The President

I write this newsletter towards the end of my first year at Trinity and having now experienced a full academic cycle. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to become a member of Trinity’s distinctive community and to lead an institution that has at its heart the nurture and development of scholars, researchers and teachers of all ages and across the widest spectrum of academic disciplines.

One of the most frequently-asked questions from friends is what the role of President entails. I commend to you the excellent and (I can confirm) accurate description of this by my predecessor in his introduction to the spring 2016 Newsletter—Sir Ivor captures perfectly the extraordinary range and diversity of the role and the levels of energy demanded of it.

Trinity’s president acts as chairman of a sizeable business with net assets of some £165 million, including significant land-holdings. As I was recently reminded by the college’s Estates Bursar, Chris Ferguson, by the end of the next three years the college will have delivered over 1,000 newly-built homes on the outskirts of Bicester and Banbury, in addition to a £30 million development of the college’s estate on its Broad Street site to bring much-needed additional facilities to enhance our core operation.

The president engages at both a strategic and operational level within the college. Since last October, Trinity’s Governing Body has discussed and debated its priorities for the coming five years and, in May, formally approved a five year strategy which articulates our priorities and will underpin our work for the period. A key priority is to deliver the new facilities that have been long in the planning stage and which were central to the vision and tenure of Sir Ivor. We have a plan and detailed designs—these were approved by the Governing Body in February and formally submitted for consideration by the planning authorities. We look forward to a decision in September 2018, to enable construction to begin in September 2019, for occupation in September 2021. Our ambitious proposal is designed to transform the experience of all our communities within Trinity. We will be able to accommodate up to fifty post-graduate students on the Broad Street site (compared with the current seventeen); provide additional teaching rooms and a purpose-built auditorium, able to accommodate music and drama performance; create new formal and informal study facilities, improved library access, a café for the use of all our community, and a handsome flexible space located in the Wilderness; and offer all the ancillary facilities required by today’s students.

On a day-to-day basis, the president works closely with students, academics, alumni and our marvellous and dedicated staff. Every student has direct access to the president on a one-to-one basis by way of President’s Collections, but also when a sympathetic ear or sounding board is required. For some—academics, staff and students alike—the Lodgings provides a quiet haven and privacy, to discuss matters away from the public side of college life and in a confidential setting. With a husband who works several hundred miles away, I’m committed to the Lodgings offering a resource for every member of our community, whilst still fulfilling the purpose of providing a welcoming family home.

All heads of colleges contribute to the work of the University. During the year I have served on academic appointments panels and university committees, and participated in the Conference of Colleges, through which I have come to recognise the extraordinary (and to my mind, under-exploited) resource represented by the collective body of Heads of House.

The role of president calls for enthusiastic engagement in our students’ extra-curricular activities through numerous college and University societies. It should come as no surprise (with twenty years of professional broadcasting experience behind me) that I agreed to become a patron of the newly reconstituted Oxford University Media Society, which provides a platform for leading figures in the media and an important networking opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in that field. I was delighted to champion Trinity Arts Week, a triumph of creativity and organisation by second-year student Kate Meynell, who persuaded numerous Old Members involved in the arts, media and creative industries to contribute their time and experience so generously. It was an inspiring week and a testimony to Kate’s own talents.

The president is also an ambassador for Trinity for potential applicants to the college, ensuring that all these young visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome, as well as encouragement, support and guidance to enable them to make the strongest application to Oxford. And at the other end of the spectrum, working alongside our dedicated Alumni and Development Office, the president is closely engaged with our Old Members—the discovery of their enormous affection for the college has been one of the great delights of my first year in office.
Finally, being the Head of an Oxford college calls for herculean stamina in being able to eat, and eat...! It is the tradition in Oxford that every new head of house is invited to dine at every college in their first year—usually at a special college feast. I confess to not being able to stay the course on every occasion. The increased numbers of women in these roles is gradually influencing older traditions. It was, of course, a female college head who invited me to join her ‘at a) my college feast, b) dinner in my kitchen, or c) walking the dog.’ I chose the dog!

Thank you all for your warm welcome and for making my first year at Trinity so memorable.

DAME HILARY BOULDING, DBE

**NEWS**

**HONORARY DEGREES**

Dame Frances Ashcroft, Fellow and Professor in Physiology, has received two Honorary Doctorates this summer.

In June, Professor Ashcroft received a Doctorate in Medical Science from the University of Cambridge for her achievements, including research into the function and structure of ion channels and the role that certain channels play with insulin secretion and Type 2 diabetes.

In July, Professor Ashcroft was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of East Anglia, one of eighteen honorary degrees recognising outstanding accomplishments or contributions to the community.

**EARLY CAREER AWARD**

James Larkin, Lecturer in Biochemistry, has been awarded the silver medal for biology at the STEM for Britain event for early career scientists, held at the Palace of Westminster.

Dr Larkin, who was an undergraduate at Trinity, has developed a way to detect brain tumours much earlier than currently possible by conventional diagnosis with MRI. He does this by analysing urine samples and looking for changes in metabolite composition.

Around one in five cancer patients develop secondary tumours, or metastases, which spread to the brain. These are hard to diagnose early using current techniques and late-stage diagnosis limits therapeutic options. Dr Larkin is working on earlier diagnosis of brain metastases using a urine metabolic profiling technique called metabolomics, which takes advantage of disrupted metabolism in tumours by profiling the metabolites found in urine samples. The technique is now being trialled in patients with brain metastases.

**EXIT POLL AWARDS**

Stephen Fisher, Fellow and Tutor in Political Sociology, is a member of a team that has been awarded two recent prizes for its exit poll for the 2017 General Election. The team received the Judges Award at the Royal Television Society’s annual Television Journalism Awards and the Political Studies Association Special Recognition Prize, which was awarded by Adam Boulton of Sky News.

**TEACHING AWARD**

Darren Sarisky, Lecturer in Theology, has been awarded a Teaching Excellence Award by the Humanities Division. The award, presented at a ceremony in June, was made in recognition of the high quality of Dr Sarisky’s teaching and the important contribution that he makes to the teaching of Modern Theology.
BRITISH ACADEMY MID-CAREER FELLOWSHIPS

Stefano Evangelista, Fellow and Tutor in English, and Anil Gomes, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, have both been awarded prestigious British Academy Mid-Career Fellowships for 2018-19, the only two academics across the Humanities in Oxford to receive one of these fellowships this year.

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowships allow talented individual researchers time to focus on a major piece of research, away from teaching and administration commitments, supporting excellent research proposals, and promoting engagement with subjects in the humanities and social sciences.

Dr Evangelista’s book project, ‘Citizens of Nowhere: Literary Cosmopolitanism in the British fin de siécle’, will show that the end of the nineteenth century—a time generally associated with the predominance of the nation state and imperialism—witnessed an extensive debate on cosmopolitanism or world citizenship, which left its mark on the literature of the period. The fellowship will enable him to carry out archival research and complete the book.

Dr Gomes’s project, on Perception and Autonomy, will examine the role that self-conscious reflection plays in our perceptual experience of the world. The idea that self-consciousness plays an important role in human life and thought has been an important one in the history of philosophy and psychology, and the fellowship will enable him to extend his work on the topic.

FLoC 2018

Marta Kwiatkowska, Fellow and Professor of Computing Systems, was co-chair of the Federated Logic Conference (FLoC) 2018, which took place in Oxford in July. A debate on the morality of robots was among the one-off events that formed part of the two-week conference, open to the general public, and recorded for those who could not attend.

Much of the rest of the conference tackled specialist subjects under the guise of several international conferences related to mathematical logic and computer science. Logic underpins many other computing subjects, such as programming, machine learning and algorithms.

Other events included a summit, ‘Machine Learning Meets Formal Methods’, which brought together academic and industrial leaders; a debate on the ethics and morality of robotics (will robots be able to act as agents in their own right and make moral and ethical decisions and are robots capable of replacing human beings?); a debate with a panel of specialists in ethics, law, computer science, data security and privacy; and a public lecture entitled ‘Unifying Logic and probability: The Blog language’.

TREVOR WILLIAMS

In July, Canon Trevor Williams, Emeritus Fellow, and chaplain from 1970 to 2005, moved to Edinburgh, to be nearer to his daughters. He came into College for a farewell visit before setting off on the drive north. He was welcomed by the President and a small number of Fellows and staff and, while in the chapel, the Chaplain read a psalm and prayed for Canon Williams as he settles into a new home and city. He is seen here with his daughter Rebecca and her family.
NOBEL PRIZE GIVEN A HOME AT TRINITY

Trinity is the new home of the Nobel Prize medal that was awarded to Rodney Porter, CH FRS, (1917-1985), former Fellow and Whitley Professor of Biochemistry. It was presented to the President during a reception attended by members of the Porter family, current biochemistry students, and Professor Sir Edwin Southern, Emeritus Fellow (Professor Porter’s successor as Whitley Professor), and Professor Louis Mahadevan, Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry.

In 1972, Professor Porter, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly with Gerald Edelman, for determining the chemical structure of an antibody. His widow, Julia, very generously decided to give his medal to Trinity, where it is hoped to have it on permanent display.

Rodney Porter was born in Lancashire and educated at Ashton-in-Makerfield Grammar School. He read for a BSc in Biochemistry at Liverpool University and, having served in the army during the Second World War, he continued his studies at Cambridge, working with Nobel prize-winning scientist Fred Sanger. It was while studying for his doctorate that he developed a particular interest in protein chemistry and immunology. In 1949, he joined the National Institute for Medical Research, working with Nobel prize-winner A J P Martin.

In 1960, he became Pfizer Professor of Immunology at St Mary’s Hospital London Medical School; this was the first chair in immunology in the UK. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1964, received the Gairdner Foundation Award of Merit in 1966, the Ciba Medal in 1967, and in the same year he succeeded Sir Hans Krebs as the Whitley Professor of Biochemistry at Oxford and became a Fellow of Trinity. In 1983 he was awarded the Copley Medal for his elucidation of the structure of immunoglobulins and of the reactions involved in activating the complement system of proteins. He was awarded the Companion of Honour in 1985, a few months before his death.

Professor Porter was one of the most illustrious scientists at Oxford—his association with the college is a matter of great pride to Trinity, and the college is delighted to be able to give a home to his Nobel medal, where it will inspire future generations of students in his field.
A ROMAN APPOINTMENT

Sir Ivor Roberts, President 2006-17, has been appointed chairman of the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association, which cares for the house beside the Spanish Steps in Rome where John Keats died and which is now a museum devoted to the English Romantic poets. The KSMA also runs the annual Keats-Shelley Prize and Young Romantics Prize for poetry and essay-writing.

Sir Ivor has a personal link to the house, since his mother spent the war years in Rome, living immediately opposite it. She imbued in Sir Ivor a love of poetry in both languages, and of the English language poets, for him, the Romantics have always held prime position. There is another Trinity connection to the KSMA, as Charles Cary-Elwes (1958) is the association’s Hon Treasurer.

OLD LIBRARY APPEAL

One of the events held to mark the 600th anniversary of the Old Library was an evening last autumn to raise funds for its conservation. Before enjoying dinner in Hall, guests were given the opportunity to view a number of rare and valuable books that were in need of repair. Each project had a ‘champion’ to answer questions, and conservators were also on hand to explain some of the techniques that would be used to restore and protect the items on display. There was also the opportunity to sponsor the conservation work or to purchase equipment that would enhance the storage and display of the library’s treasures.

The response of Old Members and Friends was, as ever, very generous indeed and every project for which support was sought has now been funded. The books have been—or are in the process of being—repaired by Oxford Conversation Consortium; the new equipment is in place and cataloguing is underway. In May some of those who had supported the appeal paid a visit to the Consortium’s studio to see some of the conservation work taking place. Thank you to everyone who has made all of these things possible.

THE LEGACY OF HENRY MOSELEY

Henry Moseley (1908), Trinity’s most famous physicist, is the subject of a new book, For Science, King and Country: the life and legacy of Henry Moseley, which will be launched during the Trinity Weekend in September. The book, inspired by the exhibition ‘Dear Harry... Henry Moseley: A Scientist Lost to War’, at the Museum of the History of Science in 2015-16, is co-edited by Russ Egdell, Emeritus Fellow (Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry from 1990 to 2014), with Roy MacLeod, Professor Emeritus of the University of Sydney, and Dr Elizabeth Bruton, of the Science Museum in London, and includes a chapter on his early life and education by Clare Hopkins, Trinity’s archivist.

Moseley’s work on the X-ray spectra of the elements provided a new foundation for the Periodic Table and contributed to the development of the nuclear model of the atom. His life and career were cut short when he was killed in 1915, aged 27, in action at Gallipoli. He was widely regarded as the most promising British physicist of his generation, and his early death prompted a reassessment of the role that scientists might play in war.

For Science, King and Country charts his brief career, military service, and lasting influence, in essays by eleven scholars, which explore Moseley’s life, work, and legacy, and draw on newly discovered archival material, artefacts, and interpretations.

The book will be launched at 5pm on the Saturday of the Trinity Weekend, 15 September. For more information about the Weekend, email sarah.jenkinson@trinity.ox.ac.uk.

DIDO IN THE TIMES

There are several reminders in College of Dido, the late King Charles Spaniel belonging to Sir Ivor and Lady Roberts—she sits beside Sir Ivor in his portrait in the SCR, and is centre stage in the group portrait of female Fellows, lecturers and staff currently hanging in Hall.

In June, she went one better, and was featured, with accompanying photographs, in a feature, and related leading article, in The Times. A plaque commemorating Dido, by a tree in the college garden, includes a Latin verse by John Davie, outgoing Lecturer in Classics, who has written verses for a number of pets, and an article in the Oldie magazine, brought the trend to the attention of The Times.
HEAD OF ACCESS

The college has appointed Hannah Rolley to the new role of Head of Access at an exciting time for Trinity as it embarks on a new access strategy.

Hannah brings a wealth of relevant experience, from her current role as Recruitment and Schools Programme Officer at St Hilda’s College and her previous role as deputy head of sixth form at Banbury Academy. In this latter role, amongst a range of responsibilities, she led the UCAS application process, supported students through the Academy’s ‘Aiming for the Top’ programme and provided advice on course choices for Year 11 students entering the sixth form. In previous educational roles, she ran support and development programmes for gifted and talented students and worked as a Home School Link officer in West Oxfordshire, providing support to disadvantaged pupils and their families.

We look forward to welcoming Hannah when she takes up the role in September.

TARGET OXBRIDGE

Trinity is pleased to have been a partner in the Target Oxbridge programme in 2018. Created and run on a pro bono basis by diversity recruitment specialist Rare, Target Oxbridge aims to increase the number of black African and Caribbean students at Oxford and Cambridge by providing talented pupils with application support and advice. Target Oxbridge offers a development programme, which runs over the course of a year, involving residential visits, academic sessions, and mentoring by current and former Oxbridge students. A critical part of the programme is its Easter and summer residential courses, which give the students a taster of life at Oxford, with university tutors teaching sessions, and the students experiencing the city.

In 2017, the Target Oxbridge programme had forty-five fully funded places. Unprecedented demand in 2018 led to Oxford and Cambridge universities providing funding to support a total of 160 places. Before the residential, Trinity committed to fund the cost of an additional ten places for the 2018 programme.

In April Trinity hosted the three-day Easter residential course. A packed programme gave students an introduction to living and studying at Oxford through interactive, subject-specific academic workshops, as well as sessions about student life, skills for studying at undergraduate level, and the admissions process. There was plenty of opportunity to spend time with current student ambassadors, as well as alumni and postgraduates, and have questions answered.

SUMMER ACCESS EVENTS

Building on the success of a scheme that has been in place since 2012, Trinity hosted almost 100 Year-12 state-school pupils from the North East, over two residential sessions in late June.

The residentials offer an academic programme tailored to the participants’ interests, as well as the opportunity to speak to current Trinity students from the North East. One of the attendees commented, ‘I found getting advice from the students and listening to their personal experiences very helpful’, while another said the application process and collegiate system had become much clearer. The programme is timed to coincide with the University’s Open Days, which enable potential applicants to explore the city, colleges and University departments. Those attending have a strong academic record, and many will have multiple markers of socio-economic disadvantage, which mean they might otherwise be significantly less likely to attend selective universities such as Oxford.

In July, Trinity was one of the colleges hosting the UNIQ summer school, welcoming a group of Year-12 state-school pupils studying a range of subjects, those at Trinity focussing on Material Sciences and Medicine. UNIQ enables students from low socio-economic backgrounds and those living in areas with low progression to higher education to get first-hand experience of life at university, meet like-minded people and gain deeper understanding of a subject that interests them.
ARTS WEEK

Trinity Arts Week, in Trinity term, presented a busy programme of panel events, talks and workshops, on music, poetry, media, drama and art, and featured a number of Old Members.

Musical entertainments included Trinity musicians performing during breakfast and lunch in Hall, a masterclass with Mary-Janet Leith (2006), a Jazz performance, the Trinity Singers’ Summer Concert, and an Open Mic night.

Simon Armitage, Honorary Visiting Fellow and Oxford Professor of Poetry, led a poetry workshop, and then joined a panel discussion on the ‘Future of poetry’ with artist and writer Roma Tearne (2001), award-winning author Bernadine Evaristo, performance poet Joelle Taylor, writer, performer and musician Steve Larkin, and poet Rebecca Watts. Simon Armitage, Arts Week participants, from left, Madeleine Potter, Olivia Hetreed (1979) and Sarah Esdaile

RETURNING FOR ARTS WEEK

Returning to Trinity to take part in the Arts Week programme was as ever a delightful experience. The topic in question was the future of poetry. A huge subject, with a moment of reflection on the slippage between prose and poetry. Poetry has always been the Rolls Royce of literature and hearing the poets read their poems was an experience not to be missed. The questions from the audience and the discussions that followed all added to an atmosphere of buzzing creativity on this early summer evening. Please can we have more of such events!

Roma Tearne (2001)

I was delighted to return to College to serve on the ‘Developing an Audience’ panel. Students asked interesting and challenging questions, and it was reassuring that so many remain committed to the arts in these very challenging times. The SCR dinner afterwards was also a delight!

Tom Bewley (1961)

I took part in a fascinating panel on the use of imagery in the media. We had luminaries from the top press and broadcast media in the country, a brilliant cartoonist and a superb filmmaker. And me. We managed to cover a great deal: the role of different types of imagery, fake news and the growing reminders of the importance of reliable media, the ethics of publishing pictures of torture or death. We did manage to have some fun too. It was a pleasure to meet some of the audience and the new President—herself no stranger to the media. One thing that stood out for me: any students intrigued by photojournalism must do their homework before placing themselves in potential danger; if you don’t know how you will get out of the area, or how to stay in contact with others at home, then you are not ready to go. I offered to help anyone with understanding what is involved in risk assessments and I urge anyone to get in touch if they need that assistance. It’s a very good example of how the sorts of experienced professionals you can attract to Trinity can be of actual practical help as the student body sets out on their thrilling careers.

Adrian Michaels (1987)
Rebecca Watts and Joelle Taylor also joined forces for a poetry recital.

A day devoted to drama included Olivia Hetreed (1979) talking about ‘Writing for the screen’ and a panel discussion on ‘Developing an audience’ with Ian Flinton (1957), Tom Bewley (1961), theatre director Sarah Esdaile, and actor and director Madeleine Potter.

The media day included talks by the President (‘A Career in Arts Broadcasting’) and by Jeremy O’Grady, editor-in-chief of The Week (‘Entrepreneurial Journalism’). There was a student journalism panel, and a panel on ‘Imagery in the media’: Nicolas Andrews (1985), Adrian Michaels (1987), Charlotte Hunt-Grubb (1997) and Mohamed Madi (2006) were joined by documentary photographer and film-maker Alice Aedy, and cartoonist Kathryn Lamb. An art day included a life drawing class with portrait artist Nick Bashall, ‘Pimms and Painting’ on the Lawns and a ‘Paint Off’, with live music, with Nick Bashall and Nicky Phillips.

**COMMEMORATING TRINITY’S FALLEN**

As part of Arts Week, a week-long exhibition of photos taken by undergraduate Maddie Parr, ‘Their name liveth for evermore: commemorating Trinity’s fallen’, was held in the Hall. The exhibition was part of a project funded by the Trinity Society. The imaginative and evocative photographs of the graves and memorials of some of the Trinity men killed in the First World War were accompanied by texts recording the histories of those commemorated. The project was organised by undergraduate Marcus Williamson, with the support and advice of Clare Hopkins, archivist, and Sharon Cure, librarian. The exhibition will be on display again during the Trinity Weekend in September.
GRADUATE STUDENTS’ NEWS

POSTER COMPETITION PRIZE

Jack Haley, a DPhil student in Materials, has won a category first prize in the Department of Materials’ annual poster competition.

The poster competition, sponsored by Rolls Royce, includes a ‘Scientific Conference’ category, in which Jack’s poster, ‘Radiation damage with a twist’, was the winning entry. The poster is about an unusual defect that is produced in a metal when exposed to the environment inside a nuclear reactor. The defect is a helical shaped dislocation—hence the ‘with a twist’ in the title. Understanding the processes behind such damage will help predict the lifetime of nuclear reactor materials and contribute to the development of new radiation-resistant materials. A lot of work went into producing these interesting results and Jack is very grateful to Mike Jenkins, Emeritus Fellow, for his help with the analysis of these defects.

MARSHALL SCHOLAR’S NEXT STEP

Leah Matchett, a Marshall Scholar who has just completed her MPhil in International Relations, is one of forty-nine students who have been awarded a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship at Stanford University in California, in the first year of this postgraduate scholarship programme (for which there were over 3,600 applications from around the world).

Leah, who received her bachelor’s degree in global studies and geology from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, will be studying for a PhD in political science. She is hoping to pursue a career in nuclear security. While at Illinois, she worked with the US Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation, and worked as a teaching assistant for a Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament physics course. She served as an environmental science intern for the US Consulate in China and with the US Geological Survey, and was a student associate at the Harvard Belfer Center: Managing the Atom Project, and a graduate fellow at the Nonproliferation Education and Research Center in South Korea.

Knight-Hennessy Scholars receive financial support for the full cost of their graduate education at Stanford, and build on their core degree programme with leadership training, mentorship and experiential learning across multiple disciplines.

SCHOLARSHIPS ADVISORS’ VISIT

The scholarship group in the President’s garden
THE FIRST YEAR OF A DPHIL

Madeleine Chalmers, the first Sir Ivor Roberts Graduate Scholar, writes about the first year of her DPhil course.

A thesis is a coherent patchwork, one in which needled-pricked thumbs, ragged edges, offcuts, and clashing patterns come together to form a whole that is dense with labour, and rich in influences and unexpected contributions.

I joined Trinity in October 2017 as the first Sir Ivor Roberts Graduate Scholar, combined with an Oxford University AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership studentship. Just one year earlier, I had been on the other side of the garden wall, graduating from St John’s. In the intervening period, I had completed an AHRC-funded MPhil in European, Latin American and Comparative Literatures and Cultures at the University of Cambridge, where I was Fitzwilliam College’s Robert Lethbridge Scholar in Modern Languages.

Returning to Oxford was no straightforward homecoming. Time, space, and new encounters had added fresh textures to the city, the university, and me. As I look back on the first year of my DPhil, I see it as the slow crystallisation of years of chance meetings, conversations, gut instincts, and spontaneous decisions, whose significance is only visible in retrospect. The processes by which things are brought into being and changed lies at the core of my project on ‘unruly technics’.

In early June, a group from colleges and universities across the USA visited Trinity, as part of a ten-day tour of universities around the country. The visitors are all involved in scholarship programmes in their various institutions and they were keen to see for themselves some of the places where their students have studied, and to forge links for the future.

In Oxford, from Rhodes House, they walked over to Trinity and tea in the President’s Garden. The Librarian welcomed the visitors to a private viewing of the Old Library and the group was then shown the chapel and Hall and explored the gardens. They met this year’s two Marshall Scholars, Leah Matchett and James Williams.

In concert with the US National Association of Fellowship Advisors, the visit was organised by Mary Denyer, the assistant secretary and head of scholarship administration at the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission.

My thesis explores how avant-garde French writers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries negotiate the increasingly tight imbrication of technology into human life, and the challenge it poses to how we think about ourselves, our relationship to others and to our world. I argue that placing these texts of the past in dialogue with current philosophical reflections on technology can help us to think about our technological present, and future. At its heart, my thesis is a story about chance, evolution, instinct, and imagination; about how we find a place in the world, and about how what we produce takes on a life beyond us. I hope to assert and demonstrate the ways in which fringe fictions have interacted with scientific and technological discoveries to mould our understanding of ourselves, and our dreams of what a society should be—and continue to do so today.

The humanities are where we lay ourselves bare, where we cut to the heart of what we are. In a year of conferences, papers, and publication, my greatest privilege has been to teach on University and Faculty access and outreach schemes. Seeing, encouraging, and celebrating the astonishing potential of sixth-formers from backgrounds historically under-represented at Oxford, has been a joy. One discussion with students from London and the north west of England has stayed with me. I asked them whether, when we speak French, we are speaking the same language as Charles Baudelaire. We talked about how language is never neutral; how each word is freighted with different faces, voices, places, and memories for each one of us; how the new languages we learn are filtered through the other languages we speak. Even the words forgotten or unfamiliar are present in their absence. Reading the words of others—particularly in a foreign language—is raw and difficult, because we have to confront that unruliness. That uncertainty is a dizzying prospect, but also a liberating one. Literature, my seminar group told me, is a space in which everything we are is of value, because we read with everything we are, and we take what we read back into the world with us.

The patchwork that is my work is threaded through with the generosity of research councils and benefactors. I hope that, through my research and teaching, I can make my contribution, and encourage those coming after me to believe that they can make theirs.
‘DRAWN BY INTEREST AND SYMPATHY’:
THE LAURENCE BINYON PRIZE

Craig Clunas, Fellow and Professor of the History of Art, who retires in September, writes about a generous donation to the Trinity archive, relating to one of Trinity’s best-known Old Members.

Working as I do on Chinese art, the name of poet and art historian Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) was very familiar to me well before I arrived at Trinity, so I was delighted to discover that this very distinguished predecessor had also been a member of the college (matriculated in 1888), where he won the Newdigate Prize for poetry. He joined the British Museum staff in 1893 and worked there for forty years, publishing works such as The Spirit of Man in Asian Art, which I still have on my shelves, and which have lasted in the main longer than his prolific output of plays and verse, with the notable exception of ‘For the Fallen’, which marks every Remembrance Day. The manuscript of this poem is of course one of the treasures of Trinity’s archives.

One of the more pleasant parts of my job over the last eleven years has been the chairing of the committee that annually administers on behalf of the University the ‘Laurence Binyon Prize’, of up to £1,000, which exists, To enable travel to Asia, the Far East, or another area outside Europe—with travel to Asia being particularly encouraged—to extend knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts. Applications will only be considered from candidates whose travel plans are completely unrelated to their course syllabi or subject of academic research.

So I was very interested, earlier this year, to get an email out of the blue from Steve White, who had found, in a ‘very large auction lot (some 2-3000 documents, letters and autographs) at a general auction in Cardiff in April 2017’, some papers relating to the early history of the prize. These include autograph letters from the poet and translator R C Trevelyan (1872-1951), who was secretary to the committee of the literary Great and Good (including Walter de la Mare, T S Elliot, John Masefield, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Waley); it was they who published the initial appeal in The Times, recalling Binyon’s ‘high character, his response to anything he found gallant in life, among young people especially’. These documents, now generously donated to the archives by Steve White, show how difficult in fact it was to raise money in memory of Binyon during wartime, particularly when the culture of Japan, one of his great loves, was, perhaps understandably, viewed with huge suspicion by the public.

Research on Binyon by Dr Michelle Huang of Lingnan University, Hong Kong (who has generously shared her findings with me), shows that one of the larger donations of £100 came from the Chinese Embassy in London, with an additional £50 from Trinity itself, but the literary world was less immediately forthcoming. All the same, enough was raised to create this distinctive award, and, as I prepare to retire, it’s very satisfying (and I promise you it isn’t a fix) to report that the two most recent winners of the prize have been members of Binyon’s old college.

In 2017 Francesca Banat (History) was provided with funds for travel to Cambodia; one of Binyon’s most famous poems in its day was ‘Angkor’, so he would definitely approve. It begins:

Out of the Forest into a terrible splendour
Of noon, the pinnacles of the temple—portals,
Stone Faces, immense in carven ruin
Above the trembling of giant trees emerge.

And this summer Jamie Lee (Engineering Science) travelled around Japan to look at the contemporary art and design of that country. I leave to my successor the fun and the privilege of choosing those who will come after them, in benefitting from the extended ‘knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts’ which mattered so much to this famous Trinity figure.
CAROLINE DE JAGER
Fellow and Tutor in French.

I joined Trinity in October 2017 as the Tutorial Fellow in French, and I am also Professor of French in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. Before Trinity I taught at UCL and at the University of Michigan; before that, I was an undergraduate down the road at New College, and did my PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

I’ve lost count of the number of people who’ve told me I must know what I’m doing because I was a student at Oxford; all I can say is they must have been paying less attention to punting and more to administrative procedures than I ever did. I know what I’m doing chiefly thanks to the generous handover from my predecessor Jonathan Mallinson, who graciously gave me both a great deal of detail on how he’d done things and the sense that I could choose to do things entirely differently. Meanwhile my Trinity undergraduates have shown great kindness as I work things out: I treasure the comment from a finalist who, upon learning he had been the guinea pig for my first tutorial, said encouragingly ‘Well, I thought it was rather good!’

Like Jonathan, I am an early modernist, working chiefly on late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century France. This year I published my second book, *Compassion’s Edge: Fellow-Feeling and its Limits in Early Modern France* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), which has just won the biennial book prize of the Society for Renaissance Studies. The book explores the affective undertow of religious toleration by taking up the language of fellow-feeling—pity, compassion, charitable care—that flourished in the century or so after France’s Wars of Religion. It’s a gloomy sort of account: it’s not a story about compassion overcoming difference, but rather about compassion reinforcing divides.

I’m now working on another book called *Liquid Empire*, about the writing of water in early modern France and its American territories. I think of it as a scholarly version of Huck Finn, about rivers and their inhabitants of all sorts: nymphs, canoeists, poets, engineers. I’m not quite sure yet how it’s all going to fit together; for now, I’m just having fun paddling. In a related project, this year I co-curated an exhibition on water in the early modern Americas, at the John Carter Brown library in Providence, Rhode Island. The picture shows me with one of the displays.

KATHERINE IBBETT
Junior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Classics, Dean of Degrees.

I was elected to a Junior Research Fellowship in Classics at Trinity this past academic year; the position is co-terminous with a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship which I hold in the Faculty of Classics. After completing my undergraduate study at the University of St Andrews, and reading for an MPhil and DPhil at Merton and Wadham respectively, I was fortunate to be appointed to Trinity as a lecturer in Michaelmas 2015, and am delighted that I have been able to remain here since.

Latin poetry of the first centuries BC and AD forms the principal material for my research. The elegies of Propertius were the subject of my doctoral thesis, in which I considered the role of the poet as his own first reader. How does a reference to an earlier poem in a later one colour our comprehension of the latter? To what extent is our understanding of an earlier poem altered by the way in which it is treated in a later poem by the same writer? Are we able to draw any conclusions on the poet’s understanding of his own
corpus as a whole in the light of his repetitive language and subject-matter?

In the course of this research fellowship, I am writing the first ever English-language commentary on a group of sixteen poems known as the *Catalepton*. At various stages since antiquity (some of) these poems have been attributed to a young Vergil; indeed there are some scholars who still maintain that a number of the poems are part of the great poet’s juvenilia. (I am not convinced!) My interest in these apparently anonymous poems lies in what they can tell us about how ideas of authorship and readership are able to be constructed in and through a text at various stages. Can an author (or an editor) of a given (group of) poem(s) construct an authorial identity? And, if so, how does one do so? If one is seeking to write like a Vergil, how can one plausibly do this? Is an author or editor able to foster a certain sort of reader; is a reader able to be encouraged to approach a text in a particular way by author or editor? How can successive readers or editors construct an authorial persona?

Alongside the Faculty of Classics, Trinity has provided me with an engaging and resourceful environment in which to pursue my research, and has given me the added boon of continuing to teach its marvellous Classics undergraduates. I also very much enjoy encouraging the next generation of students of antiquity through outreach and access work in schools, and have great fun meeting alumni as they graduate and I practice my spoken Latin(!) as the college’s Dean of Degrees. Trinity is a wonderful place to be: *flor eat ut flori uit!*

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**WHITEHEAD TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP**

The Whitehead Travelling Scholarship is one of Trinity’s most valuable undergraduate awards. It was endowed by Sir George Whitehead (1880) in memory of his two sons, James (1909) and George (accepted for admission in 1914), who were both lost in the First World War. Calum Matthews, who received a Whitehead Travelling Scholarship, has written the following report of how he used the grant.

For my Greats Final Honours School I chose to write a thesis on the role Classical architecture played in the architectural plans of Albert Speer, Hitler’s chief architect. I was interested in the desire of Speer, and also Hitler, to use the architectural remains of the Roman Empire as a prototype for the intended legacy of the Third Reich. Speer had encapsulated this notion in the ‘Theory of Ruin Value’ which held that the greatness of a civilisation could only be gauged by future generations in the grandeur of its architectural remains.

Using the grant, I was able to travel to Germany and visit what remains of Speer’s crackpot architectural fantasies. Hitler had planned to remodel Berlin as ‘Germania’, an imperial seat for the Third Reich based on a strict axial code, allowing the regime to permeate all areas of the capital. Wandering around the city centre, few traces of the Third Reich presented themselves, most obliterated either by the Allies or during the Cold War. One did stand out however, the old Luftwaffe Ministry, now the German Ministry of Finance. This is, it has to be said, a hideous building: a brutalist pile of ‘stripped classicism’ that does away with practically everything that makes Classical architecture aesthetically pleasing. This set the tone for much of my interaction with Speer’s architecture.

In Berlin, I was also able to visit the Deutsches Historisches Museum. There I saw an architectural model of Speer’s plan for the Volkshalle (the People’s Hall), a colossal assembly hall, designed to fit 180,000 people. This was to stand at the centre of the new Berlin and be an abiding reminder of the omnipotence of the regime. What struck me particularly about the plans for the Volkshalle is that they were based upon the architectural design of the

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*Albert Speer’s model of ‘Germania’, a redesigned Berlin, with the ‘Volkshalle’ dominating the centre*
Pantheon, the most Roman of buildings. From a guide at the museum, I learnt that Hitler had visited the Pantheon and had been fascinated by its complex geometric plan, its central place in the cult of the emperor, and the legend that Hadrian himself had designed it. Hitler hoped that a similar building would help cement his own ruler cult in the pantheon of world history.

From Berlin, I travelled to Nuremberg, the ancient Bavarian town chosen by the Nazi high command as a venue for the National Socialist German Workers’ Party annual rally. The Nuremberg rallies were works of pageantry on a new scale with a parade ground for 100,000 known as the Zeppelinfield and a ‘Congresshalle’ modelled on the Roman Colosseum. The remnants of many these megaliths survive hauntingly in a park near the town. I spent a day walking around the skeletons of these colossal and deeply troubling buildings. All were designed by Speer, again in a stripped down classicism that hinted at an appreciation of classical form and proportion, but brutalised with brash concrete monumentalism. In particular, the Congresshalle, paid lip service to the rudiments of the Roman amphitheatre but completely ignored its subtleties, instead concentrating on out-sizing the original. It provided me with a definite conclusion that Speer had engaged only superficially with Roman architecture, simply as a model of ancient power to twist anew in the image of the Third Reich.

The travelling scholarship enabled me to decide on the final direction of my thesis, which analysed in-depth Speer’s use of the Pantheon as a model for the Volkshalle. My conclusion stated that Speer had deliberately simplified the design of the Pantheon, despite understanding its intricacies, to a style that adhered to Hitler’s own simplified world view. Thank goodness the Volkshalle was never built. It was speaking to the tour guide in Berlin that gave my thesis a precise focus which it may well have otherwise lacked. I am extremely grateful therefore to the benefactors for their generosity.

At the time of writing his report on his Whitehead Travelling Scholarship, Calum Matthews was 7,788km into a cycling trip from Cairo to Cape Town, partly funded by a Trinity Society Travel Bursary. He and two friends had begun their expedition in Cairo at the start of the year, and after seven countries, many punctures, some ‘dodgy stomachs’, intermittent tropical storms and a close encounter with an elephant, were well over two thirds of the way to Cape Town.

Calum wrote from Zambia, ‘From Egypt we followed the Nile into Sudan and crossed the Nubian desert to Khartoum. We then climbed up into the Ethiopian highlands, our legs not enjoying the experience. Then down through the province of Oromia, managing to just avoid some regional violence. In Kenya the rainy season hit us hard and we ditched the bikes, but not the rain, and climbed Mount Kenya. In Tanzania we sped along new, Chinese-made roads into Malawi, “the warm heart of Africa”, and down the shore of Lake Malawi. We are now in southern Zambia, heading to Victoria Falls. After that we will cross Botswana, below the Okavango Delta and into Namibia and then southwards all the way to Cape Town.’

Calum and his companions have now reached Cape Town, after 11,000km, six months and ten countries. In the process they have raised over £49,000 for the Against Malaria Foundation, a British charity which distributes mosquito nets in areas hardest hit by malaria in Africa. You can find out more at www.againstmalaria.com/africanorthtosouth and read a blog at www.cyclingagainstmalaria.wordpress.com.

Calum will be speaking about his cycling expedition at the Trinity Weekend, on Saturday 15 September.
TRINITY AND THE ARMISTICE

In the final article of this series about the First World War and the immediate impact on Trinity’s members, Clare Hopkins, College Archivist, describes the reaction to the Armistice at Trinity and recalls the Trinity men who survived to the Armistice yet never returned home.

The Armistice was not a peace treaty—that was signed at Versailles on 28 June 1919. Rather, it was the agreement to cease hostilities in order that a permanent peace could be negotiated. Nor did the First World War end with a single armistice. In the six weeks between General Ludendorff advising the Kaiser that the only option was to seek an immediate end to the fighting and the Allied and German guns falling silent, three other armistices came into force: with Bulgaria on 30 September 1918, Turkey on 30 October and Austria on 4 November. Early in October, the moderate Prince Max of Baden had been charged with opening negotiations with US President Woodrow Wilson. Losses on the Western Front had hardened American views in the nine months since Wilson proposed his ‘Fourteen Points’ as a possible basis for peace, while mass desertion from the army, mutiny in the navy, and revolution in cities at home had left Germany in a desperately weakened position. Ludendorff’s replacement, Wilhelm Groener, forced through rapid and drastic constitutional changes—the Kaiser exiled to Holland, the army declaring its loyalty to the social democratic party—and in the hours before dawn on 11 November, a military and civilian delegation met the Allied war leaders in a railway carriage in the forest near Compiègne. They subscribed to a list of thirty-four terms, largely dictated by the French, which included the immediate surrender of all occupied territory, and a large-scale handover of military materiel. The first term stated that fighting would cease in six hours from the armistice being signed—and so it came to pass, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Celebrations at the front were muted; after fifty-two months of carnage, the situation felt strange and anti-climactic. In a letter to his father, Bevil Quiller-Couch (1910), acting Major in the Royal Field Artillery, described how he had heard the news from a sapper as he crossed ‘the deserted Somme battlefield’ en route for some overdue leave in Paris. He longed to be with his family, or else the men of his battery ‘who are my children…to rejoice and share that quiet and wonderful feeling of joy and thankfulness.’ Alan ‘Tommy’ Lascelles (1905), Captain in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry, was ‘on the road to Mons’, the Belgian city where British forces had seen their first action on the Western Front four and a quarter years before. He intervened to save the lives of ‘three German prisoners, being escorted back by a single helpless cavalryman on a frightened horse’ from a Belgian mob of ‘men, women and boys [who] were raining blows on every part of their cringing bodies that they could reach with their naked fists or with any weapon that came to hand.’ ‘In three-and-a-half years of war,’ Tommy reflected in his diary, ‘I have never, so far as I know, actually done a German to death with my own hand; and it was a strange irony that my last act as a belligerent should have been to save the lives of three of that race.’ That night ‘an enterprising Brigadier gave a ball…but I was too tired to go.’ Two days later he felt ‘dizzy’ when he heard the terms of the Armistice. ‘Can you wonder,’ he mused, ‘that we were dazed and slow of comprehension? At the gathering of this stupendous harvest, too many of the sowers were not there. Even when you win a war, you cannot forget that you have lost your generation. And they prate of indemnities!’

Celebrations in Oxford were similarly measured. The Oxford Magazine reported on the ‘unspeakable relief’ that the ‘work of death’ had ended, but noted sagely that with ‘Young Oxford absent at the Front’, the ‘triumph won was too big and too dearly bought for mere larking.’ Flags were unrolled, however, and the bells of college clocks and towers chimed out, while ‘the usual crowd of boys and flappers’ in the Cornmarket was ‘even larger than usual’. St John’s put on a ‘credible
display of fireworks’ in the evening, while the magazine could not resist a subtle jibe at less seemly celebrations in Cambridge, which ‘dragged patriotism into disgrace by the wrecking of a newspaper office.’ There is no record of any celebration in Trinity. The college community was reduced to eleven undergraduates, two Fellows, and the President, Herbert Blakiston, who was in the middle of a three-year stint as Vice-Chancellor. In that capacity he announced that a ‘short Service of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the termination of the War’ would be held at St Mary’s on the following Sunday, ‘immediately after the University Sermon’, advising, with characteristic caution, the deferral of any further commemoration until the following June, when a ‘most eminent member of the University’ had promised to preach—none other than the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Thomas Davidson (1867).

Bevil Quiller-Couch

Bevil Quiller-Couch (1910) was the son of the writer and anthologist Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (Scholar 1882). A very popular member of the college and Boat Club during his three years at Trinity, he had just embarked on a business career when the War broke out. Bevil was qualified to take an immediate commission through his experience in the Officer Training Corps, and he arrived in France on 17 August as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. He was to serve with distinction throughout the War, being awarded the MC in January 1916 and mentioned in despatches three times. In August 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Bevil’s unfailingly cheerful letters home survive in the college archive, although there were many things that he didn’t share with his parents—not least the fact that since 1914 he had been deeply in love with May Cannan, daughter of the Aristotelian philosopher and publisher and close friend of his parents, Charles Cannan (Fellow 1884–98). May had been working in Paris for much of the War, but Bevil had resolutely decided not to ‘speak’ until the conflict ended. He had just gone on leave when the Armistice was declared, and arrived in the French capital on 12 November. The next day he and May went to Versailles, and, as May wrote later, ‘dined very quietly together in the Rue St Honore with two very grand Generals who obviously wondered what a much decorated Gunner Major and a tired looking girl in a black frock were doing there that night.’ The following afternoon, as they stood gazing into the Seine from the Pont d’Alma, Bevil proposed, and was accepted. ‘And then I went back with him to the Rue Turbigo and in that strange high-ceilinged room in the Paris-France Hotel, that had suddenly become a home, sat on his bed and darned some socks and sewed on a button. He had washed a shirt and hung it to dry on a piece of string stretched across the room; and we did not know that that was to be our only housekeeping.’ Bevil returned to his battery which was soon after posted to Düren in Germany as a part of the army of occupation. On 6 February, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch received a telegram with the news that Bevil was dangerously ill with pneumonia (a common complication of influenza) and another the following day, informing him that his son was dead. On 3 June 1919 Bevil’s posthumous award of the DSO was gazetted. It was the date that had been set for his wedding.
The extent and bitterness of the legacy of the First World War can hardly be exaggerated. It was a direct cause of the even greater and costlier conflict of 1939–45. Thousands of books have been written about it, and more and more continue to be published. There is barely a town or village in Britain without a war memorial and a tradition of remembrance. The poetry of the trenches has assumed a central place in English literature, while the first day of the Somme has left a permanent scar on the national psyche.

From the early months of the War, President Blakiston had inscribed the names of Trinity’s fallen on a scroll in the chapel. The document had had to be extended three times, and in the months following the Armistice a further thirteen names were added. Some were transferred from the list of the Missing, their families having finally given up hope of their return from a prison camp, and others had fallen victim to the influenza pandemic of 1918–19. (The name ‘Spanish flu’ is misleading; no belligerent country could admit to a problem so bad for morale, but any number of deaths in neutral Spain could be reported safely.) Trinity’s victims included Tyrrell Holland (1908), William Bolitho (1881), George Robertson (1904) and James Whitehead (1909), who died in camps and hospitals in Britain, and Bevil Quiller-Couch (1910), who succumbed to pneumonia in February 1919 while serving with the army of occupation at Düren in Germany. Others who died at this time were Charles Cumming (1908), Lieutenant Flying Officer in the RAF, who was killed in an accident near Cologne on 31 January 1919, and Wyatt Rushton (Rhodes Scholar 1916) of the US Red Cross, who died of an abdominal illness on the ship home.

An army of occupation was stationed in Germany to oversee the demilitarisation, while the slow process of dismantling the machinery of war and demobilising some 3 million soldiers began. There were sixty-four

## WYATT RUSHTON

The Trinity College photograph taken in the summer of 1917 includes just fourteen undergraduates. One is a Belgian refugee, two are medical students, and six are Rhodes Scholars from the United States. Standing fourth from left in the middle row is the confident figure of Wyatt Rushton, who had arrived in Oxford in October 1916 as the very first Rhodes Scholar from the state of Alabama. Wyatt was born in Montgomery. He had already taken Honours at the Universities of Alabama, Virginia, and Wisconsin, and was on the threshold of a promising career in journalism on the staff of the Alabama Advertiser, when he applied for the Rhodes Scholarship. The USA had declared War on Germany in early April 1917, and most Rhodes Scholars hurried home to enlist. Rejected for military service on account of his eyesight, Wyatt immediately volunteered to serve with the American Red Cross and spent six months in Milan before being appointed as an interpreter in the Intelligence Department of the Divisional HQ of the 44th Division. He was in Paris when the War ended, and applied for a transfer to the Transport Division in order to hasten his demobilisation, for he had not seen his family for more than two years.

Wyatt was one of six siblings, the youngest of whom was the 11-year old Graham. The Trinity Archive contains an exquisite facsimile of his diary, ‘The Record of Graham Rushton by himself’, which opens with the headline ‘VICTORY’ and the news that ‘On Nov. 11 1918 about 2 in the morning I was suddenly awakened by “xtra advertizer” from a newsboy on the street. Then I heard my brother Gene get up and go down stairs, when he came back he said the armistice has been signed.’ Later, ‘I walked to school only to return, a Holiday! It was some selabration, Dexter Ave was all flags.’ Graham’s record is a jubilant mix of journal entries, memorabilia—‘this is the wrapper of some candy Father brought me’—press cuttings, and letters. Soon after Christmas he wrote, ‘Wyatt is coming home every[one] in the family is happy.’ He pasted in a tiny photograph of the cook: ‘Mariah said that she had never kissed a white person but Wyatt had better look out when he came home...’

Graham Rushton’s reaction to the news of his brother’s return

It was not to be. Wyatt was taken ill with ‘intestinal troubles’ on the SS Kansas and died on 6 February 1919. His father received the news fifteen days later, and after some anxiety that his son had been buried at sea, travelled to New York to receive his body. Graham wrote, ‘Wyatt don’t come home, at least not to his earthly home—he went to a far better place and though we miss him we like to think he is eaven better there.’ Underneath he stuck in a small gold star.

Wyatt Rushton is commemorated in Trinity by the naming of the Wyatt Rushton Law Fellowship, which was endowed in 1998 by his nephew and namesake, Wyatt Rushton Haskell.
Trinity undergraduates in residence in Hilary term 1919, and still only 106 at the start of Trinity term. One who remained in Flanders until June that year was Leslie Jaques (1919) who had served with the Royal Field Artillery since September 1917. He accepted with approval the decision by the Minister of Munitions, Winston Churchill, that the ‘first in’ should be ‘first out’, and his memoir of the War chronicled a busy six months, what with orchestrating the ‘men’s Christmas festivities’, organising a trip to the battlefield of Waterloo, coaching ‘a class of gunners in Julius Caesar’ and seeing ‘all the productions at the Brussels Opera House.’

In October 1919 the undergraduate body swelled to a record 165, many of whom took advantage of the University’s offer of shortened ‘war degrees’. Trinity was overcrowded, and ‘pairs of brothers or friends’ were asked for the first time to share sets in the Garden Quadrangle (as is the norm today). Two such were Robert Paton, who came up from two years’ service in the Welsh Guards, and his younger brother Rolle, straight from Winchester. Rolle’s tutor, the lawyer James Brierly, remained as a staff officer in Constantinople (Istanbul) until late in 1919, but his place was taken, ‘with great success’ according to the College Report, by his recent pupil Laurence Crosby (Rhodes Scholar 1913, and Captain in the American Expeditionary Force). Five additional American officers came up in Trinity term as part of the US Army educational programme, which sought to manage the potentially destabilising economic effect of mass demobilisation.

The undergraduate population was a volatile mix of schoolboys suddenly relieved of the expected duty of military service, and hardened veterans, some of them high-ranking. As was to happen again in the late 1940s, the post-war years saw a spike in bad behaviour across the University. Trinity’s Dean, Tommy Higham (Fellow 1914–58) was tolerant, observing in a 1932 memoir that ‘there was a natural disposition to indulge the ex-soldiers’ who needed to lay aside responsibility and revive pre-war traditions. Men who had stood in a rat-infested trench under a pre-dawn barrage waiting to lead an attack into a line of rifle fire were not likely to be daunted by a gate locked at 9 pm or a scolding for missing morning roll-call. Trinity’s own Western Front was the long and provocative Balliol frontier. In Michaelmas term 1919, a captured German trench mortar, which had, somewhat insensitively, been presented to Balliol by the War Office, was heaved over the wall for the second time. The Junior Dean came to apologise, although he ‘was more concerned to tell [Higham] that [it] was the first thing that had really united the College since the War.’

On 11 November 1919, and annually in the years following, the whole college came together for an Armistice Dinner, with three toasts: ‘The King’, ‘Old Trinity Men’ and ‘The Freshmen’. The final toast was an important one, for the dinner replaced, with a more sombre tone, the pre-war ‘Freshers’ Wine’ or ‘Drunk’. For decades, this uproarious event had been followed by a smoking concert, which was the in-house equivalent to a music hall with orchestra, comic turns, musical solos and party pieces. Blakiston wrote a memo of the first ‘Armistice Day smoker’; at his insistence there was a simple and affordable menu followed by just ‘a few musical items (n.b. No professional talent).’

If mayhem and destruction were tolerated within the college gates, greater anxiety was caused by the risk of a disturbance—and bad publicity—outside. At a time of general shortages, the Claret Club and the Trinity Triflers (2nd XI cricket team) had to be warned about unseemly extravagance, and in June 1919 the JCR was firmly discouraged from holding a ‘very undesirable’ Ball. A small dance was allowed instead, with ‘no set supper, but ices, cakes, biscuits, beer and lemonade provided in a ground floor room of Kettell Hall opening onto the grass. Undergraduates did the clearing and decorating (a few Chinese lanterns outside, flowers etc mostly brought from the cricket-ground inside) with a little help from the College carpenter….’ As the ever-thrifty President noted with satisfaction, ‘Expenses worked out at 6 shillings a head. Dance much enjoyed.’

Meanwhile, Oxford, like Britain, was giving thought to the commemoration of the fallen. The Oxford University Roll of Service was published in 1920. It contained the names of 14,561 Oxford alumni and undergraduates. The Trinity section includes 850 men, of whom 152, 17 per cent, did not return. Lasting memorials were created across Britain, in towns, villages, factories, sports clubs, churches, schools—and in each of Oxford’s men’s colleges. The majority of these are highly ornamented wooden or marble...
boards, inscribed with the names and dates of the dead. Trinity’s is rather more. The names were indeed painted in gold on an oak board, but then the panel was placed in the entrance foyer of a new undergraduate facility—the War Memorial Library. The list of names was extended by two—Thomas Henderson (1893) and Richard Ball (1901) who had died while engaged in relief work after the end of hostilities. A corresponding board honours the fallen of the Second World War, and since 2015 an additional panel has commemorated our five fallen German and Austro-Hungarian members.

The building of the Library took almost a decade to complete. In July 1919 Blakiston convened a committee of alumni to discuss a range of ideas—statues, monuments, cloisters, a new JCR—but he already intended to build a library. The architect appointed was Joseph Osborne-Smith, but the President supervised the design closely and was generous with his suggestions. Between March 1920 and January 1921 Blakiston sent out some 1,200 appeal circulars, each with a handwritten letter inside. It was a huge effort, but one he undertook gladly: every fallen man he had known personally, from one of his very first pupils, the playwright George Calderon (1887), to the nervous teenagers whom he had punctiliously entertained at presidential breakfasts. Trinity’s alumni were generous, and so were the families of the fallen. Despite delays caused by the shortage of building materials and the complexity of purchasing the myriad of small premises in the ‘court’ behind the Jackson Building, the project progressed steadily, and the Library was opened on 10 November 1928 with a service in chapel and a ceremonial procession across the Front Quad.

The War Memorial Library. In 1966 the entrance, decorated with symbols of war, was removed to make way for the Cumberbatch Building and the foyer to the Danson Room, and the Roll of Honour was moved inside the Library.

Blakiston read the Roll of Honour, and the memorial panel was dedicated by the Bishop of St Alban’s, Michael Furse (1889). At its foot is a quotation from a funeral oration by Pericles, ‘by giving their lives they gained the renown that grows not old.’

DAMBUSTERS MEMORIAL UNVEILED

On 17 May 1943, Lancaster aircraft AJ-A of 617 Squadron, flown by Squadron Leader Melvin ‘Dinghy’ Young, DFC and Bar (1934), was on its return flight from Operation Chastise, the attack on the German Ruhr dams, when it was hit by anti-aircraft fire as it crossed the Dutch coast and crashed into the sea. All seven crew members lost their lives and are buried at the Bergen General Cemetery.

The Domestic Bursar, Jo Roadknight, and recent graduate Cate Moore represented Trinity College at the unveiling of the memorial to the crew of Avro Lancaster AJ-A on exactly the seventy-fifth anniversary of the raid. Also present was Arthur Thorning (1962), who recounted the actions of the crew of AJ-A on Operation Chastise in The Dambuster Who Cracked the Dam: The story of Melvin ‘Dinghy’ Young (Pen & Sword, 2008).

The monument is situated in the dunes above the beach at Castricum aan Zee, near the site of the crash. The memorial has come about thanks to the hard work and fundraising of Jan van Dalen and his daughter Macy Plugge, who developed a close interest in this crew and for many years have tended their graves.
EVENTS

A very popular Gaudy for years 1967 to 1972 continued the 2017-18 events programme—Hall was full to bursting and although a waiting list had been started, luckily everyone got a place before the evening. The President and Director of Development then set off for the University’s biennial North American Reunion, held this year in San Francisco, to which they added enjoyable Trinity events in Malibu, Boston, New York and Washington. In April, a Trinity team entered the Intercollegiate Golf Tournament—see below—and the Music Society held a concert and dinner for current and former members. Having been postponed due to heavy snow in February, the Edinburgh Dinner took place at Surgeons’ Hall at the end of the month.

In May, the two biggest events of the year, the Degree Day and the Parents Afternoon, enjoyed rather better weather than in the last few years. This year, for the first time, instead of a lunch, parents were invited to an afternoon event, with a range of exhibitions, tours and tea in the marquee. The London Drinks event at the Yorkshire Grey was well attended, as usual, by a wide-ranging group of Old Members, and the end of Eights Week was marked by the annual Boat Club Dinner for current and former members, and supporters.

The Ralph Bathurst Society Dinner was preceded with a very entertaining reading of some of his poetry by Simon Armitage.

After the end of term, a Gaudy for years 2002 to 2004 and the Fifty Plus Years On Lunch, on a very warm and sunny June day, rounded things off before the summer break.

TRINITY’S GOLF TEAM

Every year a team of up to ten Trinity golfers takes part in the Oxford University Intercollegiate Golf Tournament, held at Frilford Heath Golf Club, near Abingdon. The club boasts two magnificent heathland courses, which are regularly used for Open qualifying. The tournament is over 18 holes played in the morning, followed by a carvery lunch and the opportunity of playing a friendly 9 or 18 holes in the afternoon.

For the last six tournaments, Richard Barber (1961) has captained the team, working to get a group of players together for each tournament, and having been inspired to do so after Trinity didn’t compete in 2012. Each year Trinity has managed a respectable ranking, twice achieving its secondary aim of beating Balliol!

Richard has now decided to step down and it is good to report that Tim Gulliver (1971) has kindly volunteered to take on the role. Tim is eminently qualified to lead the Trinity team, having achieved the highest score in this year’s tournament, a very impressive feat!

The 2019 tournament takes place at Frilford Heath on Friday 12 April, followed by a dinner and prize giving at Univ. New team members would be very welcome (the maximum handicap limit is 20, players with higher handicaps are welcome but play off 20).

For more details, please email thomas.knollys@trinity.ox.ac.uk or tim.gulliver@btconnect.com.
OLD MEMBERS’ NEWS

Nick Salaman (1956) published a new novel, The Experimentalist, in July. It tells the story of Marie, a child with a dark past and a secret family history that her guardian protects her from.

Roderick Thrilkell White (1957) writes, ‘I have just been awarded my PhD by University College London for a thesis on Origin brands in Roman luxury markets 100 BC - AD 130. Yes, the Romans had lots of brands!’

Nevile Gwynne (1960) writes, ‘A third book by me has just been published. The first two, Gwynne’s Grammar and Gwynne’s Latin, were both number-one best sellers in the lists published by the Sunday Telegraph. The third, published by Ebury Press is called Gwynne’s Kings and Queens: the Indispensable history of England and her monarchs.’

Turlogh O’Brien (1960) has been appointed to the Council of University College London as an external member. He is also chairman of the Construction Industry Council’s ‘After Grenfell’ expert panel, dealing with changes needed in the construction industry to avoid such a tragedy in future.

Pepe Cavilla (1962) writes, ‘I have finally decided to stop working at the age of 80 and to spend more time with my four children and four grandchildren. After Oxford I worked as Dean and Head of the Philosophy of Education Department of Garnett College, and as Advisory Head for Senior Management Education and Development in the Inner London Education Authority for some twenty years. I obtained a Masters Degree in Education from the University of London. This followed a further twenty years as Senior Management Development Consultant for the Middle East practice of Ernst & Young International. I intend to spend the rest of my life developing my faith and practice of Nicherin Daishonin Buddhism.’

Martin Prozesky (1966) has written a novel, Warring Souls (Porcupine, 2017), which shows what happens when religious faith is governed by ethical passion—and when it isn’t. The protagonist is a Trinity graduate and one of the chapters is set in Oxford.

Clive Griffiths (1969) has visited Oxford several times since graduating but recently arrived for the very first time on foot, whilst walking the Thames Path National Trail in May. He started at the alleged source, near Kemble, and finished two weeks later at the Thames Barrier having experienced some beautiful, varied scenery, five minutes of rain and considerable sunshine. Trees lining many sections of the towpath provided much welcome shade. He arrived in Oxford on the fifth day and had a comfortable and nostalgic overnight stay in college before setting off again, well fuelled by a hearty Trinity breakfast.

Stephen Fitzsimons (1975) was awarded a PhD by the University of Manchester in 2017 for his thesis ‘The Leadership Styles of the Persian Kings in Herodotus’ Histories’. He continues to work full time as a lawyer.

Don Markwell (1981) took up the post of warden of St Paul’s College, University of Sydney, in February 2018.

Huw van Steenis (1988) has been appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England as a senior adviser on the long-term future of the financial system. He will work with colleagues to deepen the bank’s understanding of a number of major issues.

Deborah Lyon (née Done, 1990) is currently studying for the MA in creative writing at Lancaster University. She lives on the shores of Windermere with her husband and two young children and is slowly ticking off the Wainwrights in her spare time.

Hannah Murray (née Fox, 1990), after spending the last few years teaching Latin and Greek to undergraduates at Somerville College as a non-stipendiary lecturer, is returning to school teaching in September 2018 to join the Classics department at Harrow.

Gregg Hurwitz (1995) writes, ‘I’ve been so pleased to have had my Orphan X thriller series—Orphan X,
DEATHS

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

John Maxwell Woolley, MBE TD (1935), on 4 October 2017

The Revd Charles Wilfrid Pakenham (1937), on 9 January 2018

The Lord Digby (Edward Henry Kenelm Digby, 1942), on 1 April 2018

(Alan) Derek Fricker (1942), on 31 July 2012

Major James Francis Thornycroft Wheen (1943), on 26 April 2017

The Hon Ivor Thomas Mark Lucas CMG (1948), on 7 April 2018

Murray Lee Sanderson (1951), on 4 August 2017

Alan Russell Stephenson OBE (1952), on 16 August 2017

David Francis Campbell Evans (1953), on 7 June 2018

Nicholas John ‘Nick’ Hudson (1953), on 1 March 2018

Clement Francis Alexander Salaman (1953), on 4 May 2018

Dr Timothy Wace ‘Tim’ Roberts (1956), on 18 April 2018

Christopher Norman ‘Chris’ Lainé (1957), on March 2018

John Michael Warden (1963), on 2 June 2018

Robert Norman Smith (1972), in 2018

Alexander John Sebastian ‘Alex’ Merriman (1975), on 21 June 2018

Sir Fred Atkinson, Lecturer 1947-49, on 10 June 2018

Offers to contribute obituaries for the 2017-18 Report would be very welcome.

A VISIT TO THE ARCHIVE

When Myles Clough (1963), who lives in Canada, visited England in May, he and several of his contemporaries enjoyed a visit to the Archive, where the Archivist showed them photographs and other records of their Trinity days. Shown in the Archive reading room are, from left, Chris Hall (1963), Myles Clough (1963), David Gillam (1962), Simon Hunt (1963) and Chris Marsay (1962).

The Nowhere Man, Hellbent—hit number one on the Sunday Times bestseller list. I came back to England for the Harrogate Crime Festival in July, one of my favorite journeys in the world.’

MARRIAGE


BIRTHS

To Adam Capewell (1994) and Emma Carrington-Smith, on 31 March 2016, a son, Jonny Capewell.

To Roberta Coleman (née Backhouse, 1997) and Stephen, on 3 June 2017, a daughter, Celia Mary Althea Rose, a sister for Esmé.


To Sarah Cherry (née Jenks, 2006) and Dominic, on 16 March 2018, a son, Gustav Alfred, a brother for Felix.

To Leonora Morgan (2007) on 30 December 2017, a daughter, Henrietta Alison Jessie.

To Adam Capewell (1994) and Emma Carrington-Smith, on 31 March 2016, a son, Jonny Capewell.

To Roberta Coleman (née Backhouse, 1997) and Stephen, on 3 June 2017, a daughter, Celia Mary Althea Rose, a sister for Esmé.


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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GAUDIES

2018
Saturday 29 September
1990 - 1993

2019
Saturday 16 March
1982 - 1985
Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 April
MCR Gaudy
Saturday 29 June
1994 - 1997
Saturday 5 October
1973 - 1977

EVENTS IN 2018

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 September
TRINITY WEEKEND
Saturday 27 October
BENEFACTORS LUNCH
Thursday 8 November
LECTURE: WE WILL REMEMBER THEM: A CENTURY OF COMMEMORATION

Saturday 10 November
BENEFACTORS LUNCH
Sunday 11 November
EVENTS TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE ARMISTICE
Saturday 17 November
BIOCHEMISTRY DINNER
Saturday 1 December
CAROL SERVICES
Thursday 6 December
THE VARSITY MATCHES

EVENTS IN 2019

Saturday 9 February
FUNDRAISING CONCERT AND DINNER WITH MAXIM VENGEROV
In support of the building project. Further details will be emailed in the Autumn.
Saturday 23 February
WILLIAM PITT SOCIETY LUNCH
Friday 1 March
LAW SOCIETY DINNER
Saturday 9 March
CLASSICS DINNER

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