NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017
The last time I wrote a valedictory—from the diplomatic service—it led to questions in Parliament and the abolition of the practice. I’m hoping the shock waves will be more attenuated on this occasion.

Eleven years as Trinity’s president may make me the longest-serving head since Arthur Norrington, of tabular memory, but the average tenure of my twenty-six predecessors is nearer twenty years than ten. Still a decade is an appropriate time to look back to see how the college has developed in that time. I like to think, not too fancifully I hope, that the balance has been largely positive. Academically, we have appeared in the top five of Sir Arthur’s eponymous table twice in the last three years and this year have achieved thirty Firsts out of eight-two finalists. Our graduates are an ever more important part of the college and the breadth and depth of their research inspire awe.

The Fellowship too has refreshed and rejuvenated itself, pushed our students to their maximum potential and attracted prizes and grants on an epic scale for individual Fellows’ research efforts. When I arrived in Trinity, not one of our tutorial Fellows was female. As I leave, there are now half a dozen. Temporarily absenting themselves from libraries and laboratories, our students have harvested a rich haul of Blues, notably in rowing and rugby, but across the board winning cuppers in sports as diverse as tennis, dance sport and skiing. The chapel choir has produced three CDs in my time and swollen in size to the extent that there have been waiting lists at times. The orchestra has consistently produced works of the highest order. The Trinity Players’ lawns plays continue to be the benchmark for Oxford college garden theatre. Given my successor’s background, music and drama cannot fail to move on to greater heights. And one of our Honorary Visiting Fellows, the world-famous violinist, Maxim Vengerov, has promised me, as a farewell gift, to give a fund-raising recital in the next academic year for Trinity’s new building.

It has, however, been a personal disappointment that the new building, which I mentioned as a highly desirable objective when interviewed for the post of president, has been so slow to, well, materialise. We have not had much luck so far with the city planners. While the new building remains unfinished business, the comprehensive renovation of the chapel has been a triumph for all those who worked so superbly to bring the project in on time and on budget and of such a standard as to garner architectural prizes. In this as in so many areas, the college is hugely indebted to the ever-wider group of Old Members and Friends of the college who have given so generously. Thanks to their support the college has been able to increase its endowment significantly, enabling us to offer bursaries and scholarships, endow fellowships and fund building projects like the chapel and the new building.

None of this could have been achieved without a colossal team effort. I have been extraordinarily fortunate to have for virtually the whole of my time here, two bursars, Kevin Knott and John Keeling, who have also retired this year. They have worked selflessly and tirelessly to put the college on a far healthier financial footing than it has ever managed since its foundation and to ease the burden on me of presiding enormously. I am truly grateful. The college officers—Bursars, Chaplain, Senior Tutor and Director of Development—are of course only the tip of the iceberg. We have the most admired, envied even, kitchens in Oxford, but all parts of the college have contributed to the development, whether it be the hall, accommodation, alumni...
and development, academic, maintenance, bursarial, library and archive, garden, IT, or lodge staff. A more loyal, hard-working team would be hard to find. Many unsung heroes and heroines.

One heroine who shall remain unsung no longer is my PA, Ulli Parkinson, whose retirement coincides with mine. She has saved me from my own disorganization, countless potential diary clashes, made sense of my often illiterate scrawls and mumbled instructions. She has also been an outstanding secretary to Governing Body. I don’t know how I’ll manage without her. I do know that Trinity will manage without me. It’s been a memorable special events during his time, the highlight undoubtedly being the Mansion House Dinner in 2013.

As for sport, Sir Ivor will be remembered for championing rowing and rugby in Trinity, and he is justifiably proud that during his time at the helm, the student body has included more than one Olympic rower, and a rugby player who has played in a record number of Varsity Matches. His commitment to sport has been evident across the collegiate University, where he has been an enthusiastic president of OURFC, chairman of Vincent’s trustees and Senior Member of the University Golf Club.

This gives no more than a flavour of Sir Ivor’s work as president. As he wrote in 2016, when he talked about how the college selects its president, he has chaired innumerable meetings of college and university committees; met students at collections, listened to them in the choir and orchestra, watched them on the stage, the river and the sports field; interviewed applicants for fellowships and other posts, and been involved in fundraising.

Although much of his time has been taken up with college and university business in one form or another, Sir Ivor has not neglected his writing. In addition to regular contributions to the Tablet, the Independent and other publications, he was the editor of, and major contributor to, new editions of Satow’s Diplomatic Practice (2009 and 2016) and he published, in Serbian and English versions, Conversations with Milošević.

The college is sad to bid farewell to such a president and wishes Sir Ivor and Lady Roberts health and happiness in their retirement.

SIR IVOR ROBERTS, KCMG

FAREWELL TO SIR IVOR

Before the arrival of a new president, there is always a certain amount of speculation about how the incomer will differ from the previous incumbent, and this was certainly the case when Sir Ivor followed Michael Beloff in 2006. In fact, it soon became clear that they shared a great many similarities, not least their belief that the importance of Oxford and all that an Oxford education can offer should be protected and celebrated, their enthusiasm to engage with Old Members and Friends, and their shared passion for sport, albeit different sports.

Looking back at the pieces Sir Ivor has written during his tenure, his belief in the importance of Oxford has been amply demonstrated by his willingness to address topical, if difficult, subjects that have an impact on higher education in general, and Oxford and Trinity in particular. He has focussed on undergraduate tuition fees, the growing importance of graduates, and Brexit, to name just a few of his themes.

Sir Ivor’s willingness to engage with Old Members can be seen if one looks at the events he has attended, not only in College, but in places as wide-ranging as, amongst others, Edinburgh and Exeter, San Francisco and Boston, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney, Madrid and Berlin. Wherever he and Lady Roberts have gone, they have received a warm welcome and have ensured that Old Members and Friends who are geographically far from Oxford feel connected with, and important to, the college. Closer to home, Sir Ivor instituted the annual ‘Fifty Plus Years On’ lunch, which has been popular from the start, and there have been several very

privilege, an honour and a real pleasure. I’m confident that Hilary Boulding will take the college on to a new level as it continues to move gracefully towards its first half-millennium in 2055. Barring some miracle of medical science, I won’t be here to witness it but I hope then to look down (or up) with affection, admiration and nostalgia.

Sir Ivor and Lady Roberts with the college tortoises, Toby and Plum

Barring some miracle of medical science, I won’t be here to witness it but I hope then to look down (or up) with affection, admiration and nostalgia.
HILARY BOULDING WRITES

Hilary Boulding, who will take over the presidency of Trinity on 1 August, as this Newsletter is being printed, was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire in The Queen’s Birthday Honours list. The award recognises her services to education and culture in Wales, where she is currently Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Members of Trinity were delighted to learn of the award and congratulate the incoming president.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, I hope to be settling into the Lodgings and learning my way around College. One of the things that has struck me, as I spent time since my election getting to know Trinity a little better, is the closeness of the relationship that evidently exists between Old Members, Friends and those in Trinity now. I look forward to building upon that during the course of my presidency. I have been so touched to receive letters from Old Members offering their own warm welcome and I’m particularly grateful to my distinguished predecessors, Sir Ivor Roberts and Michael Beloff, for their support as I have prepared for the role.

A few words of introduction. For almost ten years, I have served as Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, nearly as long as Sir Ivor has served as Trinity’s president. The college is Wales’s National Conservatoire and has around 700 students studying on Undergraduate and Master’s courses. In addition to providing training for aspiring professionals in the music and drama industries, the Royal Welsh College is a major cultural provider, presenting over 500 public performances a year. In recent years we delivered a landmark building housing a theatre, a beautiful concert hall and purpose-built rehearsal studios, which have completely transformed the opportunities for students.

There are undoubted similarities with Trinity—these are both institutions dedicated to nurturing committed and high-achieving students within a supportive community. But I have no doubt that the differences will be equally striking. I am looking forward to discovering the unique qualities of Trinity’s community and, in the coming months, to meeting as many Old Members and Friends of the college as possible, as well as engaging with the collegiate University.

HILARY BOULDING

PUBLICATIONS PAGES

A new page has been added to the college website that showcases publications by members of Trinity. There is a searchable listing of authors, with each entry giving details of their work. It is hoped the page will give a good idea of the variety and extent of the literary and academic output of those who have studied or who teach or work at Trinity.

Anyone wishing to have a book included on the webpage should send details by email to thomas.knollys@trinity.ox.ac.uk, including full title, publisher and month and year of publication, with a description for use in the entry and any links to related websites and reviews, preferably also with a photograph of the author and of the front cover of each publication to be listed.
KEVIN KNOTT

‘Thank you and farewell. It’s been a blast!’

With 20:20 hindsight, whilst I thought that I knew what I was doing when I became Estates Bursar in 2006, my time here and the role that I have actually fulfilled have proved to be so much more challenging, rewarding and personally enjoyable than I could have possibly imagined would be the case.

It nearly goes without saying that the academic Fellows have confirmed again and again that not only are they amongst the leaders globally in their various fields, they are, on the basis of innumerable comments from their students, amongst the most committed tutors. During one period, congratulating Fellows on their highly regarded prizes seemed to consume more time than anything else. But then who would have thought that a Physics Fellow would not just send me an email titled ‘Fleas with gears’ on the ‘functional gears in the ballistic jumping movements of the flightless planthopper insect’, but follow it up with another on ‘Maze-solving by an amoeboid organism’?

The former Chemistry Fellow’s delightful rhyming couplets at the retirement event for some of his colleagues is permanently etched in my memory.

Although my role did not involve substantial interaction with students, meeting and helping students, whether with financial or any other issues, has undoubtedly been one of its most pleasurable aspects. The variety of projects and initiatives has been wonderful—ranging from a (successful) production of Schubert’s Fierrabras in the Taylorian, to an ingenious (but unsuccessful!) justification for allowing an absinthe bar at the recent Ball—and undoubtedly kept me on my toes. And I could not have been more pleased to become the Senior Member of the Boat Club in 2013. The commitment and particularly the enthusiasm of the rowers was a wonderful fillip on very occasional days when the ‘day job’ was especially challenging. It helped that the college has regularly and materially punched above its weight.

I do not now recollect being told that I was going to be responsible for the Alumni and Development Office when I applied to be Estates Bursar, but it turned out to be another delightful experience until I passed on the baton to Sue Broers in 2013. It has truly been a pleasure getting to know some of the alumni and, through them, learning about how Trinity evolved over the second half of the twentieth century. In my early days, when creating en suite accommodation was high on the college’s agenda, I was confounded to be told, I think in all seriousness, by an older Old Member that it was completely unnecessary: ‘they are only up for eight weeks’. More seriously, I remain in awe of the goodwill to the college that has been manifest in the extraordinary generosity of Old Members. It has been said before but it cannot be said enough: it simply would not have been possible to do everything that has been done over the last eleven years without the incredible philanthropy of Old Members and Friends of the college. Trinity is fortunate to have such support.

I cannot sign off without expressing my sincere gratitude to the staff with whom I have worked and who have been so supportive—and, I have to say, incredibly tolerant. The college that the Fellows, lecturers, Old Members and other visitors enjoy so much simply would not exist without the contribution of each and every member of the staff.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve Trinity and I wish it nothing but the very best for the future.

NEW ESTATES BURSAR

The college has elected Chris Ferguson as the new Estates Bursar.

He comes to the college from the Englefield Estate, where he is currently Finance Director, with roles in both investment and land management. Chris has a passion for education, and has been a governor at King Alfred’s Academy, Wantage, and Director of the Vale Academy Trust since 2012. He has been keenly involved in sport throughout his career, having been Regional Financial Director for the Jockey Club and Financial Director of Gloucester Rugby.

Chris Ferguson takes up the position of Estates Bursar on 1 September.
Professor Jonathan Mallinson, Caroline de Jager Fellow and Tutor in French, retires at the end of this academic year. Clive Griffin and María del Pilar Blanco, former and current tutors in Spanish, pay tribute to him on his retirement.

**Clive Griffin**

I worked with Jonathan for over twenty years from his election as our Fellow in French in 1989. I could not have had a better colleague, for he is humane and wise, as well as being one of the most honest people I have been fortunate enough to know.

He has worked enormously hard for his undergraduates, graduates, the college (there can be few college offices he has not held), our Faculty, the University (as Proctor and much more) and the international community of scholars of French, his diplomatic skills often being called upon to deal with intractable or delicate matters.

Jonathan came to Trinity from Cambridge where I believe (characteristically, he has never told me) he gained the top First of his year, going on to research seventeenth-century French comedy and gaining experience of tutoring a wide range of French literature as a Fellow of Pembroke College. A first-rate literary critic, at Oxford he has developed an international reputation as an expert on the eighteenth century, and in that field has not only produced fine scholarship of his own but, as editor of *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* (yet another task cheerfully taken on for the common good), published a volume a month.

Perhaps eccentrically, one of the times of the year I most looked forward to at Trinity was undergraduate admissions that come at the end of the busy Michaelmas term. We would share interviews of most candidates, and I was invariably struck by the way Jonathan led them to surprise themselves by how much they discovered in a passage of literary French. Each year I would go away inspired to read more French literature. But the lasting memory of those hectic days and nights working closely together is of laughter.

May that good cheer deservedly fill a long retirement.

**María del Pilar Blanco**

My first interaction with Jonathan was nerve-racking, for obvious reasons: he was a member of the interview panel for the fellowship in Spanish at Trinity, the post that Clive Griffin was to vacate after over thirty years. With a rather inscrutable look on his face, Jonathan asked me about Prelims teaching, and when I was done answering the question, the inscrutable stare continued. I was so convinced of my spectacular failure at that point in the interview that, feeling a bit mortified about this Mallinson character, I went back home to London thinking I’d ruined my chances of getting the job. How wrong I was about the interview and the man.

Some months later, though, when I had my first meeting with the Modern Languages students, I got to see Jonathan interacting with them in a way that recalled that moment in my interview (I secretly commiserated with them). Jonathan has a way of asking you a question, and when you begin to answer, he sits still, hands steepled in front of his face. When you’re done speaking, he takes a few moments that seem like centuries, and then a crisp, beautifully formulated answer comes out—one that is also so warm and thoughtful. That is, of course, unless you’ve said something he finds hilarious, and you get to witness one of the most wonderful and disarming laughs ever heard.

Jonathan has been many things to me in the five years I’ve been his colleague. For one, he has been the best mentor I will ever have. I’ve sought out his brilliance, integrity, and wisdom over many a situation, professional and personal. An absolute humanist, his views are clear and free of bias. He loves literature, and this comes through in every conversation, every admissions interview.

As someone who became a mother recently, I’ve admired how Jonathan balances the many demands Oxford places on a tutor alongside a loving family life (in his case, sometimes this means being theatre manager at the Holywell Music Room for a night). Jonathan inspires the utmost respect and affection in staff, students, and academics, and yet he is tremendously humble and unassuming. I think ‘missing’ doesn’t quite describe how I’ll feel when he retires. My duty (and that of our incoming French tutor, Katherine Ibbett) will be to continue the legacy of this quiet legend of a man.
NEWS

HONORARY DEGREE

Dame Frances Ashcroft, Professorial Fellow in Physiology, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Lund in June. She is pictured, with the top hat and scroll awarded at the ceremony, alongside the bombardier, who fires a cannon at the precise moment that the hat is placed on the head of each awardee. The annual ceremony, which has been held since 1670, takes place in Lund cathedral.

OXFORD ALGERIA CONFERENCE

Andrea Brazzoduro, Junior Research Fellow in History and a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the Faculty of History, and James McDougall, Laithwaite Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, were co-convenors, with Natalya Vince of the University of Portsmouth, of the Oxford Algeria Conference, ‘The Algerian War of Independence: Global and Local Histories, 1954-62, and Beyond’, which took place in May.

The conference marked a major shift in the historiography of the Algerian War of Independence (1954–62), accounts of which have largely remained confined within, and constrained by, the boundaries of the French and Algerian nation-states and the conflicting narratives of each. Recent work by Anglophone (especially American) scholars has broadened the field by offering international histories of the war, but such work has moved even further away from engaging with the realities of the conflict as it actually unfolded ‘on the ground’ within Algeria and within the Algerian emigrant community in France.

Andrea Brazzoduro was awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme grant and the History Faculty’s Sunderson grant for the three-day event.

BA/LEVERHULME FELLOWSHIP

Johannes Zachhuber, Fellow and Tutor in Theology, has been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Fellowship for 2017-18. The fellowship will allow Professor Zachhuber to pursue his research on philosophical ideas developed in the writings of the Church Fathers between the fourth and the eighth centuries, through which he intends to shine new light on the role and significance of Christian thought within the intellectual context of late antiquity and beyond.

BRITISH ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP

Maria del Pilar Blanco, Fellow and Tutor in Spanish American Literature, has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship.

The fellowship, for the 2017-18 academic year, will allow Dr Blanco to complete her second monograph project, Modernist Laboratories: Science and the Poetics of Progress in Spanish America, 1870-1930. It will offer her the chance to travel to different archives in the US and Mexico, as well as undertake a number of public engagement projects.

RESEARCH DISCOVERY

Trinity lecturer (and alumnus), Felix Hofmann (2003), an Associate Professor in the Department of Engineering Science, is the lead author of research that shows that a widely used engineering technique may have dramatic unintended consequences.

Focused Ion Beam Milling (FIB), a technique that revolutionised scientists’ ability to manipulate and study materials at the nano-scale, uses a tiny beam of highly energetic particles to cut and analyse materials smaller than one thousandth of a strand of human hair.

FIB was previously understood to cause structural damage within a thin surface layer (tens of atoms thick) of the material being cut. Until now it was assumed that the effects of FIB would not extend beyond this thin damaged layer.

Dr Hofmann has explained, ‘Our research shows that FIB beams have much further-reaching consequences than first thought, and that the structural damage caused is considerable. It affects the entire sample, fundamentally changing the material. Given the role FIB has come to play in science and technology, there is an urgent need to develop new strategies to fully understand the effects of FIB damage and how it might be controlled.’
CUPPERS BOWL

The combined Trinity and Wadham rugby club has won the Cuppers Bowl. Trinity’s rugby club combined with Wadham’s a couple of years ago to form Wadham Trinity—or WadTrin as the team is often known. The score was a very closely fought 14-12, against Osler House. The game was the first of four college matches on what was badged OURFC Super Saturday, seeing three men’s games and one women’s. The bowl was awarded by the President, in his capacity as president of OURFC.

LAWNS PLAY

The Trinity Players put on a very well-received production of Shakespeare in Love on the Friday and Saturday of sixth week to a packed audience. Over 120 people were in attendance at the last performance, an unprecedented number for the Lawns Play. The cast put on a wonderful collective performance, with standout leads Fergus McLanaghan (Shakespeare) and Anne-Laure Villa (Viola) setting a high standard, and Sam Smith (Nurse, Ralph) bringing life to an exceptionally comic role.

Daniel Thomson
TRINITY’S NEWEST MP

Ben Lake (2011) was elected Member of Parliament for Ceredigion in June’s general election. He is Plaid Cymru’s (and Wales’s) youngest MP and is the party’s spokesperson at Westminster for a number of areas of government.

Excuse me, which way to the Chamber? If ever a sentence summed up the first few weeks in the life of a new Member of Parliament, that’s it.

The past few weeks have been surreal and, at times, a rollercoaster ride of finding my feet (literally and figuratively!) in one of the world’s most remarkable buildings. Indeed, the Palace of Westminster, with its imposing architecture and miles of maze-like corridor seems a world away from the rolling hills and pristine beaches of my home county of Ceredigion, West Wales.

I am from Lampeter, a small market town in the Teifi Valley, where I attended the local comprehensive school. After A Levels in History, Geography, English Literature and French, I started my undergraduate degree in 2011, studying History and Politics.

Upon completing my first degree, and confident that my interest lay in Welsh history and politics, I was delighted to be awarded a place to study for a Master’s degree. This afforded me the opportunity of placing my primary research interests in their broader, European context, writing an extended essay on the international influences behind the development of both Welsh language pop culture and protest groups from the 1960s onwards.

At both undergraduate and graduate level, reading, research and writing took up much of my time, but I always knew there was more to Oxford than work alone. I became vice-president of the Oxford Welsh Society and I have always loved sport, so when not watching Wales, I represented Trinity at rugby, football and cricket. One of most memorable experiences on the rugby pitch was beating Balliol in the 2013-14 season by the emphatic margin of 40-19!

When I started, the college had been extremely fortunate to receive a large donation for bursaries and I was one of the first recipients of a Levine Bursary; this allowed me to make the most of my time as an undergraduate. It was also one of the reasons why I volunteered to become a caller in the 2013 telethon. As a graduate, the holder of the Oxford-Ridley Scholarship, I benefited from a scholarship funded in party by an Old Member, with matching from the University. The support that the college was able to give me thanks to the generosity of these two Old Members, allowed me to make the most of the opportunities that Oxford offers, and it has been a pleasure to keep in touch with them both.

I returned to Wales after Oxford, to first work as a caseworker and press officer for my local Assembly Member, before taking up a position as a policy researcher in the Welsh Assembly itself. A desire to promote the interests of my native Ceredigion, and to help her citizens at every opportunity guided me in the undertaking of both roles. I am therefore deeply humbled to have been entrusted to speak for them at Westminster.

It is an immeasurable honour to represent the people and communities of your home as Member of Parliament; I am looking forward to working hard on their behalf, to serving them well, and to be worthy of their trust.

Ben Lake (2011)

PORTRAIT OF GEORGE CALVERT

George Calvert (1579-1632), 1st Lord Baltimore, who founded Maryland and after whom the city of Baltimore is named, is one of Trinity’s most distinguished alumni, but there has never been a portrait of him in College. Some prominent citizens of Baltimore decided to rectify this omission and commissioned a very fine copy of a portrait of Calvert by Daniel Mytens the Elder. Pictured with the President, at the presentation of the portrait in May, are Eugene Roberts, Governor of the Society of the Ark and the Dove, the society for descendants of settlers on the first ships that sailed to inhabit the new colony, and Dr Henry Miller, Director of Research and Heritage Maryland Scholar at Historic St Mary’s City.
**OLD LIBRARY**

In Trinity term there were two more of the informal talks in the Treasures of the Trinity Libraries series. In May, Kristie Barrow, studying for a Master’s in Public Policy, discussed Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan* (1651) and *Elements of Philosophy* (1656). Hobbes (1588-1679) is one of the key figures in political philosophy and the featured books are two of his most important works. Trinity’s copies come from the Danson bequest.

In June, Cosima Gillhammer, studying for a DPhil in English, spoke about Trinity Manuscript 29. This late-fifteenth-century Middle English manuscript, normally kept at the Bodleian, contains a history of the ancient and biblical world in Middle English and Latin, beginning with the creation of the world and ending with a description of Hannibal’s exploits. It was compiled from many different sources and written by a single scribe. It provides fascinating insights into how history was perceived and manuscripts were produced in late medieval England.

In the last week of term, and as part of the 600th anniversary celebrations, the Old Library, along with the adjoining Danson Library, was open for current members of College to visit, with a number of books out on display. The libraries were then open again for the President’s retirement garden party. Both occasions were a chance to use the new, bespoke display cabinets.

**OLD LIBRARY DINNER**

On 30 September, the feast of St Jerome, patron saint of librarians, Trinity will be celebrating 600 years of the Old Library. The evening will be an opportunity to support the library and attend a celebration dinner.

A number of rare and interesting books which are in need of conservation will be on display and available for sponsorship. It will also be possible to sponsor other parts of the library, including the new display cases and antiquarian cataloguing of sections of the Danson Library.

There will be displays on the history of Trinity’s painted glass, as well as Clare Hopkins’ archive exhibition, *Bodies in the Library: Six hundred years of Trinity libraries*. The Oxford Conservation Consortium will be on hand to speak about the care of college library collections and offer advice on book conservation.

**FELLOWS’ PAGES**

**CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS**

_Fellow and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry_

I joined Trinity as the Tutorial Fellow in Inorganic Chemistry in September 2016 and I am also Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry. Before moving to Oxford, I was Professor of Polymer Chemistry at Imperial College London (from 2003) and my education involved periods of work and study at Imperial College, the University of Minnesota and Cambridge University. My research interests are in catalysis and polymer chemistry. I am group head of a multi-disciplinary and international team of around twenty postdoctoral researchers and DPhil students. We target the use of new plastics and elastomers for uses in electronics, medicine and as commodity materials. I am particularly interested in using renewable resources such as plants or carbon dioxide to make new materials.

One exciting recent discovery is a series of catalysts that allow carbon dioxide to be used as a raw material to make polymers. Our catalysts are particularly unusual as they operate under very low pressures of carbon dioxide and allow 30-50% of the mass of the polymer to be sustainably sourced. These performance characteristics mean that it is possible to use the catalysts in existing manufacturing assets and to substitute expensive and polluting petrochemicals for low-cost carbon dioxide. It is even possible to use waste carbon dioxide emissions to make the polymers. The polymer products can be used to make polyurethanes, which are widely produced and found in things as varied as home insulation foam, mattress foam, running-shoe soles, metal coatings and medical adhesives. In 2011, I formed econic technologies (www.econic-technologies.com) which has commercialised the technology and sells the catalysts. Econic employs more than twenty-five staff at sites in London and Macclesfield—I’m closely involved in the overall management and scientific future inventions of the company.

My group also works on how to use plants and waste agricultural/biomass products to make polymers. We are especially interested in harnessing the power of catalysis to transform these wastes into useful products, for example plastic packaging and fibres. In this area, many of the plastics we make are also...
biodegradable and we target improved ways to understand and control degradation after use. Our research also addresses how to use other carbohydrates, including glucose, as monomers to make degradable polymers suitable for medical applications such as the controlled release of drugs and even the regeneration of bone.

Very recently, we have pioneered an area of ‘switchable’ catalysis which allows mixtures of monomers to be efficiently transformed into block sequence controlled copolymers. The catalysts are able to link together various distinct polymerisation cycles and can be used to deliver multi-block copolymer efficiently—this is an important fundamental challenge, but also presents opportunities to make useful new elastics or coatings materials which are fully degradable. We have used detailed study of reaction kinetics and spectroscopy to uncover the new mechanisms that operate in this area of catalysis. More broadly, in future it will be important to develop processes that are responsive to changes in raw materials and which can allow product control from mixtures.

I am also interested in the preparation and uses of new metal and metal oxide nanoparticles—especially to make higher performance polymer composites or as catalysts. I’ve been working on nanoparticle synthesis and study for around ten years in collaboration with Professor Milo Shaffer (Department of Chemistry, Imperial College) as well as with various other colleagues in chemical engineering and industry. We have developed new methods to make ultra-small nanoparticles (<3 nm) of zinc oxide (ZnO) and copper (Cu)—these materials have very high surface areas, making them interesting candidates for various catalytic applications. I lead a multi-disciplinary project investigating the application of colloidal nanoparticles of ZnO, Cu and other metals as catalysts for carbon dioxide hydrogenation to produce methanol—this technology is targeted to provide an efficient means to store and transport energy from hydrogen and the methanol can be used as a liquid transport fuel.

Overall, my research addresses new questions in catalysis and polymer science. I collaborate broadly, mostly with experts in chemical engineering, materials science and physics. I have a strong network of industrial support and am motivated by solving problems and discovering implementable solutions. My first year at Oxford and Trinity has been great, and I’ve really enjoyed meeting the broader academic community and learning more about the college.

PRANAV SINGH
Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics

I joined Trinity in Michaelmas 2016 and feel very fortunate to be a part of the college community. Before coming to Trinity, I completed a PhD in Applied Mathematics in Cambridge, funded by a King’s College studentship.

I have found the Trinity community to be exceptionally warm and welcoming. The intellectual environment has also been inspiring in every sense. My field of research is computational quantum mechanics, which allows me to maintain broader interests in quantum physics, theoretical chemistry, and material sciences among others, and the college has certainly been an ideal ground for fuelling my inspiration further.

Initially motivated by questions in theoretical physics and chemistry, equations of quantum mechanics are increasingly becoming relevant to technological progress as the frontiers are pushed ever closer to molecular scales. Recent years have seen dramatic improvements in our capabilities of controlling laser pulses, for instance, leading to breakthroughs in supercooled matter, design of quantum computers and control of chemical processes—physical systems where quantum effects are dominant.

Accurate prediction of the dynamics of these experimental setups, and effectively their design, hinges crucially on the development of efficient and accurate computational methods. My recent work concerns the development and analysis of methods for the semi-classical regime, which is somewhere between the classical and quantum scales, and challenging due to high oscillations. This includes Magnus expansion-based methods for the case of time-varying electric fields, which hold great promise for quantum control and design of laser pulses. I am also interested in the case of large molecules, which live in high-dimensional spaces. The fact that this was the initial motivation for building Quantum Computers is surely testament to the difficulty of the problem.

The dawn of quantum mechanics at the beginning of the twentieth century necessitated the development of some of the most sophisticated machinery in pure mathematics. Our numerical methods often exploit and build upon such machinery, guided by physical intuition. For instance, the low costs and high accuracies of our methods are due to the properties of an extension of the Weyl algebra.
My first encounter with the alumni network at Trinity was during my Master’s, when I put myself forward as a caller for the annual telethon. It was fascinating to find out what others had gone on to do after their time in Oxford. Coming from a large London university, I was pleasantly surprised that so many people kept in touch with their old college and how much they wanted to help current students. Through this experience I also got to know the Alumni & Development Office, where I ended up working for a year while I applied for a PhD.

During my time as Alumni & Events Officer, I saw first-hand how much students benefited from the generosity of Old Members, not only financially, but also through mentoring and guidance. Final year students would often come to say goodbye at the end of term and on many occasions conversation would turn to uncertainty about their next steps. Sue Broers, Director of Development, invariably knew of an Old Member in their field of interest and would put the student in touch. A few weeks later the recent graduates would come back to the office enthusiastically telling us that they had received excellent careers advice, a new contact, or sometimes even an internship or job offer.

Eventually, after struggling to find the elusive combination of funding and a supervisor with the relevant speciality, I was accepted on a suitable doctoral programme. The only thing was, it was at the other end of the country, in a small town where I knew no one. I decided I would put Trinity’s network of Old Members to the test and looked to see if anyone was living nearby. To my surprise, someone was and I plucked up the courage to make contact, asking if she would mind letting me know a bit about the area and possibly meet for coffee when I arrived. I was incredibly touched when, less than an hour later, I received an email full of local information, tips for the best areas to live in and an affirmative on the coffee front.

We met up when I went to look at houses and ended up chatting for hours. Having both been to Trinity, albeit around thirty years apart, we knew we had something in common, and comparing our very different experiences of the college gave us a great starting point to get to know each other. By pure coincidence, the house I ended up renting was just down the road from her and, when I moved in later that month, she greeted me with a moving-in kit of blankets, pot plants and a ukulele (which she subsequently taught me to play!).

I soon started referring to this lovely lady as my fairy godmother because her kindness in looking out for me as I settled into a new town was remarkable. Quite soon after I moved, I found myself in the middle of the floods that hit much of northern England in 2015. Living alone with no power or contact with the outside world for several days was a daunting experience. That was until a handwritten note popped through the door offering me shelter down the road. I was greeted with company, a gas fire, hot food and plenty of candles. I have never been so grateful in my life! Since then my fairy godmother has regularly fed, entertained, hosted and generally supported me through all sorts of life’s ups and downs. She will, I hope, remain a life-long friend and I often think how fortunate it was that I decided to send that first email.

Throughout my time at Trinity and beyond, it has been comforting to discover that people are generally helpful, friendly and caring. This has been well and truly confirmed to me recently, as I have once again taken advantage of the Trinity alumni network, this time for my doctoral research. As you may have seen, the Alumni & Development Office kindly sent messages on my behalf asking Old Members if they would be willing to take part in my study on work and family. I have been taken aback by the number of responses I received and by how generous people have been with their time. I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in my research and most of all, of course, my fairy godmother of the North!

Clare Stovell (2013)

If you would like to help current students with career advice or get in touch with other Old Members, sign in to Trinity Net—there you can follow the link to the Careers Network or search the Directory.
LONDON DINNER

One of the highlights of the year so far was the dinner in London in April. The purpose was to raise money for the Sir Ivor Roberts Graduate Scholarship, and to this end almost ninety people gathered for an evening of good food, fine wine and sparkling conversation. Old Members and Friends were joined by a number of Fellows, staff and current graduate students.

Guests were welcomed by Professor Dame Hermione Lee, who, as well as being head of a graduate college, Wolfson, is also a longstanding friend of the President and Lady Roberts. She made an impassioned plea for support for the graduate community, which faces growing financial pressure, but she also entertained her audience with stories of Sir Ivor’s student days. His response—a similar balance between the serious and the light-hearted—was followed by a few words about the MCR’s appreciation of the new scholarship from MCR President Katie Collett, which brought the speeches to an end. Afterwards, Huw van Steenis (1988), invited guests to raise their glasses to the President and the college.

The speeches and the brochure given to every attendee demonstrated the importance of graduate scholarships, and to encourage others to give generously in support of the appeal, Roger Michel (1984) promised to match the next £30,000 of gifts. The event was a great success and the dinner has, to date, brought in £120,000 in gifts and pledges, for which we are very grateful indeed. We hope that those who have not yet made a contribution will do so at a level comfortable for them.

SIR IVOR ROBERTS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Sir Ivor Roberts Graduate Scholarship will provide funding to enable a graduate student to study one of a wide range of subjects in the Humanities or Social Sciences, which covers everything from English and History, to Law, Business and Social Policy. Without this financial support, many able students would have little option but to abandon potentially ground-breaking research.

Initially, we talked of raising enough money to fully fund one Master’s student for one year, but the ambition was always much greater. In early February, the fund passed £100,000, at which point the college was able to endow the scholarship and award it in perpetuity. By the time the brochure for the London Dinner—see above—was produced, the total had passed £150,000.

The success of the London Dinner and gifts made in conjunction with other events like the ‘Fifty Plus Years On’ lunch, along with the response to the mailing of a letter signed by Old Members from across the generations, means that by the time of writing, the fund has passed £300,000 and is rising steadily. At the current level, the income from the fund will cover the cost of a Home/EU graduate student’s fees in perpetuity and will also contribute to living costs.

The college wants to do more and ultimately to raise sufficient money to cover both the fees and living costs of a graduate from anywhere in the world, which makes for a challenging target of £1,000,000.

We thank all those who have supported the appeal so generously and hope that momentum will continue to build so that the 346 Old Members and Friends who have made a contribution to date will be joined by many others in the coming months.

SUE BROERS
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
EVENTS

There has been a wide variety of events over the last term and the weeks either side. As well as the Parents Lunch, London Drinks and Boat Club Dinner in May, and the Ralph Bathurst Dinner and Fifty Plus Lunch in June, there were dinners in Singapore and in Cambridge, a second Recent Leavers Dinner (following on from the success of the first in 2012 and giving those who matriculated in or after 2003 a chance to return for an informal reunion), and a garden party to mark the President’s retirement, held on one of the hottest days in June, with exhibitions, music and farewell speeches.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The facilities and surroundings of Trinity provide a beautiful venue for conferences, events and weddings, with bookings taken and organised since last year by Louise Turner.

I have been Conference and Events Administrator for just over a year now, having succeeded Rosemary Strawson, and I am thoroughly enjoying organising each unique function at Trinity. My career started out in the Academic Office of the Queen’s College. After a few years, I took up a position at Hertford College in its International Programmes and Events Office. I held this post for six years before I took the opportunity of a move to Trinity. As I hope you can tell, I very much enjoy working in a collegiate environment!

Old Members and Friends are encouraged to consider Trinity as a venue for their event, whether it be a corporate conference or a special occasion. Our facilities provide an attractive venue for large gatherings or small away day meetings. In the evening, there’s the opportunity for a dinner in the Dining Hall and a chance to enjoy the fine dining Trinity has to offer. For those wanting to extend the experience by staying overnight, we offer competitive rates and a delicious breakfast in Hall the next morning.

A good number of Old Members have celebrated their wedding day in College—beginning with a reception on the lawns, followed by a banquet in Hall. There are a number of dates available for wedding receptions in 2018 and beyond.

I would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to discuss any event ideas.

Louise Turner
louise.turner@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279888
THE GREAT WAR ENTERS ITS FOURTH YEAR

In the eighth of this series of articles about the First World War and the immediate impact on Trinity’s members, Clare Hopkins, Archivist, recalls the battle of Passchendaele and the continuing conflict on other fronts, up to New Year’s Eve 1917.

At 3.50am on 31 July 1917, British soldiers climbed out of their trenches to launch an attack on the high ground around the hamlet of Pilckem in a battle—Pilckem Ridge—that is little remembered today. It was the opening engagement of the Third Battle of Ypres, a campaign that is perhaps better known by the name of another small Belgian settlement, Passchendaele. In a grim reprise of the Somme Offensive of 1916, what was intended as a quick and decisive push through enemy lines was to turn into an agonizing summer and autumn of suffering and slaughter. When the battle finally came to an end on 10 November, the front line had moved by less than five miles, at a cost of over a quarter of a million casualties (dead and wounded) on each side.

Field Marshal Douglas Haig was convinced that one more effort might be enough to defeat a tottering German Reich, even without help from Britain’s allies. The Americans had declared war, but were not ready to commit troops, while the costly failure of an offensive on the Aisne had led to mutinies in the ranks of the French. Russia had ceased to be an effective force, for Tsar Nicholas was imprisoned, and Vladimir Lenin’s promise of ‘peace, bread and land’ would culminate in the signing of the Brest-Livotsk treaty between Soviet Russia and the Central Powers in March 1918. A strong British offensive on the old battlefields around Ypres seemed to offer a realistic possibility of driving back the exhausted German army before it could be reinforced from the east. A valuable secondary objective was the prospect of liberating the Belgian ports, U-Boats from which were a constant threat to allied shipping.

The British army had learned much in the summer of 1916, and the efficacy of new tactics was brilliantly demonstrated in an attack on Messines Ridge from 7 to 14 June. Here the initial shock of detonating nineteen massive mines beneath the German front line was followed by a perfectly executed creeping barrage that allowed the infantry to advance rapidly behind a protective and accurate curtain of artillery fire. A panoply of new and improved weapons included Mark IV tanks, capable of crossing ditches and driving through barbed wire, and aeroplanes now equipped with bombs.

Like the Battle of the Somme, the attack on the high ground south and east of Ypres was meticulously planned. But, like the Battle of the Somme, the limitations of the available communications made it impossible for combatants to respond to the unfolding situation on the ground. As at the Somme, a fortnight-long artillery barrage had forfeited any element of surprise, and the resistance from the extremely well-constructed German trenches was much stronger than expected. And, as in the summer of 1916, the rain was exceptionally heavy and prolonged. In a landscape of reclaimed marshes, its drainage system destroyed by shelling, the most memorable and ghastly feature of Passchendaele was the mud: thick, clinging, stinking, and deep enough for men and horses to drown.

NEVILLE BAKER

There are scores of letters from bereaved parents in the wartime archives of Herbert Blakiston. Many repeat the comforting descriptions of painless death that were routinely penned by colonels and captains, such as here—‘a piece [of a shell] hit him on the head, & he died at once.’ Few attain the heart-wrenching pride and anguish of this simple letter from a west-country solicitor, Ernest Baker, writing to inform the college of the death of his younger son Neville on 31 July 1917. Neville came up to Trinity in 1913, and had completed just one year of his degree before enlisting. Ernest’s elder son Aubrey (1908) had been killed in Mesopotamia in March 1916. ‘Every plan every hope shattered’, indeed.
Three and a half months of fighting were punctuated by pauses and renewed attacks until finally, on 6 November, British and Canadian forces took possession of the flattened village of Passchendaele. It was a hollow victory. Haig was much criticised, then and ever since, for continuing a battle that had lost all strategic value. Canada lost 16,000 men in the final push, and in Canada especially, the memory of Passchendaele has become synonymous with the horror and futility of trench warfare. The Menin Gate at Leper (Ypres) is inscribed with the names of nearly 55,000 missing who fell fighting in the Ypres salient before 16 August 1917; the Tyne Cot Memorial commemorates 35,000 more. The centenary of the Third Battle of Ypres was marked on 31 July by an international event held across both sites, and a wreath was laid in memory of ten members of Trinity.

Four fell on 31 July. Neville Baker (1913) and David Davies (1915) were aged 21 and 19 respectively. Both were attached to the newly created Tank Corps, of which so much was expected and so little achieved in the impenetrable mud. Harold Vaughan (1896) was 40; he had left his position as an Inspector with the Board of Agriculture to take a commission in the Royal Field Artillery. William Roper (1911) was a Captain in the King’s Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), and had served on the Western Front since early in 1915. It was on the night of 31 July/1 August that Noel Chavasse (1904) received the abdominal injury from which he died on 4 August; it was during that night and the day and night following when his heroic and selfless devotion to the needs of others won his second VC. Also on 4 August, Maurice Cane (1902) was killed by a shell; he had given up a career as a mining engineer in British Columbia in order to volunteer for the Royal Field Artillery, in which his father had served as Colonel. Maurice was 35, and left a widow and young son.

Three Trinity men are remembered at Tyne Cot: George Thornton (1901), Captain in the Seaforth Highlanders, killed in action on 22 August; Alexander Barrow (1907), Lieutenant in The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, who fell on 4 October; and Arthur G Rigby (1912), Captain, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s Own), who was killed on 12 October.

THE TANK

There it lay in its fallen majesty as I approached it in the thick fog, my landmark, the “Tank.” I heaved a sigh of relief; whereas I had been lost I now knew my bearings. Have you ever tried crossing a field cut up with trenches and pitted with shell holes in a thick fog without a compass? I can assure you it is not an easy job. And when I struck this monster of the battlefield I was naturally glad, for I know that from this point I could work from place to place till I reached my objective. I was too pleased at this time to blink of the poor wretch which had served as my guide; but later I pictured the scene. This mighty engine of destruction pouting along over trenches and shell holes, and spitting fire as it went; and then just as it reached the ridge and could look down upon the village of — (in which, by the way, I afterwards found one live tree, an evergreen), just there the hand of fate was stretched out. “Thus far shalt thou go and no further.” Fritz had scored a direct hit on its “prow,” and the shell had pierced clean through the armour plate and exploded inside. And that was the end of its story; duty well done, but cut off, as it were, in the prime of its life. And of the gunners inside, who shall ask? There it still lies, a bulk on the skyline; and there it will lie, I presume, till the end of time. First to be shown to tourists from America and the home country, then to be neglected and left to decay. And perchance one day someone will point a finger of scorn at it. “Look at it, and learn; twenty, thirty, forty years ago it started to plough its double furrow across the field; but it exceeded in pride and offended the gods; so the hand of fate intervened and it was blasted as it went. Look at it, and learn the lesson of the gods; think not thyself too great.”

Noel Chavasse

There was a full account of Noel Chavasse’s first VC in the Newsletter of summer 2016. As a doctor attached to the King’s Own (Liverpool Scottish), Noel is the only man ever to have won the VC twice in the same war. The citation of his second states:

Bar to VC won at Wieljte, 31 July to 2 August 1917

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action.

Though severely wounded early in the action whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the dressing station, Captain Chavasse refused to leave his post, and for two days not only continued to perform his duties, but in addition went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying out. During these searches, although practically without food during this period, worn with fatigue and faint with his wound, he assisted to carry in a number of badly wounded men, over heavy and difficult ground.

By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example he was instrumental in rescuing many wounded who would have otherwise undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions.

This devoted and gallant officer subsequently died of his wounds.

David Davies came up to Trinity as the senior scholar of October 1915, and spent just one term in residence before taking a commission in the Machine Gun Corps. David was a brilliant classicist who had excelled at Reading School. As the ‘In Memoriam’ card sent out by his family so poignantly records, he was killed on the eve of his 20th birthday, in command of a machine still so novel that it required inverted commas. Six months earlier, the Christmas 1916 edition of the Reading School Magazine had published this moving and prescient article, composed by David somewhere on the Western Front but inspired, surely, by Homer and Virgil.

NOEL CHAVASSE

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action.

Though severely wounded early in the action whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the dressing station, Captain Chavasse refused to leave his post, and for two days not only continued to perform his duties, but in addition went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying out. During these searches, although practically without food during this period, worn with fatigue and faint with his wound, he assisted to carry in a number of badly wounded men, over heavy and difficult ground.

By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example he was instrumental in rescuing many wounded who would have otherwise undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions.

This devoted and gallant officer subsequently died of his wounds.
youngest member of College lost at Passchendaele was Laurence Joscelyne (1915). Although only 19, Laurence had already spent nine months on active service. On 1 October he was behind the lines, with an MC and his first leave permit in his pocket, when he was killed by a bomb dropped from an aeroplane.

The War continued elsewhere. On 24 October, Allan Gilmour (1908), a Captain in the Cameron Highlanders (Lovat Scouts), was wounded in an attack on the mountain village of Salmah in the largely forgotten Salonika campaign. He died from his injuries on 16 December. The Italian front meanwhile saw a long and bitter struggle between Austria and Italy finally brought to a brutal conclusion at Caporetto, when German reinforcements drove the Italians back seventy miles in a fortnight. The political consequences of such a disaster were considerable. The Italian General Luigi Cadorna was dismissed, and at a hastily convened conference at Rapello, an Allied Supreme War Council was set up. Strategic control passed from military to civilian leaders, and Lloyd George commanded Haig to send five divisions to the Italian front, effectively ending any possibility of continuing the Ypres offensive.

Some good news was badly needed in Britain, and it came, in December, from the Middle East. Under General Sir Edmund Allenby, the 20th, 21st, and Desert Mounted Corps advanced across Palestine, an area where ‘mobile’ warfare could be conducted in a way no longer possible on the Western front. Two members of Trinity were killed in action during this campaign. On 6 November, Percy Mitchell (1907), Lieutenant in the Herefordshire Regiment, who was buried in the Beersheba War Cemetery, and on 10 November, John Clarke (South African Rhodes Scholar elect for 1915), Lieutenant, who had taken a commission in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who was buried at Gaza. On 19 November, in a hospital back at Port Said, Ronald Mitchell (1895), Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), died of wounds.

The Turkish forces were driven steadily back until on 16 December, Allenby stepped out of his armoured transport and walked humbly and diplomatically into Jerusalem. Lloyd George described the British entry into the city as ‘a Christmas present for the British people’, and it was indeed a much needed morale booster after events in Belgium. There was to be one final Trinity death of 1917, when on New Year’s Eve, Hubert Podmore (1908), Lieutenant-Colonel of the Northamptonshire Regiment, was killed accidentally by an exploding ammunition dump. It was the last Christmas, and the last New Year, of the War.

MOSELEY’S MATTEUCCI MEDAL

Henry (Harry) Moseley came up to Trinity in 1906, a quiet and unassuming student of physics. He left in 1910 to take up a position as Demonstrator in the Manchester University laboratory of Ernest Rutherford, before returning to Oxford in 1913 to undertake private research. Two years later he was dead, shot during the ANZAC breakout operation on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Had Moseley listened to Rutherford’s pleas not to volunteer for military service, he would almost certainly have won a Nobel Prize: in 1915 he was nominated for the Prizes in both Chemistry and Physics. In his brief but mercurial career, Moseley’s work on X-ray spectra advanced the understanding of atomic physics to allow the chemical elements to be arranged in the Periodic Table according to the number of positively charged protons in their nuclei.

The Nobel Prize can only be given to the living. But in 1919, Moseley’s importance was recognized by the posthumous award of the prestigious Matteucci Medal for Physics—the next recipient in 1921 was Albert Einstein. Painstaking research by Russ Egdell (Emeritus Fellow in Chemistry) has traced the process by which the medal was finally delivered to Moseley’s mother. It was an exciting day when the medal itself was brought into College by a descendant of Moseley’s sister, Margery. The medal was oddly tarnished on one side. Did the Matteucci committee in impoverished post-war Italy not have the funds and materials for it to be struck, as it was supposed to be, in solid gold?
Henry Moseley is celebrated by both chemists and physicists. And now it was the turn of materials scientists. On the afternoon of 23 June, Chris Salter (1972) examined the medal with an electron microscope in the Materials Department laboratory at Begbroke. Evoking Harry’s original experiments using a simple electron beam to excite elemental spectra, this £250K machine used the same process to analyse the medal. And the result? Chris was delighted to announce that Harry’s Matteucci Medal was struck from the finest 24 karat gold, with minute traces of silver and copper added to harden the metal. The tarnish was residual polish on the surface.

Russ’s chapter on Moseley and the Matteucci Medal will appear in the biography of Moseley, For Science, King and Country, due to be published later this year.

OLD MEMBERS’ NEWS

Oxford University Society South West France
Nigel Griffin, former lecturer in Spanish, who now lives in south-west France, writes, ‘Oxford University Alumni Office supports more than 200 local groups worldwide. One such is OUS South-West France, which has been running since 2008, and is an informal grouping providing opportunities for Oxford alumni, resident part- or full-time in SW France (Départements 12, 16, 24, 31-34, 46-47, 64-65, 81-82), to meet, eat together, and/or attend local events. Further information can be had from the Honorary Secretary, Marion Tempé, marion@ousswfrance.co.uk or the website http://ousswfrance.co.uk.’

Murray Biggs (1956), semi-retired since 2014 from his Yale professorship in English, Theatre and Film, returned to MIT in early June to direct, in ten days, a production of King John with alumni of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble, a performance group that he founded as an assistant professor in 1974. The thirteen-strong cast ranged in age from 21 to 65, a welcome change from the usual college-age bottleneck. King John was Murray’s eighteenth Shakespeare production—his first was Love’s Labour’s Lost in the Wilderness in the early summer of 1958. He now offers weekend and week-long theatre seminars, with productions attached, in several US cities, at the Stratford and Shaw Festivals in Ontario, and in London. To sign up, email him at murray.biggs@yale.edu.


Tristram Cooke (1964) has published four collections of poetry, The Lanes Also Remember, Welcome to the Third World, Staggering Through and The Looney Bin Blues, with a fourth book, Swaggering Through, to be published this year.

Richard Foster (1964) has been elected President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

Thomas Acton (1966) writes, ‘I am waiting to hear if my emeritus professorship at Greenwich is renewed for a third three-year term. Meanwhile I have been appointed a visiting professor at Corvinus University of Budapest, Senior Research Fellow at Bucks New University and a curator at the German Government-funded Roma Digital Archive. I continue to publish in peer-reviewed journals, including, with two members of my family, Radical Statistics (2016): Acton T, J H Acton, J R B Acton, Ryder A, and Cemlyn S ‘We need to up our numbers game’. How many scholarly articles have three authors with the same surname?’

Tony Walker (1973), after twenty-nine years in the parish of Retford and the Retford Area Team Ministry in north Nottinghamshire, is returning to the county where he was ordained thirty-six years ago, to be vicar of the United Benefice of Morton and Riddlesden.

Robert Dawson Scott (1975) has written a play, Assessment, which will be premiered at this summer’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe. ‘A new government is grappling with the ever-rising pensions bill… What begins as a Swiftian satire—on austerity, arms’ length quasi-government organisations and family values—morphs into something more personal, more reflective and more damning about what it means to be old in Britain today.’ Performances run until 28 August. Details at https://showsonashoestring.co.uk/.

Jeffrey Gibson (1975) has published The Disciples’ Prayer: The Prayer Jesus Taught in its Historical Setting (Fortress Press, 2016).

Jeremy Atkins (1978) writes, ‘At Christmas I retired from Researchcraft, the market research agency I co-
founded twenty years previously, to concentrate full-time on my nautical publishing company, Fernhurst Books, which I set up four years ago. I also moved into a 200-year-old windmill which, while without its sails, still has most of the original internal workings and is spread over six levels. Any alumni wishing to visit are most welcome, although they ought to be aware that it is reputed to be haunted!"

Mark Hughes (1979) has produced a book containing his photos and poet John Gartland’s poems called Blanc et Noir. It is available on Amazon and can be found by searching ‘Mark Desmond Hughes’.

Joy de Beyer (1980) writes, ‘At the end of 2016, I retired from my job as Senior Health Economist at the World Bank, having worked nearly thirty years. I’m thoroughly enjoying retirement—with more time for playing senior women’s basketball, reading, spending time with friends, travel, and finally learning to play the piano.’

Joseph Mintz (1987) writes, ‘I am working as an Associate Professor in Education at UCL Institute of Education and undertaking research on the professional practice of teachers and the use of evidence-based approaches in autism education.’


Tim Stewart (1989) has been appointed Vice Chancellor of BPP University.

Rachel Worthington (1990) – Richard Morgan Worthington is undergoing change of sex/gender and is now Rachel Morgan Worthington, a transgender woman continuing in science research.

Paul Walmsley (1992), after an intense four years of development, released the first version of Dorico, Steinberg’s next generation music scoring application.

Claudine Toutoungi (1994) has written a comedy drama series, The Inheritors, which has been recorded for broadcast on Radio 4 in September (at 10.45am and 7.45pm the week of 4-8 September).

Alberto Badino (2009) has become a Partner at Elm Capital, a private capital advisory group where he has been Head of Origination since 2012. He has also been appointed a Trustee of the Salzbourg Easter Festival UK Foundation.

Michael Beloff (President 1996-2006) continues to collect international sports arbitration posts. During 2016-2017 he was appointed chairman of the new International Association of Athletic Federations Disciplinary Tribunal and a member of the new Ironman Appeal Tribunal, a member of the new Ultimate Fighting Tribunal, in addition to his positions as chairman of the International Cricket Council’s Code of Conduct Commission and Disputes Resolution Committee. He has been for more than twenty years a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, serving on ad hoc panels at five Summer Olympic Games (including Rio) and three Commonwealth Games. He is also Honorary Legal Adviser to London 2017, the World Athletics Championships.

**BIRTHS**

To Joseph Mintz (1987) and Eva, in November 2016, a daughter, Hannah, a sister for Samuel (born in 2012).

To Talitha Bailey (née Collard, 2000) and Daniel, in January 2017, a son, Stanley Peter James.

To Aparna Stachowiak (née Swamynathan, 2003) and Daniel (St Cross, 2003), on 27 December 2016, a son, Sagar, a brother for Yash and Sahana.

To Martin Mekat (2006) and Sabrina, on 7 December 2017, a boy, Oskar Elliott, a brother for Louise.

**DEATHS**

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

(Arthur) John Brownlow fforde (1948), on 19 March 2017

Roger Tattersall Robinson (1950), on 19 September 2016

James Francis FitzGibbon (1952), in May 2017

(Charles) Mure Smith (1952), on 6 February 2017

Stephen Thomas Corcoran (1956), on 4 June 2016

Andrew Richard William Lean (1959), in June 2017

Dr Geoffrey Payne (1971), on 25 October 2016

Claudia Comberti (2011), on 9 May 2017

Tom Thackeray Treherne (2012), on 3 June 2017

Zimo Yang (2014), in May 2017

Patricia ‘Pat’ Conway (Kitchen Assistant 1995 to 2014), on 17 March 2017

Offers to contribute obituaries or information for the 2016-17 Report would be very welcome.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GAUDIES
Saturday 24 March 2018
1967 - 1972
Saturday 23 June 2018
2002 - 2004
Saturday 29 September 2018
1990 - 1993

2017
Friday 15 to Sunday 17 September
TRINITY WEEKEND
Saturday 23 September
RETIREMENT DINNER FOR JONATHAN MALLINSON
Saturday 30 September
OLD LIBRARY DINNER
Saturday 21 October
BENEFACTORS LUNCH

Saturday 11 November
BENEFACTORS LUNCH
Saturday 2 December
CAROL SERVICES
Thursday 7 December
VARSITY MATCH

2018
Saturday 3 February
MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER
Saturday 24 February
WILLIAM PITT SOCIETY LUNCH
Saturday 10 March
MICHAEL BELOFF LAW SOCIETY DINNER
Sunday 13 May
PARENTS EVENT
Saturday 26 May
BOAT CLUB DINNER

For more information or booking enquiries, please contact the Alumni & Events Officer, 01865 279942, sarah.jenkinson@trinity.ox.ac.uk.