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TRINITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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# EDITORIAL

In 1995, when we beat New College Oxford in 'University Challenge', the *Sunday Telegraph* published an article on Trinity, entitled, alliteratively, 'Acme of Academe'. The author had no name but was clearly a Trinity man who can with confidence be guessed to have come up in 1975.

For a College that did 'little to trumpet its merits abroad', the article was a trifle vainglorious, claiming that while the television triumph would have pleased Trinity's members it would not have surprised them. 'Everybody who has had the good fortune to have been at Trinity secretly knows it to be the greatest academic institution in the land, if not the world. They might never say such a thing to an outsider but in their hearts they all feel that, when asked which college you were at, "Trinity" is the only correct, the only possible answer.'

Our anonymous trumpeter went on to list Trinity's outstanding pioneers in the two cultures, sciences and humanities, but ended the roll call with an apology: Trinity had had 'six Prime Ministers and, alas, a good many spies'—one of whom, Paul Kramer, revealed himself in the last issue of *The Fountain*.

We do indeed have a marvellous history—apart from what our publicist

called our 'truly disgraceful origins' in royal plunder. But those origins, and the skill of our bursars, mean that we still have the power to attract among the most exciting talents in both cultures today. It is no accident that our Master, Martin Rees (1960), is President of the Royal Society, nor that Garry Runciman (1955) is a recent President of the British Academy.

Trinity is undoubtedly wealthy. Why then are we about to launch a Campaign to raise yet more money from you, our members? Our answer is twofold.

First, your successors, our junior members of today and tomorrow, have to bear an increasing fee burden. We must do still more to help them, so that the most able are not deterred from applying to us for admission.

Secondly, Trinity has in recent years, both directly and through the Isaac Newton Trust, invested heavily in new teaching and research initiatives across the University and its Colleges, to help to maintain Cambridge's leadership among



the world's finest universities. To belong to Trinity is to belong to one of the University's greatest benefactors. The *Sunday Telegraph* knew nothing of this in 1995. It is a further source of legitimate pride today. Our Campaign aims to ensure that we can take still greater pride in that role in the future.

*Professor John Lonsdale (1958),  
Fellow, Secretary to the Alumni  
Relations Committee*

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*Front cover: Drinks at the Annual Gathering in Nevile's Court, 4 July 2006, for those who came up before 1947*



# NEWS FROM THE ISAAC NEWTON TRUST

BY JOHN RALLISON

The remit of Trinity's Isaac Newton Trust is to support education and research in the University of Cambridge. About half of the Trust's expenditure relates to research projects, sometimes relatively small amounts for particular individuals, and sometimes larger grants for the support of a particular department or group. Most academic research in the UK is paid for by one of the Government-funded Research Councils, or, particularly in the Biomedical areas, by a publicly-funded charity. The Newton Trust does not have the resources necessary to fund large research projects by itself; it seeks to play a more strategic role.

For example, it is notoriously difficult for young researchers who have yet to establish a national or international reputation to win their first Research Council grant. For scientists, the set-up costs for a laboratory are substantial, and in several instances the Trust has assisted with these costs for a new University Lecturer. Research Council grants have arrived later. On the Arts side, the young Lecturer with heavy new teaching responsibilities will often need time, space and assistance in developing a research proposal. The new Early Career Scheme operated by the Centre for Research in



Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, and partly funded by the Trust, provides just such an opportunity.

We hope that the recent decision by the Trust to support research in Conservation Biology will in due course have a similar strategic impact. It happens that about twenty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with interests in conservation are based in and around Cambridge, including, for example, the British Antarctic Survey and the RSPB. Jointly-funded research projects with the Newton Trust as a partner have potential benefit both for the NGO and for the University—especially since funds have

recently been raised to create a new Professorship in this field.

As part of its response to the University's 800th Anniversary Campaign, the Newton Trust has decided to create an Opportunities Fund to provide seedcorn funding for projects of this kind. Some alumni have already been kind enough to make contributions to this fund. We hope that others will be willing to do so.

*Dr John Rallison (1970), Fellow, is Reader in Fluid Dynamics and Director of the Isaac Newton Trust*

# TRINITY'S

BY RICHARD SERJEANTSON



What is a College website for? Clearly it should provide fundamental information: what we are, who we are, where we are. These details should be as clearly presented and easy to find as possible. Ideally a website should also be good to look to at:

the front page of ours is adorned by Thorvaldsen's Wren Library statue of a contemplative Byron. But of course there is scope for a place as large and varied as Trinity to offer much more than the bare minimum, and this we also try to do at [www.trin.cam.ac.uk](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk).

One of the most important purposes of Trinity's website is to help encourage excellent applicants to the College, both undergraduate and postgraduate. In only ten years we have moved from a situation when detailed information could only be derived from printed prospectuses and written correspondence, to one where the website provides the first port of call for anyone interested in the College and all it has to offer. Ideally, our website will help attract the best possible students, nationally and internationally, to apply to

us ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/admissions)).

But the website should also, we think, contain pages of miscellaneous information for less immediately important browsing pleasure. On the Trinity website, for instance, we have information about the history of the College; various lists of notable alumni (including M.Ps and Olympians) ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/notables](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/notables)); and about the College's charitable activities. There is also an anthology of literary references to Trinity—by Dryden, Wordsworth, Byron, Virginia Woolf, Nabokov, P. D. James, and Alan Bennett among others ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/anthology](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/anthology)). Indeed, we even have the College Accounts squirreled away on the website somewhere.

One of the more successful innovations on the current College website is a Calendar on the front page of the site

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## DYNAMIC UPDATE—A NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE

One of the areas of the website that we are conscious is not as well developed as it might be are the pages for our Alumni ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/alumni)). However, in the course of this year we intend to remedy this by building a set of new pages specifically for members of Trinity who have moved on from the College. These

pages will include a range of improved features: Alumni News; full information about annual events, including Annual Gatherings, the annual Buffet Lunch, and dinners beyond Cambridge; and online versions of Alumni publications, including the *Fountain*. There will also be a new area in which Alumni will be able (if they

wish) to register an email address to receive information about the College; to add (also only if they wish) information about themselves; and also to search for information others have entered about themselves, for those of you who might like to catch up with old friends from your time at Trinity.



# WEBSITE

which lists events taking place in Trinity or otherwise connected with the College. This receives a regular supply of entries from students, fellows and staff, and the range of events taking place—musical, sporting, scholarly, scientific, dramatic, frivolous—demonstrates (if any such demonstration were necessary) quite how far Trinity is a university within the University ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/diary](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/diary)).

We would naturally be happy to have any suggestions from members of College (whether you have graduated or are still here) as to how we could improve the website further. We are also happy to receive information for the News section of the website, which also contains some items about Alumni ([www.trin.cam.ac.uk/news](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/news)).



## FROM THE ONLINE 'TRINITY IN LITERATURE' ANTHOLOGY

Trin. Coll. (Wednesday), Novr. 6th, 1805

My Dear Augusta,—As might be supposed I like a College Life extremely, especially as I have escaped the Trammels or rather Fetters of my domestic Tyrant Mrs Byron, who continued to plague me during my visit in July and September. I am now most pleasantly situated in Superexcellent Rooms, flanked on one side by my Tutor, on the other by an old Fellow, both of whom are rather checks upon my vivacity. I am allowed 500 a year, a Servant and Horse, so Feel as independent as a German Prince who coins his own Cash, or a Cherokee Chief who coins no Cash at all, but enjoys what is more precious, Liberty.

George Gordon, Lord Byron (Trinity, 1805–07),  
writing to his sister Augusta, 6 November 1805

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR PILOT STUDY!

We will write more about these new web-pages in a future *Fountain*. However, we are seeking your help at this stage—or rather, the help of some of you. We are looking for Trinity alumni who might be interested in helping us test these new webpages before we make them

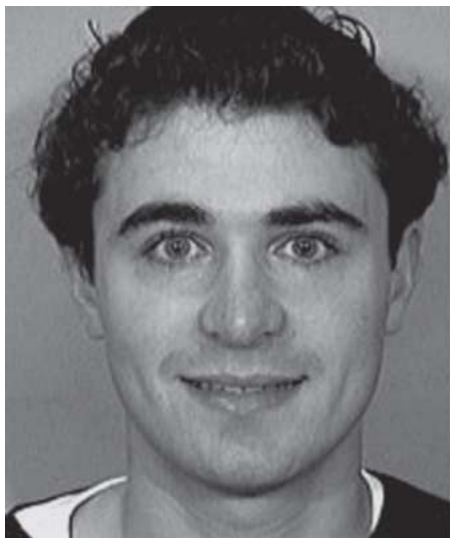
generally available. We don't anticipate that this will be very onerous business. But if there is anyone out there who might like to help us fine-tune the new Alumni pages then we'd be very grateful for your help. Please contact me on the email address below if you'd like

to express an interest in this ([website.pilot@trin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:website.pilot@trin.cam.ac.uk)).

*Dr. Richard Serjeantson, (1993) Fellow, is a College Lecturer in History and Secretary of the College Website Committee*  
[website.secretary@trin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:website.secretary@trin.cam.ac.uk)

# OLD AND NEW SPAIN

BY GABRIEL PAQUETTE



When in 1776 Edward Gibbon described Spain as a nation marked by 'gloomy pride, rapacious avarice and unrelenting cruelty', few would have disagreed with him. But eighteenth-century British observers could not ignore Spain. Although its glorious if blood-stained Golden Age was long past, it still possessed a vast empire and an exciting transformation was afoot.

Spain's empire stretched from the redwood forests of northern California to the peaks of Patagonia. Spanish was spoken from Manila to Caracas. Spanish law was enforced as vigorously in New

Orleans as in Barcelona. Spanish ships sailed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, carrying Cuban sugar, Mexican silver, and Argentine leather to satisfy Europe's tastes. In spite of Gibbon Spain remained a worldwide force.

My research examines the decline, revival, and final collapse of the Spanish Empire. I study the Crown's ambitious efforts to rejoin the ranks of the Great Powers by reviving the economy of its American colonies. Spain's rulers realized old ideas were not enough. They turned to the new-fangled ideas of the Enlightenment to find fresh answers to persistent problems. They encouraged free trade, new agricultural and mining technologies, and educational reform. The Spanish monarchy hoped prosperity would help to raise more tax revenues and, therefore, fund a stronger army and navy. Radically new statecraft often has such conservative goals.

At first it seemed that Spain would succeed. While Britain lost its Thirteen Colonies in 1783, in the Spanish empire both population and trade flourished. Spain seemed on the verge of regaining

its former power. Forty years later renaissance had turned to ruin, as revolutions in South America transformed once-obedient colonies into independent republics. Spain, shorn of its overseas dominions, sank to the status of a pauper state on the periphery of Europe. There it stayed until very recent times.

I hope my research sheds fresh light on the era that gave birth to the modern world. I have shown, for example, how modern commercial ties originated between Europe and Latin America, how state action can influence political and economic development, how ideas affect policy, and how republicanism spread south of the equator. The legacies of Europe's empires remain with us today. To understand them more fully may, perhaps, better prepare us for the challenges of the future.

*Gabriel Paquette (2001) is a Title A Fellow. He won the 2006 Harold Blakemore Prize, awarded by the Society for Latin American Studies in the USA, for his essay 'Consulados, Economic Societies and State-Society Synergy in the Spanish Empire, c. 1760—1800'.*



# THE AMARTYA SEN LECTURES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BY RAYMOND SCHONFELD

"I suppose that having a lecture series named after you should give you intimations of mortality", joked Amartya Sen (1953) to an invited audience of 400 at the first of the *Amartya Sen Lectures on Sustainable Development*, delivered on 16 March in Brussels by Sir Nicholas Stern, on *The Economics of Climate Change*.

Sen—professor at Harvard since retiring as Master of Trinity—went on more seriously, to underline publicly his satisfaction at seeing efforts made to understand the environment in the context of its effects on deprivation in the developing world. Privately, he used the occasion to confirm his enthusiastic support for efforts to develop this lecture series into a major contributor to debate in Europe of development issues, to which he has devoted a large part of his career.

The inaugural speaker, Nick Stern, is a Peterhouse graduate, a former chief economist of the World Bank, and currently head of the Economic Service of the UK Treasury and leader of a review of the economics of climate change ([www.sternreview.org.uk](http://www.sternreview.org.uk)), on which he reports jointly to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. A brilliant presenter like Sen himself, Stern linked the economic debate firmly to its roots in science: what causes climate change, what effects it will have, what scientific targets can be set and



how to reach them, and the extent of scientific uncertainty and the response to it. The science spurs debate about the economics: for example, the need for more research into low-carbon technology, Stern pointed out, leads to a parallel need for new financing mechanisms beyond classic development aid, to channel funds to the developing world to pay for it.

But why a series like this in Brussels, a city with which Sen has only limited connections? Part of the answer lies in the simple feeling among a few members of the Cambridge diaspora (a feeling probably widely shared elsewhere) that some ideas with Cambridge connections deserve a wider international audience, and the project just grew from there. But the international reach of Brussels also played a part. That international reach may or may not be sustainable, but it is a reality today. International-level policy

discussion there is intense, and the case for coordinated European action on climate change, or on energy security, or the current WTO negotiations are just examples. To launch the series, the local Cambridge Society linked up with the Harvard and Oxford societies—Sen has taught at all three – along with a local think-tank, the *European Institute of Asian Studies*, also led by a Cambridge graduate, and which covers Sen's childhood home continent.

Plans are for the series to offer a major lecture of similar caliber every six to nine months. Lord Browne, group chief executive of BP and a graduate of St. John's College, has agreed to be the second speaker in the series.

*Raymond Schonfeld (1962) lives and works in Brussels*

# A TRINITY MAN IN REV

BY FISSEHA ZEWDIE

I came up to Trinity in 1967 to read history, the same year as Prince Charles. In 1971 I returned to Ethiopia, to lecture at the then Haile Selassie I University. It would not be so for long.

1974 saw the start of Ethiopia's revolution. Famine that year was the last straw for the army officers who deposed Emperor Haile Selassie. I had been due to start a PhD in history at Columbia University, New York. But how could I leave home in such stirring times? A friendship I had formed while at Trinity helped me to decide.

I was saying goodbye to my friend, Dejazmatch ('General') Dr Zewdie Gabriel Selassie. He had been a Fellow of St Antony's, Oxford, when I was at Trinity and was now Foreign Minister. Knowing I had studied Chinese in my spare time at Cambridge, he offered me a post in Beijing. Ethiopia was seeing if links with China could replace our ties with the West.

I jumped at the offer and cancelled my studies at Columbia. That was too hasty. Soon afterwards the Derg, the military junta, massacred many of the ancien regime's senior officials. Dejazmatch Zewdie resigned. The Foreign Ministry rejected me.

I returned to teaching, to find myself in the thick of our own 'cultural revolution'.

The Derg ordered all sixty-five thousand university and senior high-school students, with their teachers, out into the countryside, to prepare a radical land reform. For two years I was a political officer amid a growing struggle between the Derg; the EPRP, or Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party; and Meison, the All Ethiopia Socialist Movement. Each claimed to be more socialist than the other. Meanwhile the Americans had stopped selling us arms and Somalia, armed by the Russians, was itching to invade.

I was appointed to teach at a new political school. This made me suspect to both the EPRP and Meison. At a time when a bloody showdown between the two was inevitable my position was impossible.

Trinity and the Cambridge language lab came to my rescue. For a Foreign Office official called on me, the same man who had earlier refused me. But times had changed. He offered an immediate posting to Beijing. Days later I was in China—where experience soon forced me to rethink the socialist ideas I had entertained since Cambridge.

I returned home in 1978. The infamous White and Red Terrors, fought out between the Derg, the EPRP and Meison, had decimated Ethiopia's already tiny educated class. The Derg was victorious

but the country exhausted. Our new allies were the Russians—who had by changing sides helped us defeat the Somalis—and Cubans.

I returned to the supposed calm of university life but then answered the Derg's call for help in the educational side of re-building the nation. In 1984, while in East Berlin to recruit our many students in Eastern Europe, I watched the broadcast of Prince Charles's wedding to Princess Diana and remembered Trinity.

The Derg then launched its Soviet-style Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE). Wanting nothing to do with it, I asked to return to teaching. I was told to wait for an answer from the Chairman, Mengistu. He had still not replied when, over five years later, he fled to Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile I acted as official interpreter, learning a lot about my country's troubles when taking Western delegations around Ethiopia. In early 1990 I interpreted at a heads-of-state meeting in Uganda. Who should be there but Nelson Mandela, just out of prison! There was this lanky, slightly embarrassed man, amazingly cheerful for one who had emerged from over twenty years in prison. To meet him was an extraordinary privilege.

My last government service was at peace talks with the Tigrean Peoples' and the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Fronts.





# OLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA

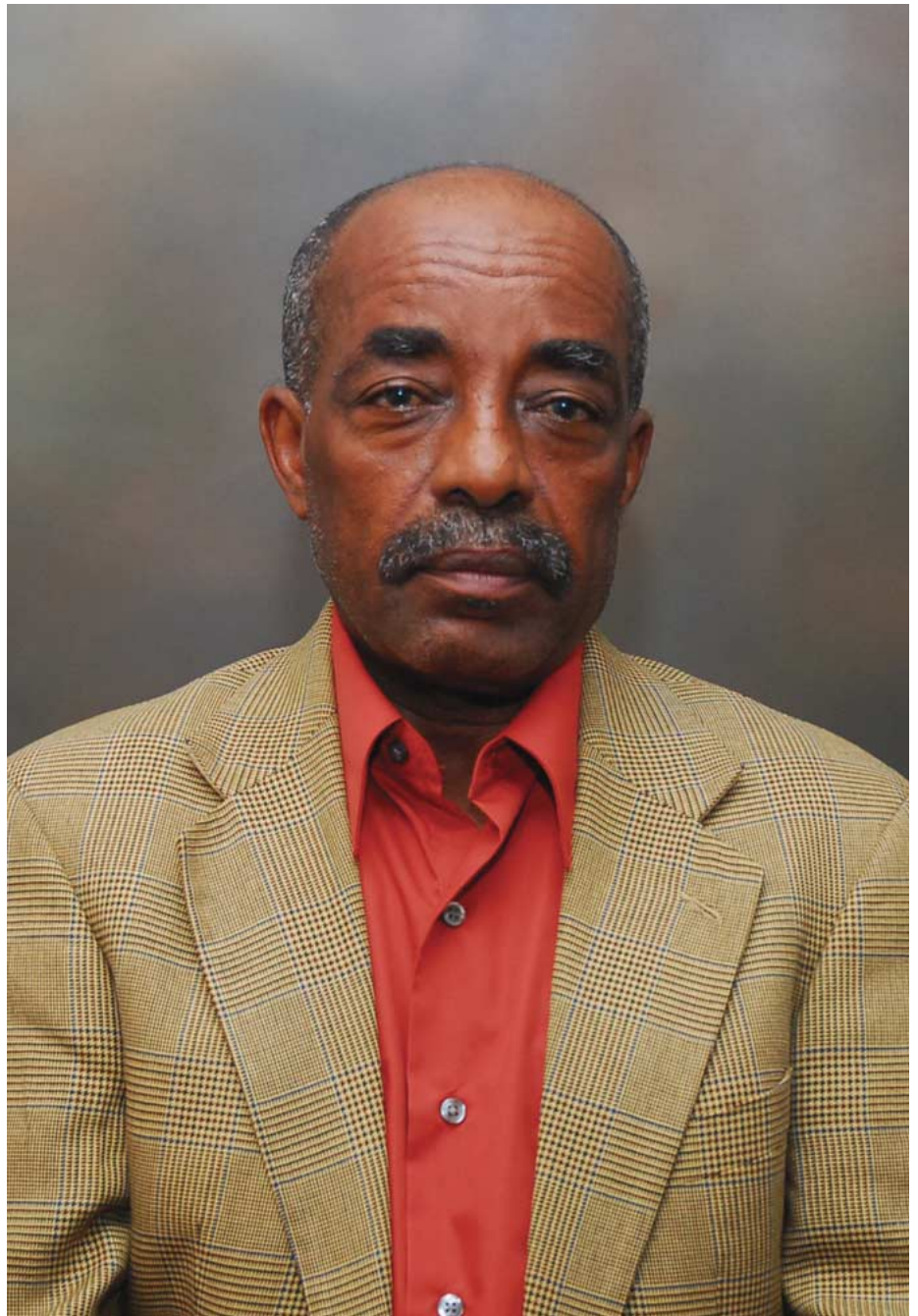
Both had fought for years against Mengistu, and since 1990 have governed Ethiopia and the secessionist Eritrea respectively. President Carter had hosted the first talks in Atlanta in 1988. The final session was in London.

It was another turning point for me. After the London talks I took my wife and two children to the USA, to stay with my sisters, take a break from turmoil, and consider our future. Ethiopia's new government had banned the WPE. Ex-party members had to report regularly at local government offices, rather like being 'gated'.

We did not want to live as exiles and returned home. I reported myself for several months, as ordered, and was then allowed to return to the university.

But fate had not finished with me. A year later a student demonstration caused the university to be closed. It was allowed to re-open only if forty allegedly dissident lecturers were sacked. Lectures were just re-starting when a university officer summoned me and apologised for dismissing me a little late. So exile it had to be.

I have been in the USA eleven years. Six years ago I received a kidney transplant and, thank God, have accepted that I am not yet a dying man. I have returned to my old passion, the history that took me to Trinity.



*Fisseha Zewdie (1967)*

# INAUGURATION OF THE COLLEGE CHOIR ASSOC

BY ANDREW O'SULLIVAN

Photo by Gerald Place, 1972, www.photoplace.co.uk



## RETIREMENT OF DR RICHARD MARLOW

Arriving on a gloriously bright Saturday afternoon, there was a sense of mutual purpose from the outset as hordes of ex-choristers were ineluctably drawn to the Backs. Old acquaintances were renewed, Frisbees thrown, picnics and stories shared. The party was already in full flow before the first official event of the afternoon: afternoon tea in Nevile's Court.

One of the main reasons we were here was to celebrate Richard Marlow's extraordinary contribution to college life through his 38 years as organist and choirmaster. Fitting indeed, then, that evensong was such a stunning occasion, never to be forgotten by any who attended. Here was Trinity across the centuries:

from the 19th century, former organist C.V. Stanford's fine setting of the evening canticles; from the 20th century, a chapelful of grateful and nostalgic singers. And for the living, breathing 21st century choir, the event was marked in a most appropriate way: an anthem, commissioned for the occasion from Jonathan Dove, distinguished college alumnus, who set to music Hardy's *The Darkling Thrush*, one of Richard's favourite poems. This intensely atmospheric setting, sung with verve and sensitivity by the choir, was exactly right for the occasion.

And full-hearted singing was to be heard elsewhere in the service. Richard generously invited the choral-congregation to join in for two works familiar to all who've passed through Trinity choir: Parry's jubilant psalm setting *I was glad*, together with the Stanford. Had a louder noise ever been heard in Trinity chapel?

Nevile's Court had meanwhile been transformed into the venue for a champagne reception. This brought us to the feast! The food was a great tribute to the kitchens, while Trinity's famed cellars had been studied with an eye well practised in choosing wonderfully pleasurable companions to the food.

Notwithstanding enthusiastic contributions from the floor, speeches



Photo by Gerald Place, 1972, www.photoplace.co.uk

both entertaining and touching by turns were delivered with panache by Alexander Armstrong (Trinity choir's only professional comedian, who evidently learned about more than just musical expression from his time in chapel), the Master, Robert-Jan Temmink and of course Dr. Richard Marlow.

A familiar feeling was revisited as weary frames and faces dragged themselves into Chapel for Sunday-morning Eucharist. It was worth the effort, with exuberant



# THE TRINITY ASSOCIATION (TCCA)



singing throughout the service. After a restorative breakfast in Hall we said our farewells, sad to be leaving, immensely grateful for this extraordinary weekend, and looking forward to the next occasion.

This weekend showed what alumni gatherings at their best are all about: the celebration of past achievement, anticipation of what the future will bring, and a timely and mutually beneficial refreshment of our relationship with the college.

The TCCA's new website is now online at:  
[www.trinity-choir-association.org](http://www.trinity-choir-association.org)

Full details about the Association can be found here, together with photographs taken on 1&2 July 2006.

Andrew O'Sullivan (2001) is a member of the TCCA committee



DEBUT ALBUM  
RELEASED BY FORMER  
CHORAL SCHOLAR AT  
TRINITY

Juliette Pochin's (1990-93) debut album *Venezia* was released on **May 15th** as Classic Fm's "Record of the Week". It features music either linked to or inspired by Venice, some Vivaldi, Marcello, Albinoni and a new vocal arrangement of the Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* – using Vivaldi's own sonnets which preface the concertos, as lyrics. The album includes a duet with cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, and guitarist Craig Ogden, best known for his recording of the music for Captain Corelli's Mandolin; it was written and produced with James Morgan (1988). He is a regular guest conductor of the BBC Singers, with numerous broadcasts and recordings and concerts at the RFH, QEH, Wigmore Hall and at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and he has just completed two CDs with the BBC Singers.

James, a former organ scholar, and Juliette met a Trinity and have continued to collaborate artistically ever since as well as producing their 4 year old daughter, Anna!

Further information can be found  
[www.juliettepochin.com](http://www.juliettepochin.com)

# HARRY WILLIAMS — A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

BY TONY BUTLER

Word got round that Harry Williams would be preaching at the Sunday evening service. The point was that Harry had not attended a service in chapel for several years. He was ordained of course, a doctor of theology, and a benevolent figure around Trinity, but unlike the two chaplains, Eric James and Simon Phipps, not well known to us undergraduates. This was 1956.

Allegiance to Christianity was not widespread in Cambridge at that time, but there was a lively interest in ideas—social/religious/political—centred on Great St Mary's, where Mervyn Stockwood, later bishop of Southwark, was establishing his flamboyant style, encompassing anyone from Tony Benn to Billy Graham.

Reading Harry's autobiography—*Some Day I'll Find You* (1982)—published a dozen years after he became a monk, we now know that he was in a state of nervous collapse for days before that sermon.

As I recall, he began with a statement to the effect that he had given up all belief in 'Christian Doctrine' but still believed in God: he would, he said, speak only of those things he knew to be true from experience. This statement is not included in the printed sermon, entitled 'Into all Truth', which appears as the first section



Photo by Gerald Place, 1972, www.photoplace.co.uk

of his book *The True Wilderness* (1965). But his text is printed, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" [John 16 v 13] as also his strange opening comment, "Nowhere in the New Testament do we find words more terrifying than these."

It needs courage, he said, to seek the truth about oneself. To go through the fear, to evoke "the me I've always refused to meet". As years passed he continued this quest. In contrast to the genial figure he presented to the world, his was a bleak inner journey. It took him into the monastery, but, fortunately for many who met him even briefly in those years, he

emerged to lecture, preach or stay with friends.

It is twenty years since I saw that smile and touched that hand, but on reading of his death this year I was immediately filled with a joy of memory. I suddenly realised that he was the spring of the little understanding and the few risks that have driven my life. He visited me in the mid-1980s and I introduced him to people who knew nothing about him. They were greatly moved by his warmth—the love that shone out of him. His was true holiness.

Mr Anthony Butler (1955)



# TRINITY IN CAMBERWELL— IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITOR

BY JACOB POLLEY

## THE VISIT

Finger-painting, Quiet Time,  
but I'm here at break, when the kids climb

into plastic cars and pedal round and round the climbing frame.  
A toy oven, sugar paper: when do you grow into your own name?

I'm here to learn something about what a building does—  
a roof, walls, doors, rooms: somewhere to come and somewhere to use.

The teacher wants to tell me everything, so I can tell you,  
but I like it when one little girl toddles through

from the playground—which isn't much by the way—and just looks  
the way kids do when they're curious. Child-sized chairs, low coat-hooks;

the smell of tissue-paper and PVA glue:  
I know smells trigger memory, but somehow this is how memories smell, too.

When you've got pre-school kids and you've got to work,  
you need somewhere that doesn't cost the earth—

a room and, in that room, people you can trust to let childhood  
last for as long as it should.

But everything clears away for After-school, Youth Club:  
the chairs stack, the room doubles up...

so I say ta-ra  
to the curious one, and I'm off to see the boys who come here to spar

before they sit down to study what they couldn't stay focussed on  
at school – half a dozen young black men

with energy to spare, who learn here how to know what few young  
men know: that you can pause before what you could do is done.

There should be groups like this all over, I'm thinking, as I think back  
to the lads I went to school with, the impatient, un-teachable, cracked-

knuckled and petrol-headed boys, who liked it when they walked with you  
alone across the fields, but couldn't do

school, because their bodies were revved and books were a fiddle  
when they couldn't see through them, like windows or water, so they giggled

or fought or stole, their voices broken and their fathers hard  
whenever they were around, and wrong. But here, it's calm

and there's a lad with my name who's written a play  
because he saw something and had to find a way

to tell it, because it was something no one should see,  
and when you're the one locked into your head, you look for the key

that lets out the night locked in there with you.  
These lines are about as true

as I could write them: the kids in pre-school, the lads  
I was afraid to meet, not because I was afraid of them, but because words  
feel inadequate

when you arrange them around people  
and their work, their good times and their trouble;

but to be part of arranging a place for people to come –  
it's then you really feel you've got something done.

"The Visit' was written after I visited Trinity in Camberwell. I wanted to write something that reflected what I saw as the admirable straightforwardness and warmth of the various missions being carried out there, from the scheme 'Boyhood to Manhood', which reaches out from Camberwell to provide a place for young, black, underachieving men to finally achieve something—be it decent exam results or the writing of a play—to a pre-school group that provides essential, affordable, pre-school care."

*Jacob Polley is Trinity's Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts, 2005-07. His first book, 'The Brink, was published in 2003. His second, 'Little Gods', is due out in December.*

# POST WAR TRINITY: S

BY TACITUS

The year is 1946. Cambridge is thronged with young and old. Scholars newly matriculated intermingle with the “warriors” returning to their Alma Mater from the four quarters of the globe, some seriously scarred. The odd Willis Jeep rides the street.

At Trinity, Hinks the Domestic Bursar assigned men to “digs” or “quarters” with volunteer families. One year out before moving into College was the practice. The winters were severe and mealtime austerity in Lower Hall was inevitable. The Corn Exchange provided large slabs of bread and jam at a few pence for hungry men. G M Trevelyan welcomed freshmen in the Master’s Lodge, supported

by fellow historian Jim Butler and other members of the Trinity establishment. Rooms in College were hard to heat. We collected coal in carts and struggled with fires. The baths in “lavatory court” dispensed hot water at a torrential rate. A comforting soak before Hall at 8.00 p.m. followed the bath queue, an egalitarian feature of the times when the newest scholar awaited his turn with Fellows including, notably, the eminent mathematician Littlewood in his heavy dressing gown.

Dinner in Hall followed the fine traditional grace read by WC Dampier-Whetham, well known for his residence at Upwater Lodge and his early treatise

on the Theory of Solutions. How true it was when a sigh of relief greeted “per Christum Dominum nostrum”. Mulligatawny soup was served from time to time—heart warming indeed but “seconds” were hard to achieve.

Many Trinity personalities still stand out in memories of fifty years. The Revd Simpson snipping the creeper outside K staircase, Great Court. Paddy Duff in scout uniform looking incredibly young. Bertrand Russell with a fine mane of white hair shared a gyp on B staircase with a first year scholar. Kitson Clark remains an outstanding and affectionate memory. A traditionally devout member of Chapel, Kitson’s legacy of great Victorianism offered a challenge to Lytton Strachey and Bloomsbury’s scepticism. The Historical Society gathering informally in Kitson’s splendid room above the Great Gate was an invitation to “armchair” seminars on wide-ranging topics. Chairs were lugged down from Kitson’s bedroom, but most of us sat on the floor. Beer was provided. Visiting speakers included the occasional US Senator; Professor D A Nichols; G M Trevelyan himself (probably on Macaulay) and one of the Schaeffer twins in residence who gave a paper on “Atahualpa and the Conquistadores”.

John Burnaby, a much loved Dean of Chapel, now recalled in his book on the



# OME RECOLLECTIONS



*The Master, Dr Bradfield and the Vice-Master meet members at their 5th Annual Gathering in July*

*Belief of Christianity*, expanded remarkably on the Dean's night. We enjoyed a hilarious evening at which Kitson was present, but increasingly somnolent in a chair, benignly beyond "in vino veritas". This particular occasion, in the shadow of Stalin's oppressions in Eastern Europe, recalled events in Hungary—when Cardinal Mindszenty was charged with treason and took refuge in the US legation in Budapest. A Trinity Hungarian patriot mounted a table and voiced a loud appeal to the Dean's "Celebrants" on behalf of the victims. He was followed by a glorious "non sequitur": a rendering of *Waltzing Matilda* led by a group of Aussies, one at least of whom made his mark in Pure Mathematics as a Fellow sponsored

from "Down under" by Professor Trendall, an old Trinity classic.

The year 1947 is regarded as a vintage year for Trinity, marked by the reception of George VI and his Queen. A brilliant morning heralded the Royal arrival, greeted by a flourish of trumpets from the battlements of the Great Gate. An unforgettable impression remains of the King sun-tanned, in Naval uniform, as the Royal couple entered the portals of Great Court beneath the effigy of Henry VIII bearing his extraordinary sceptre.

The British are not given to expressive emotion, but to those admitted to membership of the College; those early years strike an abiding chord. Was it a moonlight stroll into New Court when

the tones of Evenett's piano rendering of Chopin drifted down from his rooms above?

On a light final note, I remember much hilarity on May Days when "Family portraits", a production conceived by Simon Phipps and the astonishing Geoffrey Beaumont, featured a naval cadet in uniform who later became a Vice Admiral. The chorus was "it all goes back to Adam and Eve". Which is also to say that "Semper Eadem" reflects the spirit of Trinity.

*The author came up in 1946. His attendance at his 5th Annual Gathering in July earlier this year led him to reflect on his sixty years as a Trinity man..*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**24 September 2006**

Sunday Buffet Luncheon in Neville's Court,  
Trinity College

Open to all alumni and their partners,  
12.00–2.00pm

**23 October 2006**

Trinity Dinner in Boston

**24 October 2006**

Trinity Dinner in Washington DC

**26 October 2006**

Trinity Dinner in New York City

**2 November 2006**

**TLA Reception at Slaughter and May**

All interested Trinity lawyers are welcome to attend this event from 6.00–8.00pm. Tickets will be £15.00 and are limited, so please apply soon.

**15 March 2007**

**Evening Reception in the House of Lords**

Open to all members and their partners, please note that tickets will have to be purchased in advance and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

To obtain further information about any of the above events please contact the Alumni Relations Officer:

e-mail: [cdl28@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cdl28@cam.ac.uk)  
tel: 01223 338484

please note that numbers are limited for all the above events (first come first served).

## ANNUAL GATHERINGS

**22 September 2006—(1972–73)**

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm  
Dinner at 8.00 pm

**3 July 2007—(1955–57)**

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm  
Dinner at 8.00 pm

**19 July 2007—(1962–64)**

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm  
Dinner at 8.00 pm

*The Fountain* invites all Trinity Associations to make use of this column to advertise their forthcoming events, where these are open to other members of Trinity.

# GREAT COURT OCTOBER 1938

The peace of generations—  
Where learned men and wise  
Achieved vast computations  
Or wrote great histories  
Under wide fenland skies.  
Here in Q2 abiding  
I see them through the glass.  
Their ghostly forms are gliding  
Across the moonlit grass,  
On past the splashing fountain  
Into the ancient Hall,  
To greet their founder sovereign  
High on the wainscot wall.

### Envoi

But peace of generations  
May soon be peace no more  
For Aryan usurpations  
Foretell Blitzkrieg and War.



Ralph Miller (1936)

*In the war that he foretold Miller dropped on Arnhem in September 1944, there to be 'put in the bag' for eight months. He rediscovered this poem shortly before returning to Trinity this year for the July Annual Gathering.*

## SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF A GREAT PIANIST IN MUSIC AND WORDS

Christina Lawrie (1994) and Conrad Williams (1978) will have performed 'Scenes from the Life of a Great Pianist in Music and Words' at the Rye Festival on 9th September. Their performance comprises readings from Conrad's novel *The Concert Pianist* (Bloomsbury 2006), interspersed with music played by Christina.

The novel concerns the crack-up of a middle-aged pianist of distinction, suddenly convinced that music has kept him from life. He abandons the piano to exhume his own psychological history. *The Concert Pianist* explores the interweave between musical experience and emotional life.

At Rye the novel will be made audible, with music selected to complement the readings—a fascinating process. After a particularly desolate scene in the novel Conrad and

Christina tried out several pieces that sprang to mind. They all turned out to be in E flat minor—an interesting reflection on the links between keys and moods.

Christina will perform Rachmaninov's Etude Tableau in A minor, two Brahms Intermezzi, Rachmaninov's Prelude, opus 39, and the Finale of Chopin's Sonata, op 58.

Conrad read English and Law at Trinity but abandoned the Law to become a film and television writers' agent. His first novel *Sex & Genius* was published by Bloomsbury and his short stories have been read on Radio 4. He is married with two children. Christina studied at the Royal College of Music after Trinity. Her recent engagements include BBC Radio 3 broadcasts, a Wigmore Hall debut and Purcell Room recitals.