RESPONDING TO COVID-19 - How members of college are involved
An extraordinary end to the last academic year

I am writing this following what must be one of the most unprecedented terms in the history of the college. We waved our undergraduates off in March at the end of Hilary term, a matter of days before the UK went into lockdown as a protective measure against COVID-19. As it became clear that students would not be able to return for Trinity term, an extraordinary planning exercise was set in motion across the whole University. In a matter of weeks, curricula and examinations were restructured to be delivered online; students were surveyed to find out about their access to IT equipment and their ability to study at home; and funds were made available to enable students to set themselves up to work remotely.

Across the term I spoke with over 150 students individually and others in groups, and I pay tribute to the whole student body for their ability to adapt and find creative solutions to the challenges they faced. The staff ‘gave their all’, from those working in the front line of supporting our students, to the many who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the college could continue to operate.

It was a particular disappointment for the finalists, who missed the opportunity to end their university days with the traditional rituals of celebration and to say their goodbyes, but we hope to welcome them back next year for a special reunion. The Poet Laureate and Honorary Fellow, Simon Armitage, has generously agreed to curate a publication of our finalists’ writings and reflections about their personal experience of their final term. We plan to turn this into a book (funded by Roger Michel, 1984, Sir Thomas Pope Fellow) as a memento for every finalist.

Our Access work goes from strength to strength connecting with almost 5,000 school students a year.'

achievements of our Fellows, Kim Nasmyth (Professorial Fellow in Biochemistry) was awarded the Centenary Award by the Biochemical Society and Alexander Korsunsky (Tutorial Fellow in Engineering) was elected to a fellowship of the Institute of Physics. Honorary Visiting Fellow Judge Theodor Meron, was appointed an Honorary Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George by Her Majesty The Queen for his service to criminal justice and international humanitarian law.

It is now many months ago that several present and former members of the Trinity community travelled to Rome to attend the canonisation of John Henry Newman. Newman was an undergraduate at Trinity and later, a fellow at Oriel. Members of both colleges joined the Prince of Wales’ delegation for a memorable canonisation Mass in St Peter’s Square. In College, the Chaplain led a procession from the bust of Newman outside Garden Quad through to the chapel for a special service of evensong.

Our Access work goes from strength to strength connecting with almost 5,000 school students a year. Shortly before lockdown, the JCR, MCR and Access team co-hosted a showcase of our activity in which several of our 70 student Ambassadors, partners and school teachers took part, with a good number of Old Members present. After schools were closed in the UK as a result of the pandemic, the Outreach and Access team transferred
all our schools’ materials to make them available digitally, which will allow us in future to support many more schools and teachers. We launched several short videos about Trinity for school students considering an application to Oxford—do take a moment to watch them (search YouTube for ‘Trinity College Oxford official’).

Work on the Levine Building was interrupted for six weeks as a result of the pandemic while new arrangements for safe working were introduced. Since work has resumed, the building is now taking shape above ground at an impressive rate. At the time of writing, the east end of the building has reached full height and we look forward to a topping out ceremony in the autumn.

Amongst many wonderful memories of this extraordinary academic year, we were saddened to learn in November of the death of Canon Trevor Williams, Chaplain and Tutor in Theology from 1970 to 2005 and then Emeritus Fellow, who will be remembered for his many contributions to college life. Trevor had moved to Edinburgh in 2018, to be closer to his daughters, whom we had hoped to welcome back to College, along with many others from Trinity and elsewhere, for a memorial service in March—regrettably that had to be postponed and will now be held next spring.

In April we were shocked and saddened by the death of our Head Gardener, Paul Lawrence, following a heart attack. Paul gave dedicated service to Trinity over so many years and he will be greatly missed. We look forward to a time, after the college reopens, to pay tribute to Paul and we offer our heartfelt condolences to Paul’s wife Nicki and their family.

A great deal of work has been taking place over the summer to prepare for Michaelmas term. The new term will be well under way by the time you receive this Newsletter, which has, not unsurprisingly, been delayed by events. There will be more to report on in the next edition, but in the meantime I close by offering my warmest wishes to the global Trinity family. Many of you have been in contact during the pandemic to share your experiences. I look forward to welcoming you back to Trinity or meeting you in gatherings across the world when we are able to travel again. In the meantime, I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE
**Canonisation of John Henry Newman**

Cardinal John Henry Newman, former undergraduate and Honorary Fellow of Trinity, was canonised as a saint in the Catholic Church by His Holiness the Pope on 13 October 2019. The President and several others from Trinity attended the service in Rome, while events in College and around Oxford included a celebratory evensong in Chapel and an archive exhibition, ‘Newman and Trinity College’.

St John Henry Newman was a scholar, matriculating in 1816, and the college’s first Honorary Fellow, elected in 1877. He is a significant figure in the religious history of 19th-century England; his role in the Oxford Movement in the Church of England and eventual reception into the Catholic Church made him a nationally known figure by the mid-1840s. A theologian and poet, he is also remembered as a preacher, pastor, controversialist, educational visionary, and one of the most significant modern theologians of the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.

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**Trevor Williams**

Canon Trevor Williams, who died on 5 November last year, was Chaplain and Fellow and Tutor in Theology from 1970 to 2005. He will be remembered for his many contributions to college life and beyond, including his longstanding charitable work in Uganda, where he was born and later studied after his undergraduate degree at Oxford.

A memorial service, rescheduled from this spring, is due to be held on 20 March 2021, with a second date, 16 May, held as an alternative should it not be possible for large groups to gather together in March. Confirmation of the date and further details will be given nearer the time.

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**Paul Lawrence**

Paul Lawrence, Head Gardener, died on 8 April, following a heart attack. Paul joined Trinity in 1994 and over a quarter of a century created a legacy that is all around us in Trinity. His gardener colleagues, Aaron Drewett and Bob Dunn, have continued to work during the COVID lockdown, paying a very special tribute to Paul in replanting the President’s Garden to a design that Paul completed only weeks before his death.

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**Linora Lawrence**

Linora Lawrence was the Alumni & Development Office administration assistant from 2005 to 2011. She managed the work of keeping the database up to date, and other routine but necessary office tasks, with her boundless cheerfulness and warmth. Linora had previously worked at the Bodleian and was part of an enthusiastic local writers group. She was ill for some time and she died peacefully at home on 2 January.
Chris Butler leading COVID treatment trial

Chris Butler, Fellow and Professor of Primary Care in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, and Clinical Director of the University of Oxford Primary Care Clinical Trials, has been awarded £1.7 million in funding for a clinical trial of potential COVID-19 treatments.

The Platform Randomised Trial of Interventions Against COVID-19 in Older People (PRINCIPLE, www.principletrial.org) is one of three national priority clinical trials on the virus. Its award is a share of the £24.6 million rapid research response funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and by the Department of Health and Social Care through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

PRINCIPLE will enable researchers to rapidly evaluate different treatments that could stem the progression of COVID symptoms in older people and help ease the burden on hospitals. Unlike many other clinical trials for COVID-19, which are mostly focussed on providing treatment to those who already have serious symptoms and are admitted to hospital, the PRINCIPLE trial seeks to identify treatments that can be prescribed by community-based GPs to slow or halt the progression of the disease and prevent the need for hospitalisation.

The platform is now open to everybody in the UK, without referral, and study materials and medicines are couriered to participants; follow-up can be done entirely online. This makes the trial the first truly ‘democratic’, nationally inclusive and potentially sustainable trial, taking research directly to the participant.

Participants are closely monitored for the first 28 days of the trial, with a health record notes review taking place for up to three months to understand the longer-term effects of the illness on their health.

Welsh GP of the year

Professor Butler is also a GP based in Cynon Vale Medical Practice in Mountain Ash, Glamorgan. In November he was named Welsh GP of the Year by the Royal College of General Practitioners Wales. The award commends GPs for the difference they make to their patients’ lives, and is awarded on the basis of nominations by members of the public.

COVID treatment evidence review

There has been growing interest in the use of existing medicines as potential treatments for COVID-19, such as chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine. Both drugs have been incorporated into some national guidelines to treat COVID in certain situations, despite the lack of rigorous clinical trial data. Dr Gbinigie and a colleague analysed the findings of a study of 30 COVID patients in China, and a second trial of 36 patients in France, both published in March.

In their review, Dr Gbinigie and Dr Kerstin Frie from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences concluded there was not enough evidence from clinical trials of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to determine whether the drugs are safe and effective treatments for COVID-19. In their rapid review of clinical trial data for BJGP Open, they found that larger, randomised clinical trials are urgently needed in both community and hospital settings. Such studies would guide policy-makers and clinicians to make decisions for patients based on high-quality evidence.

In collaboration with other researchers, Dr Gbinigie has also looked at the evidence for the effectiveness of other medicines, namely the HIV drug Lopinavir/ritonavir and the antibiotic azithromycin, and Zinc.
Open-Source ventilators to treat COVID-19

Postgraduate Michael Garstka is part of a team of engineers and medics set up to rapidly develop an affordable open-source ventilator. The team from Oxford and King’s College London worked with medical equipment manufacturers Smith + Nephew and was shortlisted by the Government to go to the next stage of testing.

The team is confident that the rapidly manufacturable OxVent has a role in the international COVID-19 response and in the medium term as a low cost ventilator. To meet those demands, an OxVent research project is continuing and a joint venture not-for-profit social enterprise has been spun out. The immediate plans focus on deployment in Mexico and Brazil where the pandemic demand for ventilators is still accelerating.

The design exploited off-the-shelf components and equipment with elements that can be produced through 3D printing techniques. Michael was one of several students from the Control Group in the Engineering Department helping to design the control algorithm and the software that runs on the microcontroller of the ventilator.

The OxVent team also includes former undergraduates Tom Kirk (2013) and Andrew Orr (2015).

Zimbabwe support hub

Jason Brickhill and Ngoni Mugwisi, both postgraduate students from Zimbabwe, are among the founders of a virtual network to support the response to COVID-19 in the country.

The Zimbabwe COVID-19 Support Hub (zimcovid19.com) is a project driven by Zimbabwean students and young professionals, and founded out of concern for the threat of the virus to the country, which faces many challenges including poverty, a weakened public health system, high rates of HIV-AIDS and other underlying medical conditions, food insecurity, unemployment and fiscal instability.

The project now involves about 30 volunteers across the world, working virtually to support and amplify local efforts to respond to the pandemic by sharing information, contacts, and by pooling in one place community fund-raising efforts. They have also been translating important COVID-19 information into Zimbabwean languages to support public awareness.

Jason says: ‘We acted because we are deeply concerned about Zimbabwe’s lack of resources and preparedness to respond. For example, Zimbabwe was reported to have a total of 7 ventilators in the country and almost no PPE at the start of the pandemic… We are a support resource, so our aim is to amplify the efforts of others in Government and civil society in Zimbabwe, including by encouraging Zimbabweans in the diaspora to help where they can.’

Debating champion

Trinity undergraduate Lee Chin Wee has won the 40th World Universities Debating Championship, in the process making history as the first Singaporean student to win the ‘triple crown’— the titles of overall champion, best speaker in the finals, and overall best speaker at the debate tournament.

This annual international tournament is considered the most prestigious debating competition in the world, and this year featured more than 240 universities from 50 countries. In winning the title Lee and his competition partner, Jason Xiao of Wadham College, beat teams from Yale University, Macquarie University and the University of Belgrade in the final.
Centenary Prize for Kim Nasmyth

Kim Nasmyth, Fellow and Whitley Professor of Biochemistry, has been awarded the Centenary Award by the Biochemical Society. The international award is given annually to a biochemist of distinction, and recognises Professor Nasmyth’s work on the segregation of chromosomes during cell division.

Professor Nasmyth’s scientific work has addressed the mechanisms by which genes are turned on and off during development, how DNA replication is controlled, and how chromosomes are segregated during mitosis and meiosis.

Janet Pierrehumbert wins medal for scientific achievement

Janet Pierrehumbert, Fellow and Professor of Language Modelling, has been awarded the International Speech Communication Association’s 2020 Medal for Scientific Achievement, for the remarkable contributions she has made to the field of speech communications, and in particular to phonology. The medal recognises and honours an individual each year who has made ‘extraordinary contributions to the field of speech communication science and technology.’

Professor Pierrehumbert has also been awarded a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for a project entitled ‘Exaggeration, cohesion, and fragmentation in on-line forums’.

The EPSRC is the UK’s main agency for funding research in engineering and the physical sciences and the project is part of a programme entitled ‘Responsible Natural Language Processing for Intelligent Interfaces’. The grant is a collaboration with Dr Xiaowen Dong of the Oxford Man Institute.

Alexander Korsunsky elected fellow of the Institute of Physics

Professor Alexander Korsunsky, Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science and Vice-President 2019-20, has been elected a fellow of the Institute of Physics, a distinction that ‘indicates a very high level of achievement in physics and an outstanding contribution to the profession’ and recognises the outstanding role he plays in the advancement of the discipline, in particular in the application of physical methods to the study of the structure and properties of engineered and natural materials.

Professor Korsunsky’s current interests concern the study of mineralised biological tissues, including bone, dentine and enamel, for which he is studying healthy function alongside the effects of disease, such as dental caries (tooth decay), seeking to improve the existing approaches to combatting this major disease through the combination of advanced experiment and sophisticated modelling.
First English translation of *Les Tragiques*

A new book by the Senior Tutor, Professor Valerie Worth, is the first English translation of Agrippa D’Aubigné’s epic poem, *Les Tragiques*.

Composed in France in the 1570s, and first published in 1616 in Geneva, *Les Tragiques* records the story of the suffering of the Protestants in the French Wars of Religion, vividly depicting a devastated country and combining portrayals of the worst atrocities of the Wars with satirical attacks on leading political and religious figures. In doing so it sets the Protestant sufferings within the overarching context of God’s eternal plan for his chosen faithful. And while the work focuses on France, it also presents tableaux from the Reformations across Europe and in the Americas.

Professor Worth says, ‘I wanted this work to be accessible to a far wider readership, and I hope that a modern English translation—with a critical introduction and generous notes and indexes—will achieve this. It has been a privilege to undertake the work with the support of Trinity, and especially in dialogue with Fellow and Tutor in French Professor Katherine Ibbett, whose own recent book, *Compassion’s Edge*, has made a significant contribution to our understanding of D’Aubigné.’

Research into plastics production

Charlotte Williams, Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, has been awarded a five-year Established Career Fellowship by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

The £1.5 million fellowship allows time for Professor Williams and her research team to investigate and develop a recently discovered chemical process—described as ‘switchable polymer manufacturing’—with a view to making plastics production more environmentally friendly. The long-term goal is to investigate how to re-configure polymer manufacturing to produce sustainable, high-value materials.

In the UK, the plastics industry employs more than 170,000 people and has an annual sale turnover of £23.5 billion. It is also one of the country’s top 10 exports. Today most of these plastics are sourced from petrochemicals and are not designed for efficient recycling or biodegradation.

Chairing CS3 Summit

Professor Williams chaired last November’s Chemical Sciences and Society Summit (CS3), a partnership between the funding agencies and chemical societies of China, Germany, Japan and the UK, with each country represented by a delegation of their leading scientists for discussion of how the chemical sciences can help to tackle pressing challenges, and proposing future directions of research. For this summit the theme was plastics, and discussions focussed on how chemical sciences can make plastics more sustainable.
UKRI fellowship

Carla Perez Martinez, Junior Research Fellow in Chemistry until January this year, has become a principal investigator at the London Centre for Nanotechnology at University College London, after having been named a Future Leaders Fellow. The fellowship is worth more than £1 million and Dr Perez Martinez is one of 78 researchers to receive the government funding dedicated to supporting work at the cutting edge of scientific discovery.

The fellowship will fund a project titled ‘Ionic Liquids for Subtractive and Additive Nanomanufacturing,’ which will investigate how a novel type of chemical compounds, called ionic liquids, can be used to treat materials. Her ultimate goal is to develop machines using the chemical advantages of ionic liquids to achieve faster manufacturing at the micro and nanoscale. These machines should benefit the production of microprocessors used in our mobile phones, as well as investigations in biology, material science and engineering.

Judge Theodor Meron honoured

Honorary Visiting Fellow Judge Theodor Meron has been made an Honorary Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG). This honour has been conferred by Her Majesty The Queen in recognition of Judge Meron’s services to criminal justice and international humanitarian law.

Judge Meron (‘Ted’ as he is known to all at Trinity) plays an active role in College, generously meeting students and lecturing about his work as a Judge at the International Criminal Court at The Hague. In January, he delivered a deeply moving lecture at the United Nations on Holocaust Memorial Day, 75 years after the liberation of Auschwitz. We were touched and greatly honoured that he travelled straight from New York to deliver the same lecture at Trinity a few days later as part of the college’s own Holocaust commemorations.

Judge Meron says of the award: ‘This is a reflection of British recognition of the vital importance of criminal justice and international humanitarian law at a time when so many atrocities against civilians continue unabated and, for this, I am very grateful.’

The art of advertising

Professor Lynda Mugglestone, Lecturer in English Language and Literature, is co-curator of the Bodleian’s exhibition in the Weston Library on The Art of Advertising, which tells the story of British advertising from the mid-eighteenth century to the 1930s, showcasing some of the finest examples of advertising illustration and commercial art. Professor Mugglestone’s chapter in the accompanying volume explores how language techniques and usage in advertising have evolved from the late 15th century to the present day.

For more information about the exhibition, a virtual tour, blog posts, and details of reopening, go to visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk.
Nano-scale X-ray vision offers new insight

New research by Lecturer in Engineering Felix Hofmann (2003) reports a step change in the ability to characterise the crystal defects that control the behaviour of most metals and alloys. His team’s use of X-ray microscopy allowed nanoscale examination of material defects and the distortions they cause. The result, published in the journal *Physical Review Materials*, promises new insights for the optimisation of high performance materials for aerospace and power generation.

The new research, carried out in collaboration with colleagues at the Advanced Photon Source in the US, uses an X-ray diffraction technique called Bragg Coherent Diffraction Imaging (BCDI) to identify and measure the impact of material defects. BCDI requires very small samples, and until recently could only be used on materials that naturally form suitably small particles; unfortunately, almost none of the most important engineering materials fall into this category.

Dr Hofmann’s team developed a new approach allowing the investigation of defects in important engineering materials such as tungsten, the most promising material for armour components in future nuclear fusion reactors—such extreme environments causes defects within the metal, and it’s vital for engineers to understand how those defects might impact the material’s strength.

Levine Building news

Since the last newsletter, work on the Levine Building has progressed significantly. The demolition of Staircase 4 was followed by several weeks when archaeologists conducted a thorough investigation of the site. At the end of January, the contractors, Gilbert Ash took charge. Piling began almost immediately and although there was a short delay with the introduction of the lockdown, the size and shape of the building were soon clearly discernible.

Progress accelerated with the arrival of the crane needed for the next phase, which focussed on perimeter capping beams, earthworks for the basement and drainage. By early July, walls of the teaching wing at the eastern end of the site were almost complete.

This project will continue to be the focus of fundraising in the coming year. To date, a little over £9.8 million has been raised in gifts and pledges from 781 Old Members, 47 Friends and 10 organisations, including trusts, foundations and companies with matching gift programmes. We could not be more grateful for your support and would like to thank again everyone who has given so generously. For further details of how you can contribute to this exciting project, please get in touch with the Development Director, Sue Broers.
**All-Innovate winners**

In January, a university-wide competition, All-Innovate, was launched by the Oxford Foundry (an entrepreneurship centre established by the Saïd Business School) to encourage students to formulate and pitch entrepreneurial ideas to a panel of judges. Engaging with Old Members as mentors and judges, colleges were asked to select their two best entries. We were grateful that Dave Nicholson (1994) agreed to be a mentor and that Nat Upton (2010) and Ting-Ting Zhang (2012) volunteered to judge the Trinity entries; the two progressing to the final were Genei-Learn Smart, a system to speed up online research, and Sleep Map, a method of improving sleep patterns using smart technology. Genei-Learn was the brainchild of Billy Richards and Freddie Follows, while Sleep Map was the work of Alexandru Valeanu, a post-doc in the Physics department.

The final was delayed, but in August it was announced that Genei-Learn was joint winner of the undergraduate category. Congratulations to Billy, Freddie and their team!

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**Essay prizes**

Undergraduate Ernest Lee has won two college essay prizes this year, the Douglas Sladen Prize and the Margaret Howard Essay Prize.

The Douglas Sladen Prize, is awarded to the best original written essay on any topic by a Trinity undergraduate. It was established in 1964 by the widow of Douglas Sladen (scholar 1875). Ernest Lee’s winning essay was entitled, ‘Hold on, the statue’s buffering: virtual museums for a post-physical world’.

The Margaret Howard Essay Prize, established by Gillian Howard in memory of her mother, sets essay topics that are not subject-specific and will encourage students reading for an undergraduate degree in any field to exploit the knowledge they have gained during their course and prompt them to think about the social and ethical context in which it is studied. It is awarded for an essay addressing one of three topics chosen by the judging panel; Ernest Lee’s essay addressed the question: “I have no message… Messages don’t interest me” (Sarah Maldoror). To what extent do literary, cinematic or artistic works have political “messages”? Ernest’s prize-winning essays can be found in the News section of the website.

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**Three years on**

Many Old Members and Friends were generous in their support of the appeal for a graduate scholarship in Sir Ivor Roberts’ name and we cannot thank you enough for your donations. Three years have now passed and the first scholar, Maddy Chalmers, is finishing her DPhil and nearing the end of her time at Trinity.

We hope you will enjoy reading more about her work, her reflections and her plans for the future in this year’s Benefactors Report, which is being sent with this Newsletter.
TRINITY IN LOCKDOWN

A graduate student perspective of life in College, by Neale Marlow, who is studying for an MSc in Surgical Science and Practice

As a student juggling academic pursuits with surgical training at the John Radcliffe, life since lockdown has been rather different. The month of March was plagued by uncertainty; would the university continue to function? Would I be asked to work in a different part of the hospital? Would the pubs of Oxford dry up and close their doors?

Of course, the inevitable occurred and I picked up COVID-19 myself the week lockdown began. Despite being poorly, I was overwhelmed by an outpouring of support from College, whether that was the three meals a day from Hall (thank goodness for Denise Matzen’s scrambled eggs), the regular check-ins from Emma Percy or the reassuring call from Jon Flint to say that I wouldn’t go hungry once Hall closed (an external delivery service was specially arranged).

After a few weeks I was back to full health and adjusting to the new monastic existence in Staircase 2, shared with the handful of graduate students remaining on-site. True to form, the MCR social secretaries rose to the occasion, with Laura Cox, Bethany White and Rowan Curtis quickly establishing a devilishly difficult and well-attended weekly online quiz. Personal highlights include the picture-round by fellow Staircase 2 ‘lockdowners’ Jamie Green and Conor Keogh, who, in full sub fusc, posed in obscure spots around College for attendees to identify, and Rowan Anderson, whose translations of pop-songs into Middle English (and questionable renditions) left quizzers baffled.

Despite the ever-shifting COVID climate, porters Martin Reeve, Martin Wizard, Kirk Ellingham, Maria Sommaggio, Dominic Lantain and new member of the team Clarindo Almeida have been a constant source of friendly support, and questionable banter. The college gardens too, under the careful attention of Aaron Drewett and Bob Dunn, are blooming, and exploring the herbaceous borders has become an unexpected hobby of mine (having discovered fairly quickly that croquet for one is counter-productive for mental wellbeing). On that subject, I must be vigilant to maintain my morale during lockdown; I nearly burst into tears of relief last week after spotting assistant bar manager Ian Stacey making his way across Front Quad towards the Beer Cellar… Alas, it turned out the pipes just needed flushing.

Ultimately, lockdown has crystallised how it’s not the ancient quads, the beautiful gardens or excellent facilities that make Trinity home—it’s the people. I miss having the undergrads around, I miss the hustle and bustle of the Hassan’s queue on a Friday night and I miss bumping into a friendly face in the MCR and hearing all about the inspiring work they’ve been up to. Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the mood in College is positive and I’m certain that our graduate community, under the careful guidance of its newly-elected president Joe Hickie, will emerge from the shadow of COVID-19 stronger than ever.
The Outreach Showcase

In March, the Access team held the college’s first Outreach Showcase to celebrate our progress so far. We brought together Oxfordshire and North East teachers, representatives from our partners, Rachel Carr (IntoUniversity), Graeme Atherton (1990) (National Education Opportunities Network), Sammy Wright (North East teacher and Social Mobility Commissioner), alongside Trinity’s own students, tutors and alumni.

We shared success stories and discussed ideas for the future of Access at Trinity. The event created a really positive atmosphere and sparked useful conversations and ideas which we hope will translate into further positive action from the Trinity community.

‘Hearing what the college has been doing, it sounds focused and [like it is] really hitting the spot.’ (An Old Member on the Outreach Showcase)

Moving outreach online

During Trinity term, the Access team moved the outreach programme online to ensure Trinity could still provide comprehensive support to schools. We intend to adopt the most effective parts of this into our normal offering, having found some exciting benefits. We have been delivering pupil and teacher sessions via Zoom, using the interactive event platform Slido. We have also recorded our stock sessions for Years 7-12 following teacher requests.

Our live Zoom sessions were taken up by 18 Oxfordshire schools and 16 schools in the North East. We have worked with five of our highest priority schools in this way, two of which had not engaged with us fully before.

Our detailed recorded sessions are followed by a short live Q&A session, and are followed up with a recording to maximise engagement. This format has enabled us to prioritise schools more effectively, with more time for our highest priorities. What’s more, attendees often ask better questions following a recording, as they’ve had time to re-listen, check information and process their ideas.
Staff changes

We were very sorry to have to say farewell to Alison Nicholls, Trinity’s nurse for the last 19 years, who left in April. Alison made a significant contribution to college life and valiantly combined her commitments to College with a number of nursing roles in other colleges, charities and the NHS. Her care and commitment to the health and well-being of both students and staff has been deeply appreciated.

Kerry Minton succeeds Alison in the role of college nurse. When she is not in Trinity, Kerry works as the nurse for Wolfson College.

Claire Parker, who was a senior GP in Oxford for many years, has also joined Trinity in the new role of Wellbeing Adviser.

In Hilary term we also said goodbye to night porter Nigel Bray, who had worked in the Lodge for 20 years. He has been a cheerful presence in the Lodge during the (generally) quieter hours and we will miss his good humour and his conversation, which would often turn to his interest in classical music. Nigel has retired to Lincolnshire—we wish him well and thank him for his many years of service.

North East outreach

With a new Access Officer focused on north-eastern schools in post since last September, our activity in the region has increased. Between January and March, 30 schools were visited, 10 of which were working with us for the first time, in workshops reaching 1,128 school pupils and 27 teachers.

Post-lockdown, the new North East Offer Holder Event was promptly switched to an online session to ensure that North East offer holders could still meet each other and ask questions. The Year 12 North East Residential was also online, designed to help pupils from the region navigate the Open Days and meet current students from the North East. Evaluation was promising, showing a clear shift in the number of those who felt they could make an application to the University.
LIBRARY FAREWELL

Of all the places that looked stranger and stranger as the lockdown wore on, the college library must surely have been one of the most uncanny: no anxious finalists, no piles of books and notes, complete silence at last. Trinity term was a peculiar time in almost every respect. Surely one of its most peculiar and, to all of us, regrettable features, is that it marked the last term of office for our Librarian, Sharon Cure, who retired at the end of July.

Sharon joined Trinity in 2008 from her previous position in the Saïd Business School. Not many people realise that the job of college librarian involves looking after both the main library, with its busy traffic of students and constant activity of buying new books and keeping old ones in circulation, and the Old Library, with its special collections that are regularly visited by researchers from all sorts of different fields and many parts of the globe. Under Sharon’s stewardship, the main library has thrived as the hub of the college’s core activity of study and research, providing the up-to-date resources that our students need and, above all, a welcoming place to read and write. The library has grown not only in terms of its holdings, but also by welcoming Sarah Cox as Library Assistant.

In the Old Library, Sharon has made sure that Trinity’s treasures and the beautiful historic environment in which they are housed are well looked after and accessible to people outside the college community. She was at the heart of the activities that marked the six-hundredth anniversary of the Old Library in 2017, which, as many will remember, comprised a number of special talks, events, and the publication of a beautiful illustrated new guide, which Sharon authored with the collaboration of the Honorary Librarian of the Old Library, Alan Coates (1980), and Clare Hopkins, the college archivist. Sharon also launched the ‘Treasures of the Old and Danson Library’ series, which has brought together graduates, staff and Fellows for wonderfully wide-ranging talks and a glass of wine.

There is another side to the job of a college librarian—a less visible side which is to do with looking after the library as a community and not just a place. And this is, I think, where Sharon’s contribution to Trinity has been unique. Working alongside her as Fellow Librarian (and with the Senior Tutor as Co-Fellow Librarian over the last two years while I have had research leave), I have been struck again and again by her generosity, her spontaneous and utterly passionate commitment to the well-being of others, her good humour. This is what I, at least, shall miss particularly. Sharon is taking early retirement to enjoy reading, gardening (truly her hidden talent) and eating fish and chips on the beach at sunset. But I’m sure that, in between all that, she will find the time to pay many visits to Trinity.

On 1 August, Emma Sillett took over the mantle as Librarian. Emma comes to us from Christ Church, where she has worked as Reader Services Librarian. I would like to welcome her to Trinity enthusiastically on behalf of the college, and I know that Sharon, together with Sarah, have been doing everything possible to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The final word must go to our students, who can’t be here yet in person to thank Sharon, but one student’s comment on the 2019-20 annual college feedback questionnaire speaks for all the students whom Sharon has looked after since 2008: ‘Sharon, goes above and beyond to be helpful’. Thank you, Sharon, from us all.

Stefano Evangelista
Fellow Librarian

Fellow Librarian Stefano Evangelista (right) wishes librarian Sharon Cure a long and happy retirement
Máire Ní Leathlobhair

Junior Research Fellow in Biomedical Sciences

Having completed a PhD in Biological Sciences at Newnham College, Cambridge, funded by the Wellcome Trust, I took up my Junior Research Fellowship at Trinity in October 2018. I received my undergraduate degree in Mathematics from another Trinity College, in Dublin.

I now work as part of the Cancer Evolution and Heterogeneity group at the Big Data Institute led by Dr David Wedge. Cancers are often heterogeneous mixtures of cells arising through an evolutionary process in which genetic and epigenetic changes accumulate over time. A large part of the work I do in this group involves the development of new methods and algorithms that allow us to decipher the evolutionary journeys of individual tumours. Oxford is a wonderful place for this type of work, given its thriving clinician-scientist research community and the enormous wealth of clinical data available through the Oxford University Hospitals. For example, I work with the Oxford Pancreatic Network, led by Dr Shivan Sivakumar and Dr Rachael Bashford-Rogers. This ambitious network aims to develop new therapeutic strategies for pancreatic cancers through the collaboration of researchers and clinicians within Oxford. Currently, I am focusing on developing the theme of ‘evolution of the pancreas microenvironment’ using single-cell technologies.

However, my main research interest is gestational trophoblastic tumours (GTT), a rare cancer type arising from abnormal placental development. Globally, 18,000 women per year develop GTD with higher incidence in the developing world. These tumours are also surprising biological entities—they are the only example of a human tumour that develops from the cells of another individual, the foetus. Together with collaborators based in Uganda, Myanmar, Laos and Malaysia I’m working towards understanding the molecular basis of disease and the genomic and environmental determinants that underlie cancer in women of different ethnicities.

Alongside my research, I’m also working with friends and colleagues in the Nuffield Department of Medicine towards building a research-based digital health app for women and have been invited to develop this business idea further through the Oxford-based ‘Panacea Stars’ competition.

I feel very grateful to have been given the time and resources to pursue my research by Trinity and to be part of such a warm, dynamic and engaging academic community.

Alex Reza

Junior Research Fellow in French

I joined Trinity in October 2018. My research focusses on writing around the period of twentieth-century decolonisation, mainly between 1940 and 1970. My work asks how writers—and particularly francophone and lusophone African writers—understood Empire as a political and cultural structure, and what conceptions of freedom, justice and society underpinned anticolonial thinking.

I am particularly interested in magazines and journals. As well as closely reading the texts those publication enclose, I have used extensive archival work to understand the conditions of publication, transmission and dissemination of anticolonial literary journals, and I am currently finalising a book manuscript that draws on this research.

Most recently my focus has been on researching the proliferation in the 1960s of film, radio, music and print cultures in Conakry, the capital of Guinea. In the years immediately after independence from France, the city became a cultural and political hub, hosting those who opposed ongoing Portuguese colonialism in Africa as well as émigrés from across Africa and the United States. To take this work forward, I have received two grants from the Africa Oxford Initiative to set up collaborations with colleagues in West Africa and to support travel for archival work abroad.

I have also been chosen as a BBC ‘New Generation Thinker’. The scheme is a partnership between the BBC and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and means I will be working with BBC editors to make podcasts and radio programmes about my research. I’m excited about this opportunity to bring my research on empire, aesthetics and critical thought into conversation with a wider public.
Out of Joint

Reflections on two days of surgery observation — Rachel Hindmarsh, a second-year DPhil Student in French, writes about her close encounter with modern-day medicine, thanks to interdisciplinary connections.

The gut is just like hot, sticky spaghetti, really; under the bright lights of the operating theatre, I couldn’t help but smile under my mask.

At the end of Michaelmas term, I was able to arrange two days of surgery observation at the Churchill Hospital through the interdisciplinary community of Trinity; my college advisor, Professor Katherine Ibbett, and Graduate Tutor, Professor Valerie Worth, put me in touch with Peter McCulloch, Professor of Surgical Science and Practice, who accompanied me during five different surgeries by his former colleagues.

My doctoral research focuses on the relation between medicine and 16th-century French literature; I am particularly drawn to the messy material reality of bodies, configured as humoral subjects swirling with blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile in this early modern period, and how they can be represented on the fictional page. Under Peter’s watchful eye, I donned some scrubs and peered over surgeons’ shoulders, watching in awe as these bodies I spend my days researching came forcefully to life on the operating table.

I certainly felt a pervading sense of dislocation as I prepared to cross the threshold of the operating theatre on that first morning of observation. I felt that I had a good grasp of how early modern physicians approached the surgical encounter, mediating between their anatomical knowledge, their practical, tactile skill, and the interior of the body laid bare in front of them. Entering the suspended world of the operating theatre, I imagined that I would feel out of joint

‘Seeing, smelling, and almost touching surgery up close enabled me to really see the stakes of thinking through and with the messy, material body.’

as an early modernist surrounded by the progress of modern scientific and technological thought, as a humanities student who ponders and deliberates texts surrounded by decisive medical professionals facing critical choices.

Yet when the surgeon on my first morning grasped his prosaic metaphor to give meaning to the seemingly ungraspable abdominal surgery playing out in front of me, he allowed a moment where the gap between the surgeon and me could be breached. That ‘hot, sticky spaghetti’ was a jolt of familiarity in an otherwise overwhelmingly unfamiliar scene—showing the power of figurative language to collapse the difference between not only different bodies, but different worlds. Here was, in one sentence, the excitement and possibility of the interdisciplinary nature of my research: the ability for the practice and bodies of medicine to make us think differently about the world around us, and the ways in which we make sense of this world, and articulate it to others.

Standing in the operating theatre that day gave me a better grasp of this than nearly a year and a half in the library; seeing, smelling, and almost touching surgery up close enabled me to really see the stakes of thinking through and with the messy, material body. The experience didn’t make me feel out of joint after all; rather, it acted as a sort of splint between the modern and the early modern, the medical discipline and the humanities.

Wearing a mask is no longer confined to the bright lights of operating theatres, but now, in a global pandemic, has become an unsettling new norm. The medical has permeated our everyday lives in ways previously unimaginable; we all feel out of joint from the world we once knew, reliant on the splints of screens and masks to mediate between once familiar relationships. The blue gates of College are closed shut, and the college community dispersed; yet the memory of what Trinity can achieve, when people from all corners of academia come together to share their different ways of understanding the world around us, offers hope for an uncertain future ahead.
The Danson Erotica Collection

Alison Felstead, Rare Books Cataloguer at Trinity, introduces the Danson erotica collection, following the recent publication of a catalogue of the collection on the college website.

The Danson erotica collection, which consists of approximately 450 items, forms part of the much larger Danson collection, which came to Trinity in 1976. It was the bequest of Lieutenant-Colonel John Raymond Danson (1893-1976), who matriculated in 1912, reading Law. He had a distinguished career in the Army in addition to working for the family firm of average adjusters in Liverpool. He was made an Honorary Fellow of Trinity in 1969.

Danson had decided to leave his books to Trinity after initially discussing this with President Blakiston in the early 1930s, and spent the next forty years building a collection with the college in mind. Correspondence in 1949 between Danson and President Weaver indicated that Danson saw his legacy as a means of improving the college library, although he noted that the erotica collection ‘is obviously not suitable for a college library, but it could be kept locked up in the Old Library or handed over to the Bodleian en bloc.’ In later correspondence with President Norrington he made it clear that the erotica should never be sold or destroyed: ‘What I want to insure is that they do not come upon the market i.e. they must go either to Trinity or the Bodleian. And they should not be destroyed.’

There is some discussion in the correspondence between Danson and Norrington in the late 1960s about what constitutes erotica, with the idea of excluding some of the titles from this classification. Danson makes reference in one letter to the trial of Lady Chatterley’s lover in 1960, ‘Up to a few years ago it was only obtainable by smuggling it into the country—now you can buy it as a “Penguin”’. Danson goes on to state that he is ‘still of [the] opinion that it is an erotic book’ (13/12/68), but notes that ‘public opinion as to what is erotic has changed since 1954 when the original list [of Danson’s books] was made ...’ (18/1/69). In a later letter to Norrington, who had apparently sent Danson a copy of William Burroughs’ Naked lunch, he writes: ‘What a beastly book it is. So far I have found no redeeming features in it & if it is on sale generally to the public I shall have to revise my ideas of what is an erotic book. Apart from illustrated books I have nothing to touch it …’ (5/3/69).

In the event, the erotica collection as it exists at Trinity today does not appear to have been reviewed by Danson or Norrington. It still contains the items that were identified by Danson as not being erotic, including ‘such books as Petronius’ Satyricon. This to my mind is not an erotic book. It is a book which all classical scholars should read as it gives a lifelike description of life in ancient Italy,’ and ‘the works of “Jacobus X” a French army doctor. His works are of great interest to the anthropologist & are not erotic.’ The entire Danson collection is still housed within the college, in the Danson Library, adjacent to the Old Library and part of the original President’s...
Lodgings.

The breadth of material in the erotica collection is considerable, and arguably its greatest strength. The publication dates range from a 1564 edition of Laberinto d’amore di M. Giovanni Boccaccio to Erotic art: a survey of erotic fact and fancy in the fine arts compiled by Phyllis and Eberhard Kronhausen and published in 1971. It contains cheap mass-produced paperbacks alongside fine limited-edition works illustrated with engraved plates by artists of the quality of Félicien Rops and André Collot. Some items remain in the publisher’s binding, as issued, whereas others have been rebound by some of the finest binders working in the 19th and 20th centuries such as Zaehnsdorf, Victor Champ, and Bayntun-Riviere. Many were published in limited editions, and a few contain original hand-drawn, hand-coloured illustrations, a notable example being Crissie: a music-hall sketch of to-day published anonymously by Leonard Smithers in 1899. Another very rare item in the collection is the first edition of Harlequin Prince Cherrytop, purportedly published by the Oxford University Press but actually issued by William Lazenby.

There are a handful of items in the erotica collection of which other copies have not been recorded in public collections such as the Bibliothèque Nationale de France or the British Library. A late 19th-century French edition of the erotic classic Gamiani, ou, Deux nuits d’excès, is one such, the only reference to which is found in Alfred Rose’s Registrum librorum eroticorum (1936). This item may have been acquired from the library of Alfred Rose, as we know that Danson did acquire some books from this source, based on pencil annotations in the volumes in Rose’s hand and one example of his embossed ownership stamp. All of these had previously been in the library of the renowned Victorian collector and bibliographer of erotica, Henry Spencer Ashbee (1834-1900), as evidenced by his 1895 book-plate. (The bulk of Ashbee’s collection of erotica went to the British Museum Library after his death and some of it is preserved in the British Library’s ‘Private Case’ to this day.) J R Danson owned a copy of Rose’s Registrum librorum eroticorum, which he marked up to indicate which of the items were in his collection.

Fourteen books previously owned by Vyvyan Holland (1886-1967), the younger son of Oscar Wilde, can also be found among the Danson erotica, but no evidence has been found to explain how they were acquired by Danson. Several of them are listed in the Inventory and valuation of Danson’s library drawn up in October 1967, which indicates that they were already in his possession at the time of Holland’s death on 10 October of that year.

One of the challenges of cataloguing erotica is the difficulty of ascertaining the true bibliographical details of works, including publication information and authorship. I have been greatly assisted in my cataloguing work by Patrick Kearney (author of The Private Case (London: Jay Landesman Limited, 1981)), who generously shared his extensive knowledge with me, and provided invaluable feedback on my online catalogue records. I am also very grateful to Honorary Fellow Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey (1958) for sponsoring the cataloguing of this important collection.

The Danson erotica collection represents just one of the collecting interests of a successful average adjuster in the first half of the twentieth century. His obituary in The Times of 24 June 1976 notes that ‘After his retirement Danson lived ... in seclusion among his books, his pictures and stamp collection.’ But a very short piece headed ‘Erotic books are left to college,’ published in The Times on 17 June 1978, suggests that the erotica represent the jewel in the crown of the Danson collection. Thanks to his sound collecting instincts and his generosity, Trinity possesses an exceptional collection of erotica, as the depth and breadth of the catalogue makes clear.
There will be very many of Trinity’s Old Members involved in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic, or helping in related ways, and we feature a few of them here. We would be very pleased to hear from others who are working in one way or another in tackling the coronavirus and its effects, whether it be a community support project, local or national government response, or in ground-breaking research.

Professor John Newton (1976), director of Health Improvement at Public Health England, was appointed in April as the Government’s National Testing Coordinator, with a specific remit to advise ministers on how best to drive forward the Government’s strategy to bring together the capacity of public sector, industry and university power to fight the virus.

Professor Justin Stebbing (1989) is part of a team that has used artificial intelligence technology to identify a possible coronavirus treatment. BenevolentAI, a London-based start up, has used AI technology tools to rapidly scan scientific literature in search of information related to the virus. It quickly identified the rheumatoid arthritis drug baricitinib as a possible treatment, preventing viral entry into cells and ameliorating the aggressive host response, the so-called cytokine storm—it is now part of an accelerated clinical trial.

Professor Stebbing said, ’We normally talk about “bench to bedside”; this is about “computer to bench to bedside”. AI technology makes higher-order correlations that a human wouldn’t be capable of making, even with all the time in the world. It links datasets that a human wouldn’t be able to link.’

Dr Oliver de Peyer (1991) has been working at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital Microbiology Department, as part of its COVID-19 testing team, which has been testing all hospital patients and admissions and also the wider community.

Dr Sarah Hill (née Mayo, 1991) is among those occupied in keeping medical services going beyond the treatment of COVID-19. She is working as a GP in a ‘cold site’ where patients that are shielding can safely go for blood tests and to see a GP or nurse face-to-face if needed, and where practitioners can continue to give childhood immunisations to avoid an outbreak of some other illness whilst dealing with the pandemic.

Professor Seshadri Vasan (1998), is leading the Dangerous Pathogens Team at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia, which was the
Steffen Hoyemsvoll (2007) has created a way for music fans to hire professional musicians for video conference concerts. Lockdown Presents (lockdownpresents.com) matches music enthusiasts with performing artists who have been left struggling during the pandemic following the closure of venues and cancellation of performances. The concept was developed after Steffen and his partner organised a birthday recital via Zoom. Lockdown Presents, which has been featured in the Daily Telegraph, is now made of up of a performance community of professional classical, opera, acoustic guitar and jazz musicians who receive 80 per cent of the income charged to customers, with the remainder donated to charities Mind, Age UK and Refuge.

Dr Malte Lücken (2012), now based at the Helmholtz Centre in Munich, is involved in COVID-related research as part of a large group of researchers across the world from the Human Cell Atlas project. The project has combined datasets to put together the largest single-cell dataset of the human lung and other organs to date (more than 4 million cells), investigating how the genes that allow the virus to enter our cells are expressed across the body (which cells are most likely to be infected) and how their expression changes across age, sex, and smoking status.

Dr Drew Birrenkott (2014) is part of a team at Stanford University, where he is a medical student, which collected over 2,500 blood samples from participants in California in order to run the first US seroprevalence study to look for the presence of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in asymptomatic participants.

Dr Martin-Immanuel Bittner (2014) co-founded Arctoris towards the end of his DPhil. Based in Oxford, it developed and operates a fully automated drug discovery platform. It uses robotics to conduct experiments-as-a-service, helping researchers in biotech companies and academic centres to find new treatments sooner. With many labs in lockdown, it dedicated additional resources to support COVID-19 work, giving researchers access to a virtual lab when working conducting life-saving work from home.

As a member of the Young Academy of the German National Academy of Sciences, Martin has also led a research project on how to effectively increase testing capacity for COVID-19. The project analysed how to use a process called sample pooling for SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics. Having modelled scenarios in several countries, it has provided a framework and the practical guidance on how to increase testing capacity with the existing infrastructure by a factor of eight to ten.

Tom Kirk (2013) and Andrew Orr (2015) are part of the team of researchers that developed a new design of ventilator, OxVent (oxvent.org, see page 6), that could be produced quickly and simply—the team took less than a week to take the device from the drawing board to a working prototype. Andrew designed and prototyped electronics, and was then involved in publicising the project. He and Tom performed a second round of design verification testing at the end of May. (Andrew can be seen explaining the ventilator on YouTube, search for OxVent Orr).

Richard Lu (2016) has been helping build Off Their Plate, a grassroots movement in the US creating partnerships with local restaurants and hospitals to provide economic relief for restaurant employees and nutritious meals for health workers. It is now operational in nine cities, serving over 60,000 meals weekly.
CELEBRATING
PHILIP WILLIAMS

As Oxford celebrates the centenary of the teaching of PPE, Trinity can be proud of a remarkable political historian, as Hugh Roberts (1969), explains.

In 1964, a majestic contribution to the scholarship on modern France appeared; this was Crisis and Compromise: Politics in the Fourth Republic, an authoritative study of its subject that, Stanley Hoffman noted in 1984, 'has never been surpassed'. In 1979, there appeared an equally remarkable work: Hugh Gaitskell, A Political Biography. Vernon Bogdanor called it 'arguably the best biography of any modern politician published since the war'.

The author, Philip Williams, was a major figure in Comparative Politics at Oxford from the mid-1950s to his death in 1984. The leading authority on post-war France, he also took a deep interest in America and his knowledge of British politics was prodigious. A fellow of Nuffield College from 1958 onwards, he had an abiding connection with Trinity and his continuing influence was evident when I was at Oxford 50 years ago.

Philip Maynard Williams was born in London on 17 March 1920 and educated at the Stationers’ Company School in Hornsey. He won an open scholarship to Trinity in 1937, part of the distinguished vintage that included Richard Hillary and Anthony Crosland, and graduated with a First in Modern History in 1940. After war service, he was appointed Lecturer in Politics at Trinity in 1948. In 1953 he was elected a fellow of Jesus College, and in 1958 moved to Nuffield, which he clearly found especially congenial, since he stayed there for the rest of his life.


One is its intellectual honesty. At least twice Philip changed his mind about major matters and said so frankly. His first book had overestimated the stability of the Fourth Republic; when this succumbed to the strain of the Algerian war, he thoroughly recast his analysis and explained to readers of Crisis and Compromise what he had done and why. Similarly, Politics and Society in De Gaulle’s Republic explicitly superseded the earlier De Gaulle’s Republic.

Second, as Douglas Johnson noted (Proceedings of the British Academy, vol. 72, 1987), ‘there was always a vital historical content to Williams’s political analysis’. He had little time for the preoccupation of some contemporaries with methodological issues. For Philip the study of politics was the study of recent political history in the light of the predicaments, traditions and repertoires of thought and action that past generations had bequeathed to the present one. This anchorage in history gave his analyses lucidity and profundity and his own stance a degree of detachment which enabled him to describe French politics without being judgmental.

But he had a definite point of view. He told readers of Crisis and Compromise that his ‘political standpoint’ was ‘that of the moderate wing of the Labour Party’ and when writing on British politics his social democratic sympathies were clear. And his ability to write lucidly about politics almost certainly owed much to his own experience as an active participant in British politics, notably during the battle in the Labour Party over nuclear disarmament and Hugh Gaitskell’s leadership. Philip was a founder-member of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism (CDS)
formed by Gaitskell’s supporters to reverse the 1960 conference decision on unilateral disarming and defend Gaitskell’s position. He also contributed to its bulletin, Campaign. Bill Rodgers (now Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank), who was the CDS’s principal organiser, remembers this clearly. ‘Philip wrote articles for Campaign nearly every month,’ he told me in London last March. In doing so, Philip helped to develop the CDS’s policy positions in various ways, including foreign affairs, notably its position on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bill Rodgers recalled how Philip had insisted that the gravity of this moment in the Cold War required the CDS to give unequivocal support to the US position and abstain from criticising it on secondary matters, a view that prevailed; as Bill Rodgers remarked, ‘Philip was very wise.’ Later, in the wake of Gaitskell’s untimely death, it was Philip who wrote a long piece for Campaign detailing the permanent elements of the CDS outlook that should be carried over under Labour’s new leader, whoever this might be.

Philip’s political activism benefited from his friendship—inaugurated, Bill Rodgers recalled, during vigorous games of table tennis—with Tony Crosland, author of The Future of Socialism (1956) and a major figure in Labour’s leadership. But Philip had joined the Labour Party before arriving in Oxford and the Trinity connection went further. Not usually identified with the Left, the college was nonetheless the hub of a network of intellectual affinities of a ‘social-democratic’ nature from the 1940s onwards that embraced various colleges and people.

A striking figure who entered the network at Trinity was Ian Little, subsequently celebrated for his A Critique of Welfare Economics, who succeeded Crosland as Fellow and Tutor in Economics before moving to Nuffield in 1952. But Philip’s key collaborator from the 1960s onwards was David Goldey, who obtained his DPhil in Modern History in 1961 for a thesis on the French Left under Philip’s supervision and was appointed Lecturer in Politics at Trinity in 1964, combining this with a fellowship at Lincoln College from 1968 onwards.

An extraordinarily inspiring tutor, David took Trinity PPE students for political institutions and French politics.

At Trinity itself, James Holladay, Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History (1949-1982), was also a member of the network; coming up to Trinity in 1939, he became a lifelong friend of Tony Crosland and, as he told me over a pint of Bass in the King’s Arms one evening in 1975, his political outlook—‘Soc. Dem.’—was precisely that of Tony and Philip and David. As for Trinity’s tutor in Politics and Sociology from 1969 to 1984, Rod Martin, it was Philip who co-supervised his DPhil on British Communism and so prepared a Balliol man to become a Trinity fellow.

The network also succeeded in recruiting some younger blood. Philip acknowledged the advice of Frank Wright (1948-1993) in selecting material for both his volumes of collected articles. Frank took a First in PPE at Trinity in 1970 and then submerged himself in the politics of Northern Ireland at Queen’s University Belfast, publishing Northern Ireland: A Comparative Analysis (1987), then moving to a chair at the University of Limerick shortly before his untimely death from cancer. Philip and David regarded Frank, an exceptionally gifted student, as following in their footsteps.

How many other students of that generation did so I do not know. But in view of Philip’s tremendous contribution to the study of politics at Oxford, it is surely fitting that the centenary of PPE and Philip’s own centenary fall in the same year and that they should be celebrated together.
A TRIP TO SPAIN

At the end of his final year, after his undergraduate degree in History, Oliver Ramsay Gray (2015) took a two week trip to Andalusia in southern Spain, which was generously part-funded by the Whitehead Travel Grant.

We had a rocky start to our trip. We landed in Malaga late on Saturday evening but found ourselves locked out of our Airbnb with no ‘key behind the aircon unit’. Intense discussion started on whether it would be better to sleep on the steps of our promised apartment or return to the safety of the airport, but miraculously, at 2am a teenager rocked up and claimed he’d seen some other kids nick the key earlier that day and he knew where they’d hidden it. Five minutes later he returned as promised and, voilà, we had somewhere to sleep for the night.

The next day we went to pick up our rental car, but disaster struck again! Although I’d been careful to bring a credit card, when I tried to pay the deposit, the rental company said they didn’t accept Amex. Our two-week road trip suddenly lacked a key ingredient. However, we quickly...
managed to find another budget rental company that offered us a seven-seat people carrier for the next two weeks for less than our original deal.

Things began to smoothen out. Our first stop was Granada where we found ourselves drinking Alhambra beer while looking out over the Alhambra itself and watching its famous walls and battlements glow red in the evening sun. Picturesque sunsets were a continual theme of the trip from then on and we enjoyed many evenings watching the Spanish sky turn from blue to yellow to pink to red as the sun sunk slowly behind the horizon.

The overarching aim of my trip was to explore Islamic heritage and influence in Andalusia, building on my year abroad in Jordan, where I studied Arabic. Driving from Granada to Córdoba to Seville, I was struck by how fortified the landscape was. The countryside is littered with imposing castles built on rocky hilltops, clearly designed to dominate their hinterlands. Almost all these castles were built in the 8th to 15th centuries during the period of Islamic rule in Spain, particularly in the later centuries after the start of the Christian Reconquista. My initial impression of medieval Andalusia was of constant warfare, fighting and violence as Muslims and Christians ‘battled it out’.

However, as I began to dig beneath the surface, a very different history emerged. There was actually a great deal of cultural-artistic crossover between Islamic and Christian societies. This was made clear when I visited the Real Alcázar de Sevilla museum, which traced the origin of Spain’s tradition of colourful tiles back to Islamic roots, and before that to Roman and Byzantine influences. It is a similar story with quintessentially Spanish ‘Seville Oranges’, which were introduced to Spain by Muslims in the 11th century. In fact, the dichotomy between ‘Islamic Spain’ and ‘Christian Spain’ as distinct entities seems to be a mischaracterisation. Demographically, Islamic Spain always contained more Christians than Muslims, and in terms of elite culture and identity as well, Islamic and Christian Spain both drew on the same cultures and traditions from around the Mediterranean as well as a local Hispano-Roman past.

The complex relationship between Islam and Christianity in medieval Andalusia is reflected in the Mezquita of Córdoba. Its remarkable Cathedral-within-a-Mosque-on-top-of-a-Church architecture is a result of Islamic-Christian competition to dominate one of Córdoba’s most important religious-political sites. But it is telling that when Caliph Al-Hakim II expanded the mosque in the 960s, he sought help from Byzantine emperor Nicophoras II Phocas to model the extension on the Great Mosque of Damascus. Nicophoras, happy to help his Muslim ally, sent over 1600 kg of gold mosaic cubes as well as a skilled mosaicist. Religion was not always the violent fault line in medieval Spain it might appear from the powerful castles we saw while driving through the region. There is more than one story to tell though: today, only Christians are allowed to pray in the 16th-century chapel, and some Spanish Muslims are campaigning for the right to also be able to pray in the Mezquita. The Mezquita remains an important, sometimes contentious, intersection between Christianity and Islam in Spain.

I am very grateful to Trinity and the Whitehead family for their support. It was an amazing opportunity and I learnt a great deal.

‘There was actually a great deal of cultural-artistic crossover between Islamic and Christian societies.’
Richard Hillary centenary

Events took place in College in November 2019 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Richard Hillary—former Oxford student, RAF fighter in the Battle of Britain, and author of *The Last Enemy*, who was featured in the last Newsletter.

The *Last Enemy* was published in 1942 to universal critical acclaim, has never been out of print, and is widely regarded as a classic Second World War literary memoir. The royalties from its publication were placed in a Trust that continues to award an annual college prize for undergraduate writing.

An archive exhibition, curated by the archivist Clare Hopkins, included portraits, letters and other memorabilia of Hillary’s time at Oxford. Two short lectures were given by David Haycock, who discussed the portrait of Richard Hillary painted by Eric Kennington, and by Professor Dinah Birch, Honorary Fellow and chair of the Richard Hillary Trust, who explored Hillary’s short life and his writing of *The Last Enemy*, concluding, ‘*The Last Enemy* tells the story of a brave young man involved in a struggle far bigger than himself, and it is a reminder of what we owe to those who were lost in that struggle. It is also a vivid reminder of what it is that drives men to war, even after they have learned its price.’

Trinity BAME network

The JCR BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) officer is looking to establish a network of BAME Trinity alumni. This would enable BAME students to hear from their predecessors and receive advice, guidance and contacts, and would allow us to build a much-needed history of BAME presence at Trinity.

If you would like to be part of this network, please contact the BAME officer through the Alumni & Development Office.
‘Fifty Plus’ on Zoom

Shortly after the annual Fifty Plus Years On lunch was due to have been held, Andrew Laurie wrote to let us know that he and others from 1962 and 1963 had still managed to meet ‘virtually’.

‘Further sorrow at the necessity for cancelling the lunch at Trinity led Chris Marsay to suggest that our group should meet on Zoom instead. This duly happened at 6pm, just in time for evening refreshment. Unfortunately, two of those who tried to join in couldn’t make the connection, but Chris, Mike Hatch, David Gillam, Peter Rolfe, Ken Merron and I were there.

‘We proved that a “chorus” is possible in a computer meeting when, in conversation, one of our number stated “I can walk to my local branch of Majestic Wine.” The chorus was five in unison asking “Can you walk back?”. All good fun.

‘I hope everyone at Trinity is staying well and safe and that we can all be at the college again as soon as possible.’

Trinity golf day

The Drift Golf Club in Surrey was the venue for the inaugural golf day for Old Members, which took place in September 2019. The weather was kind, the course was challenging but fair and there was an informal competition which was intense but good spirited. The day proved very enjoyable and a similar event is planned. If you would be interested in attending, please email Tim Gulliver (1971), Trinity Golf Captain, tim.gulliver@btconnect.com.

Launching The Sequel

Three topical new resources grounded in the work of the late David Fleming (1959) were launched in March: a feature film, The Sequel: What Will Follow Our Troubled Civilisation? made by Peter Armstrong (1962); an eight-week online course, Surviving the Future: Conversations for our Time; and LeanLogic.online, the searchable, interactive version of Fleming’s lifework Lean Logic: A Dictionary for the Future and How to Survive It.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the launch took place online, with a showing of the one-hour film followed by discussion with Caroline Lucas MP, economist Kate Raworth, Transition Towns founder Rob Hopkins, and Shaun Chamberlin, director of the Fleming Policy Centre.
Old Members’ News

Willy Cave (1945), at the age of 92, has retired from international motor rallies. During his career as navigator/co-driver, he won national rallies in Britain, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France and Monaco. He received ‘Life-time Achievement’ awards from the International Rally Drivers Club, the Historic Rally Car Register, the Automobile Club of Monaco, the International Historic Motoring Organisation, etc. Much of his story is told in the lavishly illustrated book Putting Willy Cave on the Map published by co-author Pablo Raybould. He will continue to drive himself, having recently passed the IAM Roadsmart’s Mature Driver’s Assessment; the examiner wrote ‘excellent’.

Ian Flintoff (1957) and Deirdre (Somerville 1957) celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on 2 January 2020.

Jos Gregson (1957) continues to run his charity, the South Cotswold Big Sing Group. This enables the less specialised singer to take part in major choral works with full orchestra and professional conductors and soloists. So far these have included the Verdi Requiem, the Vaughan-Williams Sea Symphony, Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius, the Berlioz Requiem and have been staged either in Tewkesbury Abbey or Gloucester Cathedral. Wearing his other hat Jos continues his stamp consultancy work in disposing of major collections on behalf of various previous and new clients, quite a change from a Chemistry degree!

David Soskice (1961, Honorary Fellow) has been elected to a fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Science.

John Rees Smith (1965) continues to live in a tranquil corner of Quercy in southwest France, and has recently had a career change, moving into the film industry. He has been contracted to work on ‘scripted prop documents’ for The Last Duel, a Ridley Scott film recounting skulduggery among knights in 14th-century Normandy, and starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Some of the filming has taken place in locations down the road from his home, including Sarlat in the Dordogne. His task consists of producing Old French and medieval Latin versions of documents that appear on screen—including betrothal and marriage contracts, announcements by heralds, household accounts, correspondence and royal edicts. John’s tutor in Old French and Romance Philology, the late Frank Barnett, would have been highly amused at the idea of the commercialisation of his teachings!

Jon Huggett (1975) has written an article with a friend, How to be a super board chair, which has been published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. The article can be found using the search facility at https://ssir.org/.

David Boyle (1977) has published Tickbox: how it is taking control of our money, our health, our lives—and how to fight back!

Mark Hughes (1979) has been promoted from deputy editor, CapitalCambodia, a 16-page, in-depth weekly business supplement of the Khmer Times, to group business editor of the Khmer Times. He will retain responsibility for CapitalCambodia and assume responsibility for all business news produced by the Khmer Times. He remains based in Phnom Penh. He was previously an assistant professor of journalism at a university in China and before that a foreign editor at the Bangkok Post, following a long and distinguished career in UK journalism across newspapers, TV, radio, agency and new media work.

A book co-authored by Bonnie St John (1984), Micro-Resilience: Minor Shifts for Major Boosts in Focus, Drive, and Energy was featured by the University of Oxford’s North American Office as its alumni author book in March. An Olympic Medalist, Bonnie was one of the Old Members whose photograph portrait featured in the 2017 Feminae Trinitatis exhibition in Hall.

Tom Riordan (1986) was awarded a CBE in the 2020 Queen’s New Year’s Honours list.

Huw van Steenis (1988)—the Bank of England published the van Steenis report on the Future of Finance, and the Bank’s response, to coincide with the Governor’s final annual Mansion House speech, in June 2019. Based on the findings, the Governor announced a series of initiatives around five clusters: to enhance the payments system for the digital age; to champion a platform to boost access to finance for
small businesses; to support the transition to a carbon-neutral economy; to develop a world-class regtech (the management of regulatory processes through technology) and data strategy and to facilitate firms’ use of technology, like the cloud, to increase their operational resilience. Huw’s term as senior adviser to the Governor concluded with the report’s publication.

Joe Horn-Phathanothai (1993) has been made a Distinguished Friend of Oxford for his support of the University’s outreach and engagement with China and Thailand.

Julian Ellacott (1996) has rounded off a 19-year spell as a councillor in Reigate and Banstead, including serving as deputy mayor for 2018-19, which involved nearly 70 engagements over the course of the year (in addition to usual councillor duties). The highlights of the role were laying the borough’s wreath and taking the salute on Armistice Day; and visiting many local charities and community groups. Beyond the council, Julian continues to work as an actuary for Just, an insurer specialising in providing security for those in retirement, through annuities and equity release. He is also active within the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, his professional body, serving on working parties and speaking at conferences.

Russell Goodall (1996) has been promoted to a Personal Chair, and is now Professor of Metallurgy at the University of Sheffield.

Martin Kuijer (1996) has been appointed a justice in the Netherlands Supreme Court (Hoge Raad der Nederlanden).

Andy Hull (1997) is now chief executive of human rights charity, EachOther.

Roxanne Selby (1997) writes, ‘I am now working as a Solicitor at Knights plc in Oxford, where I specialise in Dispute Resolution. My partner, Michael, recently achieved the title of Professor in the University’s Recognition of Distinction exercise. Our son, George, recently turned ten years old. We all live in North Oxford with our cat, Felix.’

A choice disc

**Edvard Grieg: Lyric Music**, a CD of songs and piano pieces performed by soprano Claire Booth (1996) and pianist Christopher Glynn, was named BBC Music Magazine’s disc of choice in January, described as ‘revelatory’ and ‘a perfect fusion of voice and piano’.

The CD has been so well received, that Claire and Christopher have plans to commission a companion work based on the Nordic ‘northness’ and folk-inspired poetry of the Haugtussa cycle (the central work of the Grieg disc), as well as recording a further disc of songs and piano music by Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky for release next spring.

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Marriages

Adam Bertelsen (2009) to Olivia Zhou, on 3 August 2019, in Trinity College chapel. Tim Deeks and Charles Neale (both 2009) served as best man and usher, and many other Old Members were present.

Suzy Jordan to Adam Kelvey (both 2009), on 14 September 2019, in Tuscany. Katherine Rollins, Andrew Down (both 2009) and Rosie Down (2010) were in attendance.

Anna Regoutz to Nat Upton (both 2010), on 27 July 2019, at St Leonhard’s church, Weissenstein, Austria. Marc Szabo (2009) was best man, Caitlin Gale (2011) was maid of honour, Julia Winnebeck and Amanda Parsons (both 2010) were bridesmaids, and Ben Cartlidge (2004) played the violin during the ceremony. Other Trinity members present included Russ Egdell (Emeritus Fellow), Andrew Cairns (2007), Alex Corkett (2008), Jonathan Middleton (2009), Lina Arthur (2012) and Richard Crowther (associate member of the MCR).

Births

To Mark Harris (1999) and Ee Peng, on 19 August 2019, a son, Samuel Jianyu.

To Maddy Bunce and Adam Mercer (both 2001), on 6 November 2015, a son, Fabian, and on 27 September 2019, a son, Austen, brothers for Maud and Edith.

To Sarah Jenkinson (née Beal, 2003), Alumni & Events Officer, and Dan, on 7 April 2020, a son, Samuel John.

To Sarah (née Broadbent, 2006) and Crispin Walker-Buckton (2003), in June 2016, a son, Bernard, in March 2018, a son, Ivor, and in February 2020, a son, Digby.

To David Kaestle-Lamparter (2007) and Hanne Lamparter, on 20 August 2019, a son Micha Justus Lamparter, a brother for Simon.

Deaths

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

- Dr Peter Sydenham Moore (1941), on 18 July 2011
- Harry Mitford Liddell (1942), on 25 January 2020
- Christopher Reuel Tolkien (1942), on 16 January 2020
- Norman Clifford Burtt (1943), on 15 December 2019
- (Sidney John) David Corsan (1943), on 9 January 2020
- (Richard) Norman Rose (1944), on 2 June 2018
- John Cameron Hill (1945), on January 2020
- The Rt Hon James Edward Ramsden PC (1945), on 29 March 2020
- David Anthony 'Tony' Hearn (1947), on 31 December 2019
- The Rt Revd Bishop Ronald Oliver 'Ronnie' Bowby (1948), on 21 December 2019
- John Harvey James Greenish (1948), on 26 December 2019
- Aley George Stanley Grellier (1948), on 5 April 2020
- John Lingford-Hughes (1948), on 13 June 2020
- Robert Anthony 'Tony' Rees (1948), on 17 January 2020
- Dr Michael John Anderson Kelly (1949), on 20 June 2020
- Derek Jack Walker (1950), on 18 February 2020
- Patrick Taylor Davies CMG OBE (1951), on 22 February 2020
- The Revd Robert Elistan Glodrydd Hughes (1951), on 19 December 2019
- David Robert Buchanan Russell (1954), on 31 March 2020
- Stephen Lesley Tanner (1956), on 21 December 2019
- Anthony James Pull (1957), on 7 December 2019
- Paul Bourne Dowson (1958), on 21 March 2020
- Frederick David Antony Maplethorp (1958), on 16 March 2020
- Simon Charles Mainwaring Little (1969), in September 2019
- Stephen William Taylor (1975), on 1 December 2019
- Professor Patrick John Fitzgerald, Fellow and Tutor in Law 1956-60, on 6 April 2020
- Paul Lawrence, Head Gardener 1994-2020, on 8 April 2020
- Linora Victoria Lawrence, Alumni & Development Administration Assistant 2005-2011, on 2 January 2020

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

Forthcoming Events

Usually, in the autumn, the college would host a series of events, such as Gaudies, Benefactors Lunches and subject dinners. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic all of these have been cancelled.

However, we would still like to hear from you and meet you at least virtually, and for that reason we are holding some of the autumn events online. Details have been sent out by email and are also available on the website. We hope you will be able to join us 'remotely'.

Next year’s event schedule is a very busy one. Dates and more information will be available in due course.

For more information or booking enquiries, please go to the website or contact the Alumni & Events Officer (see below).

Contact us

Trinity College, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BH

Alumni & Development Office
Director of Development
sue.broers@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 889

Alumni Relations Officer
thomas.knollys@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 887

Development Officer
miriam.hallatt@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 941

Alumni & Events Officer (Maternity cover)
ana.fabian@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 942

Porters Lodge
01865 279 900

Academic Office
academic.administrator@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 910

Conferences, Dinners & Functions
louise.turner@trinity.ox.ac.uk
01865 279 888

Website
www.trinity.ox.ac.uk

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