lara Mallin and Jennifer Kelly), heart-wrenching reunions between twins Viola and Sebastian (Isabella Bray and Adam Paterson) and

poorly advised flirting from



the inept Malvolio (Amelia Bishop).

To add to these performances, an amazing supporting cast was dressed in colourful costumes, designed by Zofia Wolny, while an exotic set created by

Clemency Day Fawcett helped bring the streets of Illyria to life.

With the ball now rolling once more for drama in Trinity, we look forward to many more performances in the future.

Theo Finlan





A SPECIAL TRINITY COLLABORATION

Rowan Curtis (2008), who completed his DPhil last year, has been awarded the 2023 Oxford-BNU Creative Writing Prize, following a collaboration with Trinity porter and photographer Kirk Ellingham.

Rowan Curtis was awarded the 2023 Oxford-BNU Creative Writing Prize for his short story ‘On the Road to Nagorno-Karabakh’ at a formal ceremony held at Regent’s Park College in February.

The award, which was launched in 2021 to facilitate international and cross-cultural diversity within the global literary community, is organised by the Mo Yan International Writing Centre and the Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute (OPGDI) and Regent’s Park College, in parallel with Beijing Normal University. Rowan came runner-up in the inaugural competition last year.

The story came about as part of



a collaboration with porter Kirk Ellingham, and was inspired by photographs Kirk took during his travels in 2018 to Nagorno-Karabakh, the site of recurring armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Following Rowan’s award, the pair developed a collaborative exhibition that took place in April as part of Photo Oxford 2023. Held in Trinity’s Garden Room, the exhibition displayed some of Kirk’s photographs alongside excerpts from Rowan’s story. Kirk and Rowan discussed their collaboration and their work, followed by a selection of readings, at a successful exhibition opening, introduced by Geoffrey Batchen, Professor of the History of Art.



This page and facing page: photos by Kirk Ellingham that featured in the exhibition; below right: Kirk and Rowan at the exhibition

The winning entry

The chair of judges for the prize, former International Booker Prize judge Boyd Tonkin, described Rowan's entry as,

A story that took us to surprising places, and encouraged us to see them from fresh and revealing angles. It's a story about the search for roots, but not in any simplistic or sentimental way. This is a quest for a personal and for a family past, but for a past divided, as they often are, by memory, history and myth. This is a story that introduced us to a narrator and an author of considerable maturity, subtlety and vision. It's a travelogue, but one that draws its strength from emotional complexity, rather than exotic scene-painting. It suggests that if you go looking for roots, you will find them tangled, confused and ambiguous. It also

tells us that any attempt at home-coming is in itself a kind of new departure.



More information, images and descriptions can be found in the links below. Rowan's story will be published by the Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute.



Links:

<https://roadtokarabakh.com/contact>
<https://rowanjamescurtis.com/writing/>
<https://kirkellingham.com/>

Progress on the Hall and kitchen project



we can finally look ahead to the construction of the kitchen. The chef, Julian Smith, and his team have been involved in the planning at every stage and they can't wait to take possession of their new quarters next year.

Elsewhere on the site, work has begun on the Dolphin Yard extension and new structural steel columns have been installed to open up previously awkward back-of-house spaces.

We're delighted that after a number of difficulties, the plan to install a lift down to the Beer Cellar and up to the top of Staircase 11 is going ahead, giving access to all levels of the building.

Inside Hall, the progress is exciting. Acoustic panels have been added to the ceiling and the walls are being painted. Once the walls and panelling are finished, attention will turn to the floor. Although there is still much to do, the appearance of the room has already been transformed and it's clear that the Hall will be a light, airy and welcoming space.

Thank you again to everyone who has already contributed to this major refurbishment project. If you are interested in making a donation, or would like to read more, please go to www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/hall-refurbishment.

Sue Broers
Director of Development

After a series of delays, work on the Hall and kitchens is at last advancing steadily and we have a potential completion date of the end of June 2024.

The underpinning of existing walls proved to be even more complicated than anticipated, but now that it is well underway,



Above: the extension in Dolphin Yard
Left: underpinning the west wall of the SCR

William Moorcroft, Potter Individuality by Design

Jonathan Mallinson



I feel there is a need for interesting, individual things. Not extreme, not fashionable, but things that will be the outcome of careful thought, things built with the spirit of love in every part of them.

William Moorcroft

Jonathan Mallinson, Emeritus Fellow and former tutor in French, has written a book on William Moorcroft, one of the most celebrated potters of the early 20th century. Published by Open Book Publishers, with an online launch in September, the book can be downloaded for free. For more details visit openbookpublishers.com.

Trinity connections in Melbourne

■ Victor Seidel, Fellow in Management Studies 2003-13, recently spent a sabbatical in Melbourne, where he made two Trinity-related connections. The first connection was to Trinity College, Melbourne, established 150 years ago, and where Don Markwell (1981) was warden from 1997 to 2007. Victor was hosted there by the current warden, Professor Ken Hinchliffe,



on several occasions and enjoyed seeing the many Oxford-inspired customs as he dined at high table and enjoyed the conviviality of its SCR. The chapel choir is well-regarded and the grounds are lovely, and Victor recommends a visit to anyone visiting Melbourne.

The second connection was an exhibition by former Trinity (Oxford) DPhil student in Fine Art, Christian Thompson (2010). One of the first two aboriginal students to matriculate at Oxford, Christian was a Charlie Perkins scholar—a scholarship established in memory of the first Aboriginal person in Australia to graduate from university. Some may remember the exhibition of Christian's work in Hall in 2013. Victor was delighted to get to see Christian's photographic works in a compelling exhibit titled 'Being Human Human Being', using a large outdoor space during the PHOTO 2022 exhibition. The installation also featured a soundscape of Christian's voice singing in the Bidjara language.

TENNIS MATCH

■ What a glorious day; the cloudless blue sky, the green grass and a gentle breeze—this was Oxford at its best. It was ideal for a game of tennis and not just any old game; this was Trinity versus the Old Members.

Three grass courts were carefully prepared by groundsman Paul Madden, the surface firm and the bounce true just as they were 50 years ago. They probably suited the older flat-hitters over the younger top-spinners but the college team adapted well, triumphing by five sets to three.

The first pair of captain Louise and Rory formed a well organised and hard-hitting combination winning three sets, whilst the second pair of Eliot, with a devastating flat service, and Adham, who enthusiastically attacked the ball, won two.

All the Old Members contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment. Matt unleashed a string of lacerating cross-courts, whilst Oliver skipped about at the net. Hassaan, whose topspin drives would inspire fear on hard courts, partnered Claus who prowled menacingly.



We were royally looked after by the college, with grace sung before High Table and an excellent meal to follow.

This fixture, enjoyed by all, must continue; if you are interested in participating, please contact Matt Johnston via the Alumni & Development Office. Finally, an early Amol Rajan University Challenge question... which Trinity alumnus was a Wimbledon men's singles semi-finalist?

Oliver Smyth (1965)

A busy run of events

Spring was very busy at Trinity. The Easter vacation began with a return of the Michael Beloff Law Society Dinner, which will now take place on rotation with other subject dinners once every three years. Dame Victoria Sharp, President of the King's Bench, was this year's speaker; she gave an amusing and informative talk about her career and inspired the audience with stories of the challenges and the fulfilment that come from the practice of law.

A memorial service for Mike Inwood, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1967-2011, saw the return of Old Members from all generations and included tributes by former president Michael Beloff, current Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy Anil Gomes, Gabriel Lavelle (1964), Gracie Bradley (2008) and SCR Butler Andrei Stefanescu. A Gaudy was held on the same day for those who matriculated between 1998 and 2000. It was great to see many Old Members back in College and some were able to bring their children to visit Trinity too.



Above: Dame Victoria Sharp with the Law Society co-presidents

Below: drinks in the President's garden before the 'Fifty Plus Years On' lunch in June

Bottom left: Jonah Skolnik (2021), a graduand at this May's graduation ceremony, celebrating with his father, Ira (1985)



In April, Old Members, Physics colleagues and current students came together for a dinner to mark the retirement of Professor Peter Read, Fellow and Tutor in Physics between 1991 and 2022.



May saw a return to the normal large graduation and the following day, the marquee was put to good use for an event that enabled the Family and Friends of current students to visit college and see some of the areas that are not generally accessible to visitors. The Boat Club Dinner was a great celebration of the results from the crews on the water

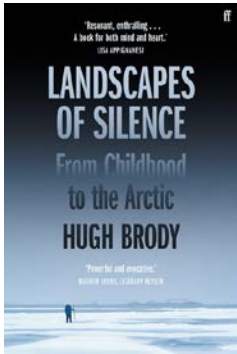
in Summer Eights, not least the Women's 1st VIII, who had won Blades. The date of next year's Boat Club dinner is Saturday 25 May 2024; we hope you'll join us to cheer on the next crop of rowers.

At the end of the academic year in June we had a busy couple of weeks, with the Ralph Bathurst Society Dinner, which included a presentation of the college's strategy for the next five years, and then two extremes with the 'Fifty Plus Years On' Lunch one day, followed by the Recent Leavers dinner the next. All these events were well attended and it was a pleasure to see so many Old Members from across the years in College.

Finally in July, Trinity was very pleased to welcome back many of our Rhodes Scholars who were attending the Rhodes 120th Anniversary weekend. They enjoyed an exhibition produced by college archivist Clare Hopkins, drinks in the President's garden and a delicious dinner in the Lawns Pavilion. We hope that they and other graduates will make a point of coming back for the MCR's 60th anniversary celebration in April.

Sarah Jenkinson
Alumni & Events Officer

Old Members' News



Hugh Brody (1962) has published *Landscapes of Silence: From childhood to the Arctic* (Faber, 2022), described as part memoir, part anthropological journey—going

from childhood to the high Arctic—that offers an intensely personal account of life and work, taking the reader from the north of England, to a kibbutz in Israel and, finally, to communities in North Baffin Island and south Hudson Bay. Hugh will be giving one of the forthcoming Trinity Talks, on 15 November.

John Tepper Marlin (1962) visited Stockholm in June to present a paper, 'Deadly Games: Nazi terror and the Dutch Resistance, 1940-45', about his translation of the biography by Eric Schaap of Walraven van Hall—*Walraven van Hall: Premier Van Het Verzet (1909-1945)* (Brave New Books, 2020)—at the 26th Annual International Conference on Economics and Security, co-hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Swedish Defence Research Agency. He describes it as an exploratory paper that seeks to make the case that studying the Dutch resistance



John Tepper Marlin, photographed for a news story on his work in the *East Hampton Star*
Photo credit Christopher Walsh, The East Hampton Star



Nanda Rodrigues (née Rane, 1984), a former Rhodes Scholar, has recently retired as chief operating officer at the Medical Research Council Harwell Institute, after working there for 22 years, and is now looking for new adventures. She was honoured as the first recipient of the institute's Nanda Award for Positivity, which will be given annually from this year to the person who imbues positivity in the workplace and encourages people around to do the same.

can generate useful guidance today, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the complexities of occupied lands where allegiances can abruptly shift depending on conditions on the ground.

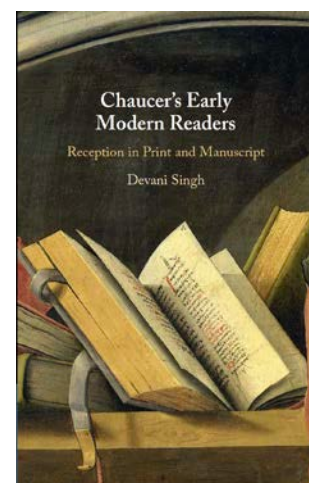
At his home in Long Island, New York, John has been working on 500 boxes of documents, an archive of material about the Dutch resistance compiled by his late mother, Hilda van Stockum. Much of the archive is correspondence between women who lost husbands, sons, brothers, and other relatives during the Second World War. His work was recently reported on in *Trouw*, a Dutch publication that was founded as an underground newspaper during the war. Walraven van Hall, who was married to a cousin of Hilda's, was a banker and leader of the Dutch resistance who was executed by the Nazis in 1945. Van Hall was the subject of *The Resistance Banker*, the most-watched Dutch film of 2018.

John is interested in hearing from any Old Members knowledgeable about archiving letters for collections (contact via the Alumni and Development Office).

Paul Hare (1969) writes, 'I was a British diplomat for 30 years including a posting as ambassador to Cuba. My wife Lynda and I live in Marblehead, Massachusetts. All our six children and 11 grandchildren also live in

the United States. I now teach International Relations at Boston University and recently co-edited the *Palgrave Handbook of Diplomatic Reform and Innovation*, which included essays by 40 authors from some 30 countries.'

David Roberts (1999) has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.



Devani Singh (2009) has published a new book, *Chaucer's Early Modern Readers* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), a study of the surprising fates of

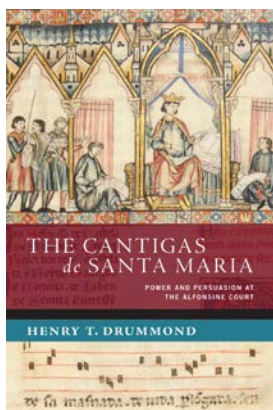
Chaucer's medieval manuscripts in the 16th and 17th centuries. Devani's interest in this subject has its beginnings in her MPhil in English Studies (650-1550), during which she was supported by a Cecil Lubbock Scholarship from Trinity.



Andy Duncan (1981), a member of Ducklington Morris, and **Sarah Jenkinson (2003, Alumni & Events Officer)**, a member of Rockhopper Morris, are pictured at this year's Kirtlington Lamb Ale (a festival dating back to the 17th century and held annually on Trinity Sunday). They have bumped into each other regularly at Morris dancing events in and around Oxfordshire and wondered whether there are any other Old Members out there who also morris dance. If you do, Sarah would be delighted to hear from you.

Whilst a student in 2005, Sarah was instrumental in leading the scratch morris side in the Trinity Cavalcade, to commemorate Reginald Tiddy, Trinity's first Fellow in English, who was, with George Butterworth (1904), part of the revival in folk (and particularly morris) dancing in the early 20th century. Both Tiddy and Butterworth were killed in the First World War in August 1916.

Henry Drummond (2013), who is currently undertaking postdoctoral research, has published his first book, *The Cantigas de Santa Maria* (OUP, 2023). Alfonso X of Castile (1221–84), who ruled from 1252 and was known as 'the Wise', oversaw the production of a wealth of literature in his scriptorium. One of the most impressive of these literary outputs is the collection of songs known as the Cantigas de Santa Maria, which by most counts comprises 429 songs preserved in four manuscripts. The miracle songs (or *cantigas de miragre*) form the focus of the monograph. It offers a new perspective on the collection, probing how the Cantigas use their music



and text, together with rhetorical devices, to communicate to their intended audience.

The book is described as aiming to build upon established methodologies, adopting a holistic assessment of melody, poetry, and narrative, and to present a nuanced understanding of the tools deployed by medieval songwriters, including rhetoric and rhyme-based play. Henry argues that such devices allow for the Cantigas to loom large as propaganda pieces,

designed to dignify Alfonso X through an elaborately devised courtly ritual. Henry is grateful to the academic community at Trinity, particularly Professor David Maw (Lecturer in Music), who inspired him to pursue further musicological studies

Marriages

Rowan Dalglish (2007) to Caroline Plant, on 21 May 2022, in Withington, Gloucestershire

Births

To **Liz Elder (2011)** and Daniel Svenér, on 20 May 2023, a daughter, Beatrice Juliet Monika Elder Svenér

Deaths

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

(Francis) Raymond Peters (1941), on 17 March 2023

John William Case Mooney (1942), on 23 January 2023

Brian Geoffrey Wellesley Weldon (1942), in February 2023

(James) Melfort Paul Gordon Campbell (1943), on 22 May 2023

Ronald Victor Cox (1944), in June 2022

Dr Ian Anderson Hill (1945), on 24 March 2022

The Revd (Edward) Noel Staines (1945), on 24 March 2023

Dr Alan Malcolm Smith (1947), on 16 February 2023

Peter Lanfear (1956), on 4 November 2023

Bruce Scott Porter (1956), on 15 March 2023

Dr Bruce Richard Tolley (1957), on 15 January 2021

Professor Francis Martin James Pichanick (1958), on 20 January 2020

The Revd Fr (Michael Burt) Crispin Harrison CR (1960), on 27 October 2022

Donald Armes (1962), on 15 July 2023

John Stuart Lowings (1962), in July 2022

Charles Jonathan 'Jonty' Driver FRSA (1965), on 21 May 2023

Dr John Philip Hartley (1965), on 21 December 2022

Jonathan Edward Kynaston 'Jon' Kimber (1969), on 22 April 2023

Thomas Robert 'Tom' Hurd (1978), on 24 March 2022

Dr Anthony Matthew Mellors (1986), on 7 March 2023

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

Events programme

The full Programme of Events (PDF) and more information and booking details for each event, as they become available, can be found on the website at trinity.ox.ac.uk/events. Please email Sarah Jenkinson with queries about any of these events.

2023

TRINITY WEEKEND

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 September

FAMILY GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 24 September

WILLIAM PITT SOCIETY LUNCH

Saturday 14 October

A lunch for members of the society created to recognise those who have included Trinity in their wills. Invitations were sent in July.

BENEFACTORS LUNCH I

Saturday 12 November

The first of two lunches for Old Members and Friends who have been major supporters of the college's fundraising campaigns during the last financial year (August 2022–July 2023). Invitations were sent in August to those eligible.

INFORMAL LONDON DRINKS

Thursday 2 November

All Members and Friends are welcome to join us for this informal gathering. Contact the Alumni & Development Office to be added to the mailing list.

BIOCHEMISTRY DINNER

A date in November TBC

A dinner for all who studied Biochemistry at Trinity. Invitations will be sent out in September.

CAROL SERVICES

Saturday 2 December

The choir will lead the singing of Christmas carols, interspersed with choir anthems and Christmas readings, followed by seasonal refreshments.

MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER

Saturday 2 December

All who read Medicine or who now work in the medical profession are warmly invited. Please contact the Alumni & Development Office if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

2024

BENEFACTORS LUNCH II

Saturday 10 February

The second of two lunches for Old Members and Friends who have been major supporters of the college's fundraising campaign during the last financial year.

HISTORY DINNER

Saturday 9 March

A dinner to celebrate the teaching of History at Trinity. Invitations will be sent out in autumn 2023.

GAUDY 1974–1978

Saturday 16 March

A reunion for all those who matriculated between 1974 and 1978. Invitations will be sent out in autumn 2023.

MCR 60th ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 April

An exciting programme of academic and social events is planned to celebrate the Middle Common Room. Invitations will be sent in autumn 2023, if you were a member of the MCR and do not receive the information, please contact the Alumni & Development Office.

CHAPEL CHOIR REUNION

Saturday 27 April

All former members of Trinity College Chapel Choir are invited to return to College to celebrate the choir. Invitations will be sent out in autumn 2023.

FIFTY PLUS YEARS ON LUNCH

Sunday 19 May

A lunch for all Old Members who matriculated in the years up to and including 1974 and this year partners are invited as well. Invitations will be sent out in early 2024.

RALPH BATHURST SOCIETY DINNER

Saturday 15 June

The annual dinner for those who have made a substantial benefaction to the college.

GAUDY 1979–1983

Saturday 22 June

A reunion for all those who matriculated between 1979 and 1983. Invitations will be sent out in late 2023.

Contact us

Trinity College, Oxford, OX1 3BH

Alumni & Development Office

+44 (0)1865 279 933

Director of Development

sue.broers@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 889

Alumni Relations Officer

thomas.knollys@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 887

Development Officer

miriam.hallatt@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 941

Alumni & Events Officer

sarah.jenkinson@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 942

Porters Lodge

+44 (0)1865 279 900

Academic Office

academic.administrator@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 910

Conferences, Dinners & Functions

conference@trinity.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 279 888

Website

www.trinity.ox.ac.uk
[f](#) TrinityOxfordAlumni
[t](#) TrinityOxford

This Newsletter is produced by the Alumni & Development Office. Feedback and suggestions for articles for future editions are very welcome.



TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

Broad Street Oxford OX1 3BH
Telephone: +44 (0)1865 279 900
www.trinity.ox.ac.uk