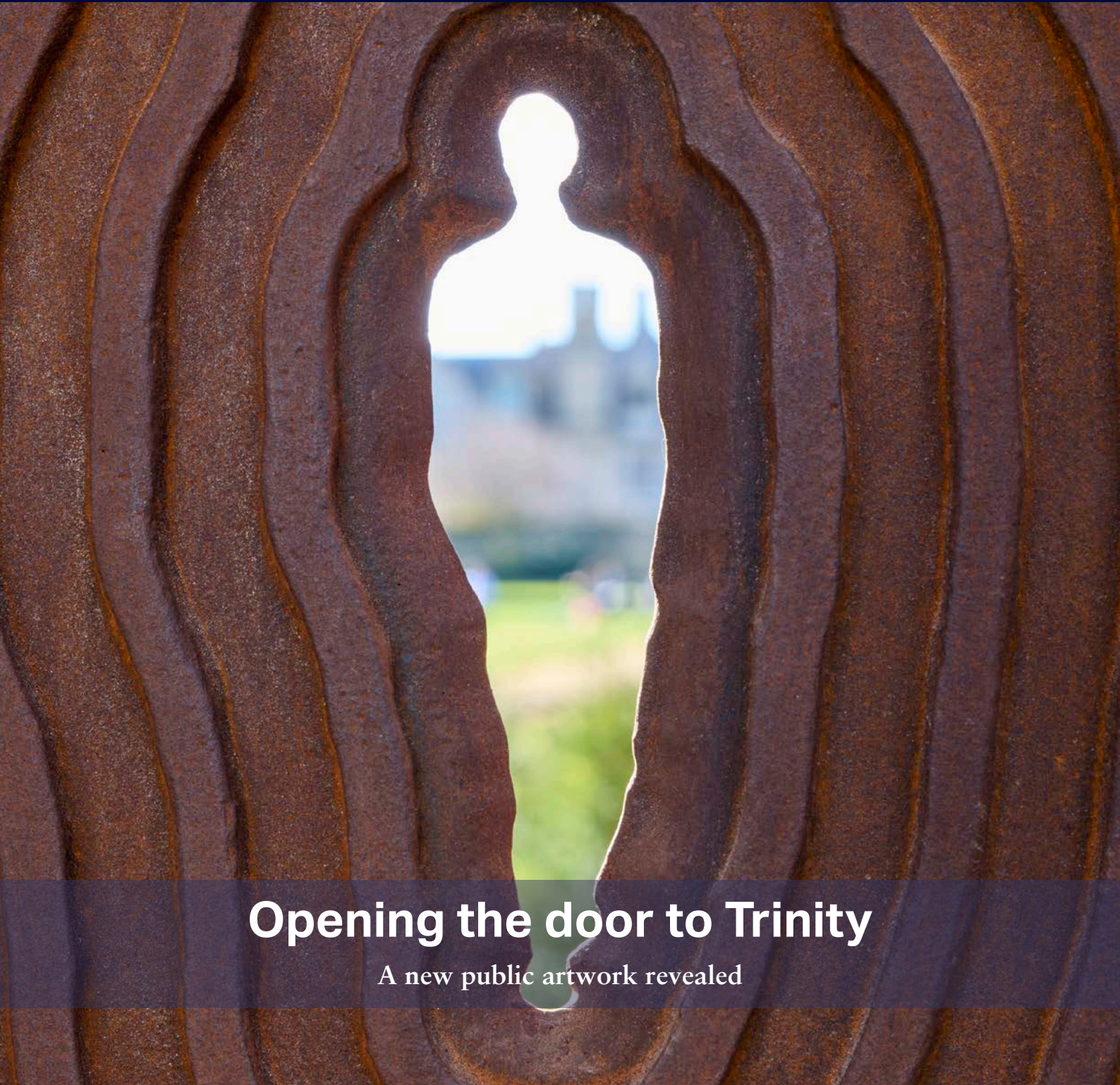




# TRINITY



## Opening the door to Trinity

A new public artwork revealed

PLUS Trinity Proctor admitted • Reducing Trinity's CO2 footprint • New boat named



## From the President

The spring term came and went with a flurry of extra-curricular activity: talks, debates, exhibitions, rowing (when the river conditions allowed), rugby, weekly student recitals to raise money for the Chapel Choir's tour to Italy in the summer, a dinner to celebrate Chinese New Year, open mic nights in the newly repopulated Beer Cellar, a Sustainability Week, and more.

We celebrated numerous and diverse academic successes. To cite just a few: DPhil student Philippe Holzhey had his research on photovoltaics published in *Nature*; Junior Research

Fellow William Winning was awarded the Hare Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in Classics from Cambridge University; our Lecturer in Clinical Medicine Neale Marlow was admitted as a fellow of the Higher Education Academy in recognition of his work in medical education at the University of Oxford; and Tutorial Fellow Gail Trimble published a major new edition of Catullus' Poem 64, including a comprehensive commentary, which has been released by Cambridge University Press.

We delighted in the news that Trinity alumna Michele Acton (1985) will become Principal of St Hugh's College from September. Michele becomes our second alumna head of house at Oxford, alongside Kate Mavor (1980), current Master of St Cross College. This news was followed by the announcement that Tom Drew (1989) has been appointed British Ambassador to France. We couldn't be more proud.

The Senior Common Room turned out in large numbers to support Law Fellow Nick Barber at his inauguration as Senior Proctor in March, in a ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre. The Proctors are senior officers and trustees of the University; they oversee student matters and uphold the University's statutes and policies. We wish Nick a fascinating and stimulating year in office.

Members of the public passing the Parks Road side of Trinity have been discovering with great delight a new door, positioned some three metres from the Stuart Gates. As a condition of gaining planning permission for the Levine Building, the college commissioned an artwork to enhance the public realm. We invited Poet Laureate, and Trinity Honorary Fellow, Simon Armitage to write a poem for a pedestrian door into the college gardens from Parks Road. Antony Gormley was commissioned to make the door and he has created a highly distinctive work, incorporating both Simon's poem and Antony's trademark figure as a spy-hole at child height. It's a beautiful artwork



and will be used hundreds of times a day by the Trinity community. The poem is called 'Hinge' and plays with the idea of the door as gateway, or invitation, to move from the outside world of the city, to the world of the college beyond the door. We held an unveiling attended by Simon and Antony in March, followed by a fascinating conversation between the two which was attended by college members, alumni, members of the public and local school students. We couldn't be more grateful to Roger Michel (1984) and Alexy Karenowska whose generosity made the commission possible.

Following the installation of ground source heat pumps, we are finally turning our attention to the restoration of the lawns and replanting the herbaceous border to a design by the renowned garden designer Chris Beardshaw. The topsoil is being laid as I write this and the garden will emerge throughout the coming months. We're watching the daily transformation with great anticipation and look forward to welcoming all visitors to enjoy the first season of the new garden from June onwards.

Hilary

**Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE**

### President's new role

Dame Hilary has been appointed chief executive of the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust—she will join the Trust in September, after stepping down as President.

The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme enables outstanding university graduates and professionals from developing and emerging economies to pursue fully-funded graduate studies at the University of Oxford, combined with a comprehensive programme of leadership development, long-term mentoring and networking.

The scholarships were established in 2007 and the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust was co-founded in 2014 by Lord Weidenfeld and André Hoffmann.

# Old Member appointments



■ Trinity is delighted to have received news of new roles for two Old Members.

Michele Acton (1985) has been elected the next Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford, from September.

Michele has been chief executive of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) since 2019, leading an organisation that provides multidisciplinary and specialist education

to healthcare professionals around the world and is home to an academic library and a leading medical journal, as well as hosting international events and conferences. Her leadership at the RSM follows 12 years as chief executive of Fight for Sight, which she helped transform into a leading national fundraising charity for medical research into eye health. Michelle read PPE at Trinity, and has remained heavily involved in college life.

On the announcement of her appointment, Michelle commented, 'I am delighted and honoured to have been elected as the next Principal of St Hugh's College and to join a community that combines academic excellence with such a friendly, welcoming and inclusive environment. Reducing the barriers to an Oxford education was the principle upon which the college was founded and it is one I will work hard to uphold.'



Sir Thomas (Tom) Drew KCMG (1989) has been appointed His Majesty's Ambassador to France, in succession to Dame Menna Rawlings. He will take up his appointment in August.

Tom has had a distinguished career in foreign policy, most recently as Director General for Defence and Intelligence at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), where his responsibilities

included leading the FCDO's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Before that he was High Commissioner to Pakistan. Previous appointments include serving as Principal Private Secretary (Chief of Staff) to Foreign Secretaries William Hague and Philip Hammond and roles in counter-terrorism and security.

In the months leading up to his appointment, Tom has been an associate member of the SCR and has used Trinity as a base from which to meet experts around Oxford in preparation for his new role. He has also returned to College recently as a facilitator and speaker at the personal development course for the incoming second year undergraduates and has given talks to various student groups.

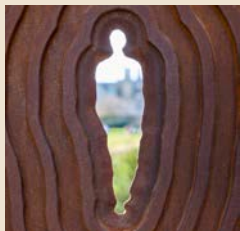
Commenting publicly on his appointment, Tom wrote, 'I feel very privileged to be appointed His Majesty's Ambassador to France—such a critical partner for the UK at this time of global change and a country I first lived in over 45 years ago.'

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## On the cover

A detail of the spyhole in the new door designed by Antony Gormley (see page 6).  
Photo credit: Theo Christelis





# A scholarship to mark Dame Hilary's presidency



The Dame Hilary Boulding Graduate Scholarship aims to give generations of exceptional students an opportunity to use their talents to make a positive impact on the world.



In this final year of her presidency, and in recognition of her remarkable commitment to Trinity and its community, the college has launched an appeal for a scholarship in Dame Hilary's name. The Dame Hilary Boulding Graduate Scholarship aims to give generations of exceptional students an opportunity to use their talents to make a positive impact on the world.

Expanding the college's graduate scholarship programme occupies a vital role in Trinity's five-year strategy. This new scholarship will enable Trinity and Oxford to attract outstanding applicants, and provide funding to allow the holder to make the most of the opportunities available here. At Hilary's request, it will support graduates studying the Humanities, where external funding has been so squeezed in recent years, with a preference for those studying Music.

Thanks to the initial generosity of benefactors, the campaign has already raised more than £340,000. This will allow the college to create an endowment and award the scholarship, in perpetuity, at a level that would cover half the fees of a UK DPhil student. Thank you to everyone who has already given so generously.

Ultimately, the college wishes to endow the scholarship at a level that would cover fees and living costs of DPhil students from

anywhere in the world. Every gift will bring us closer to this target.

Graduate scholarships are a priority across the collegiate University. Trinity is delighted, therefore, to be able to recognise Dame Hilary's presidency in this way and welcome exceptional students in her name for years to come.



Above: the MCR Burns' Night ceilidh in the Café  
Top: Matriculation 2024

# Nick Barber admitted as Senior Proctor



and status (the Senior Proctor is whoever has held an MA longer). The role of the Assessor was created in 1960, with special concern for policies on student health, welfare and financial issues.

The Proctors and Assessor are senior, full-time officers and trustees of the University with a role which encompasses advocacy and scrutiny. They oversee student matters and uphold the University's statutes and policies throughout its governance and administration. Colleges are on a rota so that, every year, three of them each choose one of their fellows to serve; two nominating the Proctors and the third the Assessor.

Left: the new Proctors and the Vice-Chancellor leaving the Sheldonian after the ceremony

Below: Christopher Morton, Nick Barber and Cosima Gillhammer ready to lead the procession to the Sheldonian

At the end of Hilary term, with the support of Trinity Fellows and staff, Nick Barber, Wyatt Rushton Fellow and Tutor in Law, was admitted as Senior Proctor of the University at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre, presided over by the Vice-Chancellor.

Also admitted were the Junior Proctor, Dr Grant Tapsell, fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, and the Assessor, Professor Raphael Hauser, fellow of Pembroke College. Holding office for 12 months, the Proctors and Assessor oversee student matters and uphold the University's statutes and policies throughout its governance and administration.

Professor Barber will be supported in ceremonial duties by two Pro-Proctors, Dr Cosima Gillhammer (2015), a former graduate student and lecturer at Trinity, now a career development fellow at LMH, and Dr Christopher Morton, of the Pitt Rivers Museum and vice-principal of Linacre College.

Following the ceremony, a celebratory lunch was held in Hall, attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey, Fellows, staff and members of Professor Barber's family.

The office of the Proctor dates from medieval times, with both Proctors holding equal authority





# A new door unveiled

A striking and unique piece of public art has been created for Trinity, in a collaboration between artist Antony Gormley and the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage.

**T**hough the Levine Building is now a familiar part of the college environment, as a project it was only officially completed in March, with the unveiling of a new work by sculptor Sir Antony Gormley, made in collaboration with the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, Honorary Fellow of the college.

The rusted cast-iron door designed by Gormley, featuring a poem by Simon Armitage, has replaced the old wooden door next to the Parks Road or 'Stuart' Gates. Both a functional access point to the college and an object of contemplation, the door will register the passage of time as it continues to rust, its patina evolving as the seasons change, while the touch of people passing through the door will polish the surface.

A series of raised concentric rings radiate out from the central silhouetted aperture and Simon Armitage's poem, 'Hinge', appears in relief on the surface of the door; the artist and poet collaborated closely on the nature of the door, the meaning of its design and the fabrication process. The poem brings attention to the door, as both entrance and exit, emphasising the world as a place to be felt and sensed and imagined.

The door was unveiled on 12 March, and forms the new public artwork to enhance the public realm that was a condition of planning consent for the Levine Building.



'The idea of the threshold and the function of doors have been interests of mine for a long time; I want the physical engagement of approaching the door and going through it to be in balance with the door itself where word and material come together...

'The hole in the door is in the form of a walking man. The joy of the silhouette is that you don't know

whether the figure is walking away or towards you. This collaboration is about integrating words into an object. The object has a poetic and metaphoric function as well as a practical one. It will hopefully generate thought and feeling both for the passer-by and the regular user.'

**Antony Gormley** (*pictured, above, speaking at the opening*)



Photo © Theo Christells

## Hinge

The door by day, a promise of brightness beyond, this entrance a framing device, its sight set on some distal point where thought and touch seem to coincide, so the glishy light on the rickety pavement, under the flustered limes, pries through the eyelet and ogles the ironed baize of the lawn and the polished laurels and gowned firs and sharpened spires. The door as mind.

Then the door after dark, this exit couched in a blind spot next to the grand gates, its heft and heave dissolved by night, the door now as dream or soul, gate to the thingness of things, the magnolia tree behind the wall dressed for the spring ball wanting to dance in the street under a lamplight moon, the star-struck universe drawn through a pinhole aperture into the keyhole heart.

**Simon Armitage**



'We are thrilled that two such distinctive and admired artists accepted the commission to create a functional piece of public art. We set out to create something to enhance the public realm and to provide something intriguing and thought-provoking, next to one of the most photographed views in Oxford.'

Hilary Boulding, President

The unveiling coincided with a special 'In conversation' event at which the two artists gave a public talk entitled 'Bridging disciplines in public art', discussing themes that cross the creative disciplines and their recent collaborations.

The creation of the door has been generously sponsored by Roger Michel (1984, Sir Thomas Pope Fellow) and Alexy Karenowska (Fellow of Magdalen College) in honour of Henry Moseley (1906), Trinity's most famous physicist, widely regarded as the most promising British physicist of his generation. Moseley was killed in 1915, aged 27, in action at Gallipoli. News of an event held to commemorate Moseley will appear in the next Newsletter.



'In all, the poem is advocating a dialogue and a coming and going between formal and informal learning, between the heart and the head, and the need for a balance between the two approaches... Antony's design puts the human form and also humanity at the centre of the door and at the centre of the poem. For me, in relation to the poem, it says something about being able to look inside ourselves and also beyond ourselves. And in what is

essentially a man-made barrier, it actually creates a man-made aperture in the door, a deliberate and crafted hole through which dreams of many different kinds might pass, a key hole for thoughts and feelings, travelling in both directions.'

**Simon Armitage** (pictured above, with the President at the opening, and, top, with Antony Gormley 'in conversation' in the de Jager Auditorium)



## 80th anniversary of VE Day



■ The 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War is an occasion to remember the 133 members of the college who gave their lives during that conflict, and whose names are inscribed on an oak board at the far end of the War Memorial Library.

Following the War, a War Memorial Fund was raised, with the intention of providing bursaries for those who otherwise would not have afforded to study at Oxford. A number of scholarships and prizes were also set up in memory of individual men, and a great many college members have been assisted by these funds in the years since. However, a ‘visible memorial’ was also required, and after much consultation the college commissioned a simple gateway between Garden Quad and the garden. Unobtrusive, but visible from both directions, a bronze plaque reads,

SVOS DOMVS LVGET LAVDAT

*[The college mourns and praises its own]*

Today, the War Memorial Gate is always open, and college members and visitors walk through it freely and daily without a second glance, an act perhaps symbolic of the freedom from fascism and peace in Europe that has so often been taken for granted since 1945. On the anniversary of the end of the terrible conflict that was the Second World War, it is good to pause, to read the inscription, and to be grateful for each one of the lives that was sacrificed.

An account of how the end of the War was felt and marked in Trinity will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

## Tommy Macpherson featured on commemorative stamp



■ To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Royal Mail has unveiled a set of stamps to honour some of the men and women who made extraordinary contributions during the war in a variety of roles, including those of a pilot, nurse, Commando, SOE operative, codebreaker, engineer and fire-fighter.

One of the 10 featured is Sir Tommy Macpherson CBE, MC, TD, DL, Croix de Guerre, Légion d'Honneur (Scholar 1945, Honorary Fellow), who, as a commando, sabotaged enemy positions in North Africa, before being caught. After several escape attempts, he eventually made it back to Britain, and in 1944 was parachuted into central France to join with the Resistance as part of Operation Jedburgh. Destroying bridges, railways and roads vital to the German occupation, he eventually accepted the surrender of thousands of Axis troops.

Tommy returned regularly to Trinity in later life, making his last visit shortly before his death in 2014.



## New portraits



All three of the Professorial Fellows are fellows of the Royal Society. Professor Ashcroft, Professorial Fellow in Physiology, leads ground-breaking research into neonatal diabetes and type 2 diabetes. Professor Kwiatkowska is Professorial Fellow in Computing Systems; her research is concerned with developing modelling and automated verification techniques for the operation of computing systems and AI. Professor Williams, Honorary Fellow, now holds the University's chair in Inorganic Chemistry, having previously been a tutorial and then professorial Fellow of Trinity.



■ With the rehanging of paintings in the refurbished Hall, four new and striking portraits now hang alongside the familiar historic artworks.

Portraits of the President (*above*) and Professor Dame Frances Ashcroft (*far right*) by Jennifer Anderson have been joined by works by Martin Brooks of Professor Charlotte Williams OBE (*top centre*) and Professor Marta Kwiatkowska (*right*).

## Staff news

■ Among the departures and arrivals since the last Newsletter has been the first change in the Alumni & Development team for many years, when in March we bid farewell to Andrew Clinch, after 13 years as Administrative Assistant. Although occasionally helping out at events (not least as Clunky the Clown at the Family Garden Parties), his work was vital but behind-the-scenes, working with the database and the processing of gifts. Andrew has moved to a new role at St Hugh's, but not before he was able to help induct his successor, John Jose, who has joined Trinity from Worcester City Council.

In September Trinity welcomed Kathryn Crossley to the new part-time post of Modern Records and Digital Archivist,



Handing over: Andrew Clinch and John Jose at a leaving event for Andrew in the Beer Cellar

in conjunction with the college joining the University's digital preservation programme; Kathryn is surveying the college's 'born digital records' and formulating a policy as to which records should be permanently archived.

In February, Robin Rutterford left the Bursary for a new post at All Souls and his role as Battels and Fees Administrator has been filled by Celia Smith.

In the Conference & Events team, Celia Blanco Menendez, Conference & Events Manager, and Lauren Cummings, Conference & Events Officer, have succeeded Charlotte Watson and Laura Cox (2007).

Sally Harris has joined the Wellbeing team in the new role of Wellbeing Advisor and Peer Support Coordinator.

# Ground source heat pump project completed

■ It is with a great sense of achievement, and relief, that Trinity has successfully completed one of the final projects of the various developments that have been running in the college over the past six years.

Since February, heat extracted by electric pumps from under the north lawn has provided all the heating and hot water in Staircases 5, 6 and 7 and the old gas boilers have been decommissioned. The college's carbon footprint has consequently been reduced by around 100 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year. This is a significant step towards the college's aim of becoming carbon-neutral.

It is a very cheering to see the lawns clear of drilling equipment and the levelled surface of the lawn on its way to being restored, alongside the creation of the new long border.

**'The college's carbon footprint has been reduced by around 100 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.'**



Trenches on the lawn during work to install ground source heat pumps

## Sustainability officer for Trinity

**Jilly Mowbray**, who has joined the college as part of her role at several colleges across the University, writes about her role to support work on increasing sustainability.

■ I'm delighted to be working at Trinity, jointly with eight other colleges, as Colleges Sustainability Officer.

I've always had a passion for nature and our planet, and our effect on it. I studied geography at the University of Aberdeen including a module 'Liquid Geography: the geography of vine and wine', which led me to work in the wine industry. After a few years I wanted to focus my career on an area I felt was important to take action on, so returned to study sustainable development at Queen's University, Belfast. This led to my previous, very rewarding roles in local government, working on climate change and nature protection.

I am based in the central University Environmental Sustainability team, which allows me to share information on what the University, as well as the nine colleges, are doing and communicate best practice—it's a fantastic vehicle for sharing knowledge and resources.

I'm very excited to be working with colleagues at Trinity on the

college's ambitious sustainability goals. I have led staff training on sustainability (it was wonderful to hear some really interesting discussions as part of this), helped plan Green Action Week events across the college, and worked with Sara Reeve, Accommodation Officer, on the Green Impact programme.

I am looking forward to collating the sustainability initiatives already carried out by Trinity to monitor progress, and creating and developing new action plans. Everyone at Trinity has been very helpful and generous with their time, and it has been a great way to learn about the college.





# Wellbeing at Trinity

**Lizzie Shine**, Head of Wellbeing, joined Trinity in July 2023. With many changes over the past few years, here Lizzie gives an overview of the work and role of the Wellbeing team.

**B**oth the workload and the profile of the Wellbeing team have increased dramatically over the last couple of years, the team having grown from less than one full-time equivalent post, to having eight days per week (overlapping) of wellbeing support available for 10 weeks of each term. Dedicated daily health support continues through the college nurse, Joanna Bowd, and the weekly on-site GP clinic, and overnight support is provided by the Junior Deans.

The Wellbeing team now consists of three core members of staff, with Nicola Selway, Wellbeing Advisor and Disability Coordinator, and Sally Harris, Wellbeing Advisor and Peer Support Coordinator, completing the team.

## The role of wellbeing

The core of the Wellbeing role is focused on one-to-one meetings with students; from October to February this year, we held 323 individual appointments with approximately 20 per cent of the student population, primarily face-to-face but sometimes on Teams. This is a 55 per cent increase for the same period in 2023-24, which we believe is due to a more proactive outreach at the beginning of Michaelmas term, strengthening of our coordination between Wellbeing and other areas of College (such as with tutors), and cultural shifts in how comfortable students are in discussing difficulties and asking for support.

We see a range of difficulties and themes, from exam stress to bereavement, panic attacks to pregnancy, family/relationship and financial stresses, and the full range of mental health conditions, from rumination to psychosis. We work very closely with the Senior Tutor on the implementation of the Fitness to Study procedures when needed, which supports students to take time away from their studies to receive treatment for conditions that have a significant impact on their ability to engage with their



Lizzie Shine, right, with (from left) Nicola Selway and College Nurse Joanna Bowd; below: Sally Harris, who has recently joined the team

course. Effective wellbeing provision not only benefits the individual students but also serves to reduce the previously increasing burden of pastoral support that falls on tutors.

## The Wellbeing team

My background as a social worker and manager of a front-line child protection team has given me invaluable experience for my additional role as the college's Safeguarding Lead, and in taking ownership of risk assessment and safety planning where needed.

Nicola's background as a teacher specialising in Special Educational Needs means that she is highly capable as the liaison between the college and the University's Disability Advisory Service, and can offer practical support for students with disabilities in navigating the sometimes complex paperwork and administration involved in accessing appropriate adjustments.

Sally has recently joined the team, and we are delighted to be able to harness her excellent skills as an experienced mindfulness and self-compassion teacher and supervisor.



Between us we really feel able to offer a wide range of wellbeing support to students, including listening, signposting, problem-solving and practical solutions to everyday problems. We do not provide therapeutic support in our roles, but are delighted that the college provides dedicated access to a college counsellor, Chris Cullen, through the University counselling service—a significant financial commitment, but invaluable to students.

## Looking ahead

In terms of future goals, we would love to be in a position to offer more proactive initiatives, and to find ways to reach students who otherwise don't benefit from Wellbeing at the moment. As we remind the students as often as we can, it is not a case of choosing between promoting wellbeing or academic achievement—happier students make more capable and effective learners.

## New Fellows



■ Trinity welcomed two new Tutorial Fellows at the start of the academic year.

Dr Tammie Bishop is tutor in Medicine and an associate professor at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics. She read natural sciences, followed by a PhD, at the University of Cambridge,

and then undertook post-doctoral study with an associate professorship at Oxford's Nuffield Department of Medicine. Her main area of research is in understanding the signalling responses underlying rapid responses to low oxygen (hypoxia) and their interplay with hypoxia pathway tumours. At Trinity, she is teaching undergraduates studying for degrees in pre-clinical Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



Dr Hannah Stern has succeeded Michael Moody as tutor in Materials Science, with an associate professorship in the Department of Materials Science. She studied for an undergraduate degree in chemistry at Otago University in New Zealand and completed a PhD in

physics at the University of Cambridge, followed by a junior research fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge. Before coming to Trinity, she was a lecturer at the Photon Science Institute, University of Manchester and a Royal Society Fellow at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge. In 2022 she was awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, and she also received the Institute of Physics' Henry Moseley Award in 2023.

More details about Fellows' research and publications can be found on the website.

## Awards for professors of the History of Art



■ Martin Kemp, Honorary Fellow and Professor of the History of Art from 1995 to 2007, has received the insignia of Ufficiale of the Ordine della Stella d'Italia, for services to Italian culture. The honour was presented

by the Italian Ambassador, Inigo Lambertini, on behalf of the Italian President of the Republic, at a ceremony in London in November (pictured above).

Martin Kemp has published widely on Italian Renaissance art and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as other topics, including the optics of perspective and the illustration of anatomy. His most recent book is *Visions of Heaven: Dante and the Art of Divine Light* (2021). He has curated a number of major exhibitions, and made numerous broadcasts, and he continues to research, write and lecture extensively.

Meanwhile, Craig Clunas, Honorary Fellow and Professor of the History of Art from 2007 to 2018, has been awarded one of three fellowships for 2025 by the Association for Art History.



Photo credit: Athina Dale

The fellowships seek to recognise and honour individuals who have made a significant contribution to the broad field of art history.

The Oxford chair of the History of Art is associated with a fellowship at Trinity. Professor Clunas was the first holder to work on the art of Asia. He has written extensively on the art of China, particularly the late imperial and modern eras, his books ranging from *Chinese Export Watercolours* (1984), to *The Echo Chamber: Transnational Chinese Painting, 1897-1935*, published bilingually in Beijing in 2024. Many of his books have been published in Chinese translation. He co-curated 'Ming: 50 years that made China' at the British Museum in 2014, and his most recent exhibition, 'Freud and China', was shown at the Freud Museum, London in 2022.

The Association for Art History (formerly Association of Art Historians) was established in 1974, as an organisation based on a broad and inclusive art history, to recognise the social value and importance of art history.



# Academics' news



Gail Trimble at the launch event for her book, held in the Garden Room

■ **Gail Trimble**, Brown Fellow and Tutor in Classics, has published a major new edition of Catullus' Poem 64, with Cambridge University Press.

Catullus is a central figure in the canon of Latin poetry—famous both for his passionate love poetry and his obscene attacks on his enemies. His longest work, however, is a tiny epic set in the world of Greek mythology which has fascinated and perplexed readers from the first century BC until today.

Poem 64 begins with the Argonauts, quickly turns into a love story between a hero and a sea-nymph, then abandons the description of their wedding for an apparently unrelated narrative about Ariadne, before culminating in a prophetic epithalamium on the Trojan War and a lament for the degeneracy of the human race. Highly wrought, densely allusive, moving and beautiful, it was hugely influential on the next generation of Roman poets, especially Virgil and Ovid, and is widely read by modern classicists.

The book investigates the poem on every level, with an introduction that sets it in its historical and literary contexts, a line-by-line commentary with longer discussions of sections of the poem, and an epilogue giving an overall interpretation. Part of the commentary began as Dr Trimble's doctoral thesis, and she has worked on the book, between teaching and other commitments, for over 15 years. She hopes that the edition will help other readers to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Catullus' masterpiece, and also that it will shed light on many other aspects of ancient literature and culture.



■ **Christopher Butler**, Senior Research Fellow in Primary Healthcare, has published, with colleagues, a protocol paper that outlines an innovative approach to evaluating rapid diagnostic tests for urinary tract infections (UTIs). The group leading the TOUCAN

(Platform for Urinary Tract Infection Diagnostic Evaluation) study, under chief investigator Professor Gail Hayward, also includes Philip Turner of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and associate member of Trinity. The study, which has already recruited more than a thousand patients across primary care sites in England, represents a significant shift in how new diagnostic technologies are evaluated for primary care use.

■ **Felix Hofmann** (2003), Lecturer in Engineering, was awarded the title of Professor of Engineering Science in the University's Recognition of Distinction awards for 2024. The criteria for the conferment of the title of full professor include research, teaching and good citizenship.

■ **William Winning**, Junior Research Fellow in Classics, has been awarded Cambridge University's Hare Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in Classics. His thesis, 'The Golden Chain: Redrawing the Map of Ancient Allegory', is a study of allegorical interpretation in Ancient Greek culture between the late Archaic and Hellenistic periods (6th to 1st centuries BC). Allegory—the idea that a text or artwork might have hidden as well as apparent meanings—has a long presence in Western literature, art, religious and political symbolism and as a way of reading sacred texts like the Bible.



Dr Winning's dissertation aims to recover the concerns of the earliest ancient allegorical readers by stressing the discontinuity between their ideas and the later allegorical tradition.

■ **Neale Marlow** (2018), Lecturer in Clinical Medicine, has been admitted as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA), in recognition of his work in medical education at the University of Oxford.

Dr Marlow oversees the clinical training provided by Trinity (years four to six of the undergraduate medical curriculum), a programme he helped rejuvenate in 2021 alongside Professorial Fellow in Surgery Peter McCulloch. His work includes maintaining Trinity's distinguished portfolio of Clinical Specialist Advisors, teaching the surgical half of the curriculum, and providing pastoral support and mentorship to Trinity's clinical medical students.

Dr Marlow's role also includes supervising research projects, organising mock practical examinations and overseeing a termly guest speaker events series, supported by the student president of the Trinity Medical Society—recent speakers have included Neil Jones (1967) and John Newton (1976). Additionally, Dr Marlow has an active role in the medical admissions process.

## RUGBY



■ In March, Eben Terry, who is studying for a BA in History, led the Greyhounds (the University's 2nd XV) to a notable victory over their Cambridge counterparts at Iffley Road, 32- 27, despite being down to 14 men for part of the game. He received the trophy (pictured above) from the Japanese Ambassador, who attended the game, along with Stephen Pearson (1982, Honorary Fellow), chair of OURFC.

More recently, at the OURFC annual dinner, held at Trinity, Eben

collected another trophy, as the Greyhounds won 'team of the year'.

Also in March, Fergus Dick (MSc Sustainable Urban Development) played for Oxford in the 2025 Varsity Matches (pictured below). After a victory for Oxford in the women's match, the men's team put in a strong performance and dominated for much of the game, only narrowly losing after a reversal of fortune to Cambridge in the last few minutes of a closely fought match.



Photo credit: Steve Karpa

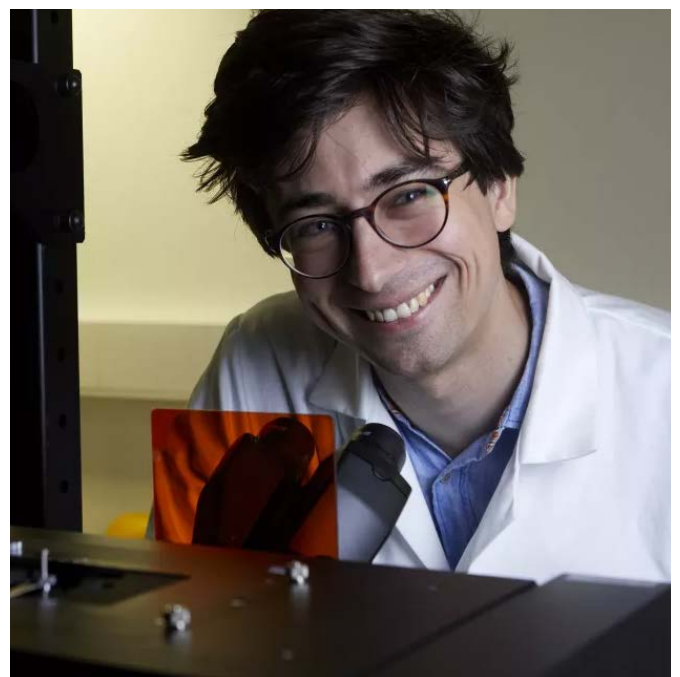
## DPhil paper published in *Nature*

■ DPhil student Philippe Holzhey, who wrote about his work and a research trip in the 2022 summer Newsletter, has had his research on photovoltaics published in *Nature*, one of the world's leading scientific journals.

In 'Water- and heat-activated dynamic passivation for perovskite photovoltaics', he describes a new process of passivation that enables perovskite solar cells to stay stable, enabling them to be more efficient for longer. The process marks a significant advancement in solar energy technology.

The research forms part of Philippe's DPhil research and was undertaken by a team of researchers from Oxford, Monash University, and the City University of Hong Kong; it outlines a new strategy to enhance the stability and performance of photovoltaic semiconductors through a mechanism described as 'self-healing'.

Read more on the News section of the website; the full paper is online in *Nature*.





# Access

■ An expanded enrichment programme has been launched by the Access team in this academic year. The team was both delighted and somewhat astonished that 1,500 state school students in Year 7-12 registered to take part in the online academic enrichment programme that is designed to take them beyond the school curriculum.

The weekly programme offers academic taster and subject talks, study skills sessions, and workshops on writing personal statements. An extension programme that included a residential over Easter for selected Year 12 students delivered mini tutorials, recommended reading and other subject enrichment material, with further online support offered to students in Year 13 for applying to Oxford.

## Vice-Chancellor's award

Hannah Rolley, Head of Access, and her team were also short-listed for a Vice-Chancellor's Award in the category of Local Community Engagement for their outreach work in Oxford. The Vice-Chancellor's Awards recognise those who have worked to make a positive difference to the lives of individuals and communities in Oxfordshire.

STOP PRESS: Just as this Newsletter was going to print came the great news that the Access team had won the award! It was announced and presented by the Vice-Chancellor at an event in the Sheldonian.

# Boat Club



## New boat named

■ In November, current members of TCBC, including club president Josh Holloway and the senior member, Estates Bursar Chris Ferguson, welcomed friends and family of two notable Trinity rowers, Sir Roger Gifford (1973, Honorary Fellow) and David Sears (1976), to dedicate a boat to their memory. Roger and David both died in 2021. Roger, when Lord Mayor of London, hosted a large Trinity gathering at Mansion House in 2013. David, a barrister in London, remained actively involved with rowing all his life and was instrumental in keeping his contemporaries engaged with Trinity.

The *Gifford-Sears* is a pair/double with riggers for both sweep and sculling, enabling TCBC to teach rowers how to scull, while rowing in a pair allows more experienced members to develop the finer points of their technique. It is already having a positive impact on Boat Club training and has seen action in races.

The naming (pictured above) took place in Durham Quad, with the boat being blessed by the Chaplain. It was followed by a reception and dinner at High Table. The Old Members present, representing just some of those who made donations in memory of Roger and David, were John Chadwick (1972), Mark Alloway and John Foster (both 1974), John Newton, Charles Randell and Martin Rhodes (all 1976) and Richard Rea (1978).

## Torpids

■ The Boat Club entered two crews for Torpids this year, under challenging conditions.

For the Women's 1st VIII, this year is very much a rebuilding year, with a number of senior rowers having left, replaced with novices wanting all the opportunities for experience on the river they can get. With river conditions poor, both during the racing and throughout term, it was a tough introduction for new rowers. So despite dropping a division, this was still a good performance and all about building for the future.

The Men's 1st VIII started 23rd on the river and ended 23rd. Having bumped Linacre on Day 1, they were bumped by Worcester on Day 2, before rowing over on Day 3. On the final day there was the prospect of bumping Queen's, until a swan entered the racing line, and the race got klaxoned before Donnington Bridge. Overall it was a respectable performance and there are high hopes for the boat in Summer Eights.

Sadly, M2 and W2 did not get a chance to race due to the river conditions, but they have been busy putting in the work to mount a challenge for Summer Eights.

## NEWS FROM THE TRINITY SOCIETY



■ At the Trinity Weekend in September, Peter Strawbridge (1976) retired from the chair of the Trinity Society and handed over to Vicky Wilson (1996).

Peter had chaired the society since 2020, having succeeded Mike Haddrell (1976), and took up and efficiently completed the process of updating the society's governance and transferring the society's assets to be managed by the college.

All matriculated members of Trinity are automatically members of the society, which uses its funds to support the welfare and activities of current students and to support the college's alumni activities. Two recent grants made to current members are reported on these pages.

## Teaching in India

Last summer, with funding from the Trinity Society, graduate student **Ayush Sinha**, who had been on a medical placement in India, extended his stay to undertake a volunteering trip to teach STEM subjects to underprivileged children in rural areas. Following the trip, he wrote this account for the society.

■ Along with fellow students from Oxford, I travelled to a small village in the state of Karnataka, where the literacy rate is just 64 per cent. The school there has little access to the sort of teaching equipment often taken for granted, such as computers, projectors and internet access. Teaching relies on blackboard and chalk, and all teaching is conducted in the local language Kannada, with few English or Hindi speakers.

I prepared a 'Murder Mystery' experience for students, giving the children clues that they used to conduct a series of experiments (such as chromatography, breathalysers, fingerprints, etc) to identify possible suspects for the murder. This introduced the students to the work of a forensic scientist and neatly illustrated several key scientific principles (e.g. sensitivity/specificity).

Initially, I hadn't anticipated that the communication barrier with the children would be so great. To combat this, we had to think on our feet and used a combination of multi-lingual children, teachers and online translators to translate our explanations. In the end, this worked well and we received feedback from the students that they managed to grasp most of the novel concepts by the end of each day.



We taught from 10.30 am to 4 pm each day, with a 40 minute lunch break. After this, we often played sports with the children—basketball, volleyball and traditional Indian games like Kho Kho—and sat down with them in classrooms for casual conversations. It was humbling to hear about their daily lives, which often include walking for more than an hour to reach school or holding great responsibilities for work within the family at a young age. Moreover, it was inspiring to hear about their aspirations, aiming to become doctors, lawyers and engineers or work as police officers. However, most of all, it was their curiosity that amazed me, asking questions about life in the UK, my family background, experiences of travelling in aeroplanes, and much more.

I would like to thank the Trinity Society for providing me with the funds to complete the volunteering trip. It has been a greatly fulfilling and enriching experience.





## Funding music at Trinity

**Benjamin Reynolds**, president of the Trinity College Music Society (TCMS), reports on a generous donation from the Trinity Society and its impact on the Music Society.

■ Members of the Music Society have long yearned for a more casual socio-music scene, and thanks to generous funding from the Trinity Society, a revolution has now happened!

We have been able to purchase some very reliable and specialised equipment for the Music Society—for example, a Yamaha 400BT PA System, with two large speakers and eight-channel mixer, accompanied with three Shure SM-58 microphones, microphone stands and XLR cables. To accompany this, we purchased some foldable and easy-to-store speaker stands, so that the sound can be better projected. This is the core of the entertainment system, a place to connect microphones for karaoke and open mic nights, as well as any electronic instruments.

We also were able to purchase instrumental goods, such as a small but punchy jazz drum kit, a powerful and rich guitar amplifier, and a light but deep digital keyboard and stand. These make up essential elements for any live music, allowing easy use of heavy and otherwise inconvenient things like amplifiers and drum kits. Along with this were the less glamorous, but equally important, leads and cables, a playback monitor and robust storage boxes. The best part is that it all neatly fits into the bar cupboard!

Hours were spent searching through quality, but affordable, equipment, reading reviews, watching tutorials

and learning a lot about music technology that I did not know before—and then many hours in the bar building the equipment. It feels worth the effort; we have hosted several gigs and open mics already, and it hasn't even been a term since it arrived! I think it must be viewed as a wonderful investment in student life at Trinity, now and for the future.

As president of TCMS, my role is to bring music to as many people in College as possible. Whether performing, organising concerts or providing other musical opportunities, there is always a keen demand from the student body to get involved. In addition to the bar gigs, the TCMS president's role includes responsibility for organising and overseeing the termly President's Concert in the de Jager Auditorium. It has been great to work as a team with Imogen Butler and Ella Machtynger, who play crucial roles on the committee. They tackle things like advertising, content creation, communication, and other general behind-the-scenes roles, as well as being fantastic performers in their own right. We are very pleased to have been able to put on two successful President's Concerts and many bar nights so far this year, which we hope continue to bring conviviality, entertainment and variety to members of College.

# A fulfilling season of events



## Any Questions?

On 10 January, Trinity hosted a packed audience for a live broadcast of BBC Radio 4's flagship current events panel show *Any Questions?* Joining host Alex Forsyth in the de Jager Auditorium were author and columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, conservative peer and *Times* columnist Lord Finkelstein, Labour MP and chair of the Treasury Select Committee Dame Meg Hillier, and Greg Swenson, chair of Republicans Overseas UK (a group for Republican Americans living in the UK).

In a typically feisty hour-long recording, the panel answered questions from audience members about the then US president-elect Donald Trump, Elon Musk, climate change, and Labour's economic policy. It was particularly pleasing that the audience included many members of the public who don't normally venture into College, as well as a large group of secondary school students invited to attend as part of Trinity's Outreach and Access work with local schools. Florence Reeves from Cherwell School in Oxford was one of those chosen to ask her question, about Labour's election pledge not to raise taxes. The programme is still available to listen to on BBC Sounds.

■ The programme of public events that brings members of college and the public together for a season of talks, performances and tours continues to go from strength to strength.

Michaelmas term speakers included the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, talking about the role of the court in ongoing conflicts such as Ukraine and Gaza; disaster response expert Lucy Easthope talking about the lessons learned and challenges ahead for the UK after major events, from Grenfell to the Covid pandemic; and performances from one of Britain's greatest pianists, Paul Lewis, performing Schubert's last three piano sonatas, and former BBC Young Musician of the Year cellist, Laura van der Heijden.

Hilary term saw a panel discussion on Brexit; 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' (see report opposite); the Richard Hillary Lecture, given by Pulitzer Prize-winner Cristina Rivera Garza; Honorary Fellow Judge Ted Meron in conversation with Baroness Kennedy KC; and the conversation between Antony Gormley and Simon Armitage (see page 6)—in addition to recitals by the Goldscheider Horn Trio, Mahan Esfahani, Elena Urioste and Tom Poster, and the Sitkovetsky Piano Trio.

## Keeping up with Events at Trinity

Join the Events at Trinity mailing list to receive advance information and reminders about Trinity's public programmes; over 250 people from across the UK and even internationally have signed up, and anyone with an interest in these events is encouraged to register to receive all the latest news on the recitals, talks and other events. Sign up at [trinity.ox.ac.uk/events-at-trinity](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/events-at-trinity)



# ‘Ping pong diplomacy’

Trinity was delighted to welcome Sirin Phathanothai to give one of the Trinity Talks in Hilary term. The daughter of a high-ranking Thai government advisor, as a child, Sirin was given by the Thai Government to China as a diplomatic goodwill offering, to be brought up as the ward of Premier Zhou Enlai. **Matt Wills (2009)** was in the audience.

**H**istory is experienced by different people in different ways. An axiom, perhaps, but one that is worth remembering when dealing with China under Mao.

Sirin Phathanothai’s story, told to a packed house, captivated me. Sent as a young girl to Beijing in the 1950s, a pawn in a grander diplomatic game, she experienced many different sides of China under Mao. As an international VIP, she was close to the centre of power—only a select few ever saw Mao swim in his private swimming pool!—and rubbed shoulders with the highest echelons of the Chinese Communist Party. She and her elder brother went to school in Beijing and came to call the city their home. Like many foreign residents, during the Cultural Revolution she became the victim of a cruel xenophobia, imprisoned in the basement of the Beijing Hotel and made to live for years believing that her brother had been shot.

Salvation came through the intervention of Premier Zhou Enlai, who used the normalizing of Sino-British relations in the early 1970s to arrange for her to have a new life in the UK. The evening mixed laughter and sadness, joy and despair. Trinitarians who could not attend are encouraged to read her memoir, *The Dragon’s Pearl* (1994).

Sitting and listening, I could not get the figure of Zhou Enlai out of my mind. His photograph was projected onto the accompanying screen throughout much of the evening, and he loomed large in Phathanothai’s story, as the man who befriended her as a child and, at significant personal risk, helped extract her from the hell of the Cultural Revolution. She spoke warmly of Zhou, as many people who met him still do.



Sirin Phathanothai talking to the President at the event in the de Jager Auditorium

Yet, the Zhou whom Phathanothai knew is so at odds with the Zhou emerging in revisionist historical writing. A member of the party from

**‘History needs telling through as many voices as possible. ...Phathanothai did this cause a great service.’**

its earliest years and the primary wielder of its administrative power, Zhou enabled some of the worst excesses of Maoism and stayed Mao’s faithful acolyte to the end, refusing multiple opportunities to rein in the Chairman and his ideological excesses. In the Cultural Revolution, Zhou presided over the purging of Liu Shaoqi (Mao’s former number two)

and tens of thousands of other cadres. Liu’s widow, Wang Guangmei, who was imprisoned for years as an ideological traitor, never forgave Zhou for his role in her husband’s demise. One did not stay on top in Mao’s China by being a ‘good guy’.

How do we square two jarringly different narratives? This is the challenge facing anyone who seeks to assess the history of the Mao era and the role played by its leading actors. In terms of Zhou, Chen Jian’s new biography, *Zhou Enlai: A Life* (2024), shows that the challenge gets ever harder as more information comes to light. In the meantime, history needs telling through as many voices as possible. By giving up an evening of her time to speak at Trinity, Phathanothai did this cause a great service.

# Archives update—and a call for volunteers!

One of the most remarkable documents in the Trinity Archive is an unprepossessing and battered notebook, in which the former Ancient History tutor James Holladay kept his ‘Top Secret’ record of his part in the D-Day landings of June 1944. The scrawled daily entries give a vivid and highly personal account of the invasion through the eyes of a junior officer in the Royal Artillery: the excitement, terror, drama, friendships, tedium—the sheer awfulness, in all senses—of war. The diary begins on 31 May 1944 and continues until 6 November, when James ran out of pages, by which time he and his men had fought their way as far as Brussels.

James’s diary was featured in the 2024 summer Newsletter, as Trinity marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day. But it was badly in need of conservation, its paper weak and brittle and many of the pages damaged or detached. Through the college’s membership of the Oxford Conservation Consortium, the diary has now been expertly restored to a stable and handleable condition. For obvious reasons, it remains very fragile and to reduce the stress of too much usage it has also been fully digitised. If you would like to read James’s war experiences for yourself, the diary is now available on the Archive page on the college website.

Recognising the historical importance of this document, it is hoped to produce a full transcript of the diary with a view to possible future publication, and to help in this project the Archive is looking for volunteers to take responsibility for transcribing a number of pages each. James’s writing is not difficult to read, although as we would expect, he regularly uses army jargon and various acronyms. If you are interested in getting involved in the transcription project, please do get in touch.

In the next Newsletter it is planned to feature some of the Archive’s records of how Trinity marked the end of the Second World War and commemorated the college’s fallen. We would particularly welcome anecdotes or material from family collections relating to this significant period in Trinity’s history.

Clare Hopkins, Archivist



## The challenge of conserving James Holladay’s diary

Emma Skinner – Library and Archives Conservator

■ The Oxford Conservation Consortium (OCC) was established in 1990. It has a staff of eight conservators working for 16 member colleges, and specialises in the care of rare book and archive collections.

Many different archival documents arrive on our benches. A recent treasure, from Trinity’s archive, was a plain-looking exercise book that within its fragile pages held fascinating written entries and drawings from James Holladay’s war diary, recording his experience as an officer in the Royal Artillery during the Allied Invasion of Normandy.

The diary had extensive damage, which reflected its use and travels at sea, but prevented the item from being accessed and exhibited. The paper text block was fragile, some pages had been pulled out, some leaves now lost completely and others placed loosely back inside a binding which was inherently weak.

Once paginated, the notebook was prepared for digitisation, hidden text was uncovered and any tears which would impede safe handling were repaired. Following imaging, the notebook was sensitively conserved. Tears which were at risk of getting worse were stabilised, detaching covering material was adhered back into place and any loose leaves were secured to prevent loss. Lastly, it was given a bespoke archival box for additional protection.

The diary proved both fascinating and challenging to work on in terms of conservation decision-making. A careful balance had to be found between intervention to prevent further loss, which would preserve the object for future generations, and ensuring crucial evidence of its remarkable story was left in place in recognition that its damage is a significant part of its history.

Top: The diary being conserved by Book and Paper Conservator Emma Skinner

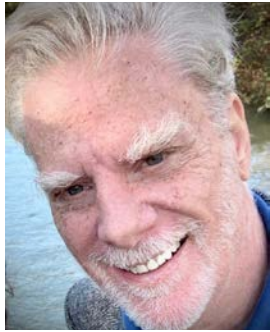
Inset: Paper repairs being undertaken to the loose leaves prior to being secured back into the volume





# Gatsby at Trinity

**Roger Michel (1984, Sir Thomas Pope Fellow)** writes on the centenary of *The Great Gatsby*, and its connection to Trinity.



**T**his year is bursting with cultural milestones: the centenaries of Snoopy, movies (well, talkies anyway), and the iconic VW Beetle. Add to that list another important anniversary: the 100th birthday of F Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*. *Gatsby's* celebration of unabashed greed, social ambition, and nostalgia for lost days that

never were plucks all the strings that collectively define the American character. It is also a book with an intimate connection to Trinity.

As Fitzgerald's novel relates, Jay Gatsby claims that, after serving with distinction in the First World War, he matriculated at Oxford, and he produces as evidence a photograph of himself with friends 'in the Quad' of Trinity College. It was a not uncommon occurrence in the immediate post-war years—three recently demobbed American servicemen did indeed come to Trinity in 1919.



Presidential appeal: the President and Michael Beloff KC (President 1996-2006) were among the visitors to the exhibition in the SCR curated by the Archivist, Clare Hopkins

One American Trinitarian was the Pulitzer Prize-winning New England poet Robert Coffin, who spent a year at Trinity as a Rhodes Scholar in 1916-17 and then returned after the war. Coffin had been Fitzgerald's classmate at Princeton and the two were members of the same dining club. They may have crossed paths during Fitzgerald's trip to Oxford in 1921.

Could Coffin, or perhaps someone in his circle at Trinity, have been the model for Jay Gatsby?

Another candidate might be Leeds Armstrong Wheeler, one of the American officers who matriculated in 1919. As the image shown here illustrates, Wheeler was every bit the 'sturdy straw-haired man...with a hard mouth, arrogant eyes, and powerful body' described by Tom Buchanan in *Gatsby*.



Above: Leeds Armstrong Wheeler (1919), photographed shortly after his arrival at Trinity

Top left: Roger Michel

## Anniversary events

Many tantalising possibilities and more are being explored in a series of exhibitions and lectures at Trinity and in New York. An exhibition at Trinity, curated by archivist Clare Hopkins, included a collection of photographs taken by one of these extraordinary young Trinitarians, just months removed from the trenches. Also being featured is range of bibliophilic materials connected with the first publication of *The Great Gatsby*.

Besides the exhibition, the Trinity events have included a reception and lecture, and a film screening on 10 April—the exact centenary of the publication of *Gatsby*. On the US side, events included a special Trinity alumni event with Dame Hilary on 9 April, at Boston's Club of Odd Volumes, featuring a talk by Fitzgerald scholar George Preble and a reception and lecture by best-selling author Jay McInerney at the Metropolitan Club in New York on 17 May. The Trinity Players are celebrating the centenary with a stage adaptation of the novel as this year's Lawns Play—news of that and the Trinity archive exhibition can be found on the website.

# EVENTS

**A**s summer drew to a close, the first event of 2024-25 was a visit by the President and Director of Development Sue Broers to Singapore, for two very enjoyable events with Old Members and Friends.

The first, much-anticipated event for Old Members in the refurbished Hall, following its reopening over the summer, was the Trinity Weekend in September, which was very well attended by alumni from a wide range of years—the most senior being from 1957 and the youngest from 2023. It was lovely to see Hall full again and everyone was struck by the difference that the refurbishment has made.



Above: the President speaking to Old Members and Friends in Singapore, at an event generously hosted by Hian Goh (1994); below: enjoying the archive exhibition at the Gaudy for 2011-13



Hot on the heels of the Weekend was the first Gaudy back in Hall, for those who matriculated between 2011 and 2013. It was great to see some of our more recent alumni return to College and many current Fellows were also able to come along and catch up with their former students.

In October, we welcomed the new Freshers with the usual Matriculation Brunch. This was followed by the William Pitt Society Lunch, to thank those who have included Trinity in their wills, with a fascinating talk beforehand from DPhil student Catharina Savelkoul on her research

## Events in 2025

Details of events in the coming months and the 2024-25 Programme of Events can be found on the inside back cover.

into 'Pathways to General Practice' for medical graduates.

In November there was the first Benefactors Lunch, when we were treated to another compelling pre-lunch talk, this time from DPhil student Jack Warburton on his research into 'Governance in the British Drugs

Trade'. Then the President, Sue Broers and Sarah Jenkinson made their way to Newcastle for a lovely dinner at Neville Hall (the home of the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers)—just a short walk from the central station. This was a stunning venue, and despite problems with the trains, everyone made it in the end!

Just returned from the North, it was time to travel to London for the Informal London drinks, well-attended as usual and a great chance for Old Members from all years to mingle and connect.

Many Old Members returned for Louis Mahadevan's last and much enjoyed Biochemistry Dinner.

The term ended with the popular annual Carol Services. The choir sang beautifully, and it was another welcome return to festive refreshments in Hall after each service.

Hilary term was a bit quieter with the second Benefactors Lunch, and another opportunity to hear Jack's talk, followed by the Engineering Dinner and finally a Gaudy for those matriculating between 1966 and 1973; the first one with after dinner drinks back in the Beer Cellar rather than the Café. Everything is almost back to 'normal' in Trinity now, just the work in the gardens to complete, ready for some summer garden events.



# Old Members' news

## **John Tepper Marlin (1962)**

whose translation and edition of Erik Schapp's *Under Nazi Noses* (Boissevain Books) was published last year, was pleased to see it not only listed in the Best 100 Indie Books of the Year in *Kirkus Reviews* (a US book review magazine, annually reviewing over 10,000 titles), but that it was also one of three books to be mentioned in the opening sentence of the Indie introduction, to illustrate the wide array of subjects and styles featured. *Under Nazi Noses* is a biography of Walraven Van Hall, a central figure in the Dutch Resistance during the Second World War.

## **Chris Hall (1963)**

—his book *Materials: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP) has now been translated into Arabic. His co-authored review of water vapour permeability, published in 2024 in the RILEM (International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems and Structures, from the initials in French) flagship journal *Materials & Structures*, was selected for an Outstanding Paper Award. Up to ten outstanding papers—out of a total of 247 papers in 2024—that exemplify the highest standards of scientific excellence across all RILEM fields of research are chosen by the board of editors.

**Jeremy Ingpen (1968)** has completed a PhD in Orthodox Theology at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge. The title of his thesis is, 'The Face is the Prophecy of the Kingdom: An introduction to the work of Olivier Clément'.

**Robert Dawson Scott (1975)** has recently been awarded a PhD in Management and Organisation Studies at the University of Edinburgh. His subject was how Edinburgh managed to sustain itself as an important financial centre for the best part of three centuries despite obvious disadvantages of scale, location, political influence and the relative modesty of its manufacturing or trading base.



**Lyn Mayes (Dodd, 1980)** was awarded the King's Service Medal in the 2025 New Year's Honours list in New Zealand, for services to conservation (pictured, above, with The Governor General of New Zealand, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro).

For more than three decades, Lyn has worked to promote better sustainable practices for businesses, both in the UK and New Zealand. She was a member of the Auckland Conservation Board from 2014, serving three terms and becoming its chair in 2016. Under her leadership, the board worked to build its public presence and grow its advocacy in public arenas. Through her consultancy, Lyn works with New Zealand corporates to introduce greater sustainability into their business models.

**Paul Browne (1978)** graduated at a ceremony at the Sheldonian in March, receiving an MSc (with Merit) in Applied Landscape Archaeology, having studied part-time at Kellogg College.

**Bridget Khursheed (Hobbs, 1984)** has published her latest collection of poetry, *Exact Colour of Snow* (Shearsman Books, 2025). Her poem 'Standing on top of the National Museum of Scotland' was included in the Scottish Poetry Library best Scottish poems list of 2022. Since 2023 she has been the co-chair of the nexo ATM protocol technical working group (international payment acceptance standards) while continuing in her day job as global head of documentation at KAL ATM Software.

**Roger Michel (1984, Honorary Fellow)** opened the last October's annual TEDx event in Athens with his talk, 'Deus ex Machina:

finding inspiration in iteration', which is available to watch on YouTube.

**Jon Pike (1984)** is now Professor of Philosophy at the Open University.

**Huw van Steenis (1988)** was recognised in the *Wall St Journal's Financial News* inaugural list of Most Influential in European Finance, the publication's pick of leaders across the sectors it covers who are making their mark and helping to shape their respective fields.

**Shehan Hettiaratchy (1988)** was awarded an OBE in the 2025 New Year Honours list for services to the UK's emergency health response overseas.

**Deborah Lyon (Done, 1990)** has published *The Timewaif Chronicles: Timewaif and the Roman Road* (Troubadour, 2024), a children's novel set both in Roman and modern times, it is packed with adventure and action, as well as tackling some of the real problems children face including bullying, racism, grief and taking on the role of carer for parents. Deborah explains, 'The book was inspired by a visit to the ruins of the Roman fort Galava, and



Deborah Lyon



## Recognition for a startup success

■ **Hoony Lee (2017)** has won a British Council Study UK Alumni Award in the Business and Innovation category at an award ceremony in Korea. The awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of international UK alumni in 23 countries, ahead of global awards in four categories later in the year.

Hoony, who undertook a Master's of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, is founder of a startup called Majormap, which uses AI to reduce the social cost stemming from career information asymmetry that, despite advanced technology and globally open markets, sees many people failing to benefit from these developments.

As a soldier, following the Iraq War, Hoony was tasked with

supporting rehabilitation works in ruined villages, which later inspired him to get a job with the Korea International Cooperation Agency's Palestine office, where one project was the construction of a youth education centre, underscoring for him the profound impact of educational initiatives.

Hoony won a full scholarship to the Blavatnik School of Government, where he learned from those applying theory to international development practice, including Sir Paul Collier (1967, Honorary Fellow).

While career education has become increasingly important in Korea, as industries have changed rapidly with recent technological advancements, there are not enough career advisors in schools for the number of students. Hoony realised that an edtech startup could help, and he started

Majormap with an AI driven service offering a personalised career design solution. Over 20 per cent of high school students now use Majormap to find career information such as majors, jobs, and related information. Winning a number of awards, it has become the number one data-driven career guidance solution in Korea, with 537,000 users in just four years, and is preparing to enter the global market with UK and US versions.

Hoony has described his learning and experience in the UK as enabling him to establish a business that creates sustainable value by leveraging technology in the education industry with social impact. 'My experience studying public policy in the UK, where the edtech industry is the most developed in the world, has equipped me with the skills and knowledge I need to run a successful startup in the education sector, where public and private efforts are crucial.'

seeing the tombstone of a man called Flavius in a local museum. His tombstone describes how he was killed in a raid on the fort, but with no more information. I started to wonder how Flavius had died, constructing stories in my head, and began researching Roman Britain in Cumbria. From there the idea of a time-slip novel moving between modern Cumbria and its ancient counterpart came into being, with a young lad struggling with life on the west coast finding out about his own inner strength and resilience through experiences in this ancient period of history.'

**Domenico Maiorano (1991)** was, in March last year, appointed director of the Molecular Bases of Human Diseases department at the Institute of Human Genetics of Montpellier, a CNRS-University of Montpellier research unit.

**Paul Walmsley (1992)** writes, 'I've been working for Steinberg Media GmbH for 12 years now, mostly developing Dorico, the next generation music notation and composition software. Most recently I've been integrating the Dorico engine into Cubase for the new Score Editor, with a particular interest in novel voice separation and quantization algorithms. I'm currently in the MIDI.org working group to establish the future development of MIDI files, which have been a staple of electronic music for 40 years.'

**Adam Timlett (1994)** writes, 'I've recently published a book, *On the Origin of Risk*, which spans two genres, management/economics and popular science. It explains, in an accessible way, how to leverage our knowledge of the new biology of the last



20 years in order to better manage risk, especially as organisations. I claim that we would do well to understand our real options for managing risk when facing the unique challenges and uncertainties of the 21st

century, and that nature has undertaken 4.5 billion years of R&D from which we can learn. It contains original research and has been edited and researched with the assistance of academic experts in computational and systems biology. The book is published for free on my website ([turingmeta.org](http://turingmeta.org)) in PDF



and Epub formats, as it contains original research that I would have ensured would be open access if published in an academic journal.'

**Rob George (2002)** was appointed as King's Counsel in the 2025 list. He continues to work as professor of law at University College London alongside his practice at the Bar.

**Henning Bühmann (2003)** received, in November 2024, a Master of Philosophy in Theology at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo.

**Seth Johnston (2003)** has been promoted to full colonel in the US Army. He is on diplomatic assignment in Belgium supporting the US Mission to the European Union, and remains a visiting professor of international relations at Heidelberg University. His latest publication is a chapter in *The Oxford Handbook on NATO*, now available from OUP.

**Caroline Ritchie (2014)** has published *William Blake* (Tate Publishing, 2024), an introductory guide to the world of William Blake, richly illustrated with colour plates. The book can be ordered from bookstores across the UK.

**Siam Rahman (2018)** writes, 'I've started an Outreach Podcast funded by Trinity Hall in Cambridge. At Oxford we ran a student-led podcast called "Oxford from the Inside"; subsequently we have called this new podcast I'm working on, "Cambridge from the Inside". Both can be found on YouTube and Instagram.'

**Victor Seidel** (Fellow in Management Studies 2003-2013) was invited to give the morning prayers address on Remembrance Day at Harvard, where he has a visiting appointment. For the occasion he chose to read 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon (1888). While at Trinity, Binyon won the University's Newdigate Prize for poetry; later in life he spent a year at Harvard, in 1933,

serving as Norton Professor of Poetry, so it seemed a fitting connection to read Binyon's classic piece at Harvard's Memorial Church. The church had opened the year before Binyon arrived at Harvard, and it was itself a memorial 'for the fallen' of the First World War. Victor made sure to wear a Trinity tie for the occasion.



Victor Seidel pictured with the service's officiant Kelley Woehl in the Harvard Memorial Church

## Fellowship funding for PhD research



■ **Swathi Srinivasan (2021)** has won funding to pursue a PhD in Population Health Sciences at Harvard University from a major US fellowship programme, the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. The fellowships provide merit-based funding for immigrants and children of immigrants to the USA

who are poised to make significant contributions to US culture, society and academia.

Swathi, whose parents emigrated from India to the United States for graduate study in the sciences, was born in Ohio. As a high school student, she conducted award-winning research into micronutrients in Indian spices and the prevention of Alzheimer's disease. Studying social studies and history of science at Harvard, she focussed on understanding the origins and impacts of inequity and injustice on health outcomes, particularly among people who use drugs and people living with, or at risk of, HIV/AIDS. Swathi conducted research on the overdose crisis response in Ohio and Portugal, and also explored health equity

efforts through internships, including at the UN and the White House. She also worked with fellow students to found HCOPES (Harvard College Overdose Prevention and Education Students), to educate community members on overdose prevention.

Swathi came to Trinity as a Rhodes Scholar to take an MPhil in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, researching US involvement in South Africa's HIV/AIDS response. After completing the MPhil, Swathi received a year-long grant from the Rhodes Trust to document the global overdose response, which took her to over 15 countries across four continents. She is currently an AmeriCorps (the US federal agency for national service and volunteering) Fellow in overdose prevention at Boston Health Care for the Homeless, where she supports unhoused people through harm reduction, health education, and case management.

Swathi is one of 30 fellows chosen from over 2,600 applicants from across the United States. The fellows receive up to \$90,000 toward their graduate studies, and represent the remarkable contributions of immigrants and children of immigrants across fields like medicine, law, engineering, the arts, public service, and science. Established in 1998, the Fellowship is a non-partisan programme that has supported over 835 fellows from 103 countries, many of whom have gone on to transform industries, advance knowledge, and strengthen communities in the United States.

# Marriages

**Laura Kyte (2004)** to Martyn Rogers, on 20 August 2024, at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury, Worcestershire. Frances Hedges, Catherine Weston and Babette Tegldal (all 2004) attended. *(Pictured below)*

**Richard Williams (2006)** to Richard Hong, on 14 September 2024, in Brighton.

**Hannah Berry** to **Conrad Bannister (both 2015)**, on 24 August 2024, at Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury, Wiltshire. Many Trinity friends were present, from as far afield as America and Germany. Hannah Owen (2015) and Alice Jackson (2016) were bridesmaids. Ben Coker, Morgan Elsmore, Sam Smith, Jamie Strachan, Henry Tan (all 2015) and Freddie Follows (2016) were groomsmen. *(Pictured top, Hannah and Conrad with their Trinity wedding guests)*

**Charlotte Smith**, Chef de Partie, to Dan Case, on 10 August 2024, in Trinity Chapel *(pictured right)*. Charlotte was given away by her father, Julian Smith, Head Chef



# Deaths

The college has learned, with sadness, of the following deaths:

**Anthony Gande (1955)**, on 27 March 2025

**The Revd David Handel Hamer (1964)**, in April 2025

**Professor Christopher John Hookway (1967)**, on 21 October 2024

**Richard Stuart 'Dick' Goodall (1969)**, on 9 April 2025

**Richard Lawrence Nathan (1971)**, on 19 April 2025

**Anthony Ian De Watteville (1972)**, on 2 January 2025

*Offers to contribute obituaries (up to 300 words) for the **Report**, or assist with information, would be very welcome: please email [report@trinity.ox.ac.uk](mailto:report@trinity.ox.ac.uk).*

# Births

To **Emma Sillett**, Librarian, and Richard, on 1 October 2024, twin daughters, Phoebe Rose and Zoë Beatrice.



# 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](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/events). Please email Sarah Jenkinson (contact details below) with any event enquiries.



## Ralph Bathurst Society Dinner

Saturday 21 June

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

## President's Farewell Garden Party

Sunday 22 June

Book online at [trinity.ox.ac.uk/event/presidents-farewell-garden-party](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/event/presidents-farewell-garden-party)

## Fifty Plus Years On Lunch

Tuesday 24 June

For all who matriculated up to and including 1975, invitations were sent out in March.

## Gaudy 2001–2003

Saturday 28 June

Only a few places left, book online at [trinity.ox.ac.uk/events/gaudy-2001-2003](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/events/gaudy-2001-2003)

## Trinity Weekend

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 September

Return to College for one of the first opportunities to meet the new president Sir Robert Chote.

Book online at [trinity.ox.ac.uk/event/trinity-weekend](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/event/trinity-weekend)

## Gaudy up to and including 1965

Saturday 27 September

Book online at [trinity.ox.ac.uk/gaudyupto1965](http://trinity.ox.ac.uk/gaudyupto1965)

## William Pitt Society Lunch

Saturday 18 October

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

Invitations will be sent in the summer.

## London Reception

Thursday 23 October 2025



Join us for an evening event at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole St, to meet the new president, Sir Robert Chote.

Booking details will be circulated in the summer.

## Benefactors Lunch 1

Saturday 7 November

The first of two lunches (the second will be in February 2026) for Old Members and Friends who have been major supporters of the college's fundraising during the last financial year (August 2024 – July 2025). Invitations will be sent in the summer to those who are eligible.

## Carol Service

Saturday 6 December



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

Booking will open over the summer.

# Contact us

Trinity College, Oxford,  
OX1 3BH

## Alumni & Development Office

+44 (0)1865 279 933

### Director of Development

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

### Development Officer

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

### Alumni Relations Officer

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

### Alumni & Events Officer

[sarah.jenkinson@trinity.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:academic.administrator@trinity.ox.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)1865 279 910

## Conferences, Dinners & Functions

[conference@trinity.ox.ac.uk](mailto:conference@trinity.ox.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)1865 279 888

## Website

[www.trinity.ox.ac.uk](http://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk)  
[f](#) TrinityOxfordAlumni  
[b](#) @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](http://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk)

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