



THE FOUNTAIN

TRINITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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and Ice

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off the Grass:
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EDITORIAL

Much has happened since the third issue of *The Fountain* came out in autumn last year. The College launched its Campaign in support of the University's 800th Anniversary Campaign on 7th November, with a reception at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall, in the Barbican. The Vice-Chancellor wished the Campaign well; our Master, Martin Rees, explained why it was so important for Cambridge; and Mark Soundy, chairman of our Alumni Advisory Board, assured the College of its members' loyalty. He tells you more about the AAB on a later page.

Trinity has over fourteen thousand members. Until last month, February, our Alumni Relations office had two. We now have three. We could not send out fourteen thousand Campaign booklets all at once. How would our staff cope if even half our members replied at the same time? So we are sending the booklets out decade by matriculation decade. The 1940s received theirs before Christmas, the 1950s and 1960s earlier this year. Others will follow soon.

In the three months since the Campaign launch we have received over £800,000 from you. This is a most generous initial response. The College is very grateful. We shall be able to do even more for your successors at Trinity and for the University as a whole. We will be sending out a proper report this autumn, and annually, to tell you the ways in which your giving has made a difference.

This is our fourth issue. *The Fountain* is beginning to acquire a shape. It will of course never 'settle down' since Trinity men and women all follow such interesting pursuits. But is our balance right, roughly speaking, between reminiscence, current College activities, the research interests of our Fellows, and so on? We would like to hear your views. We also depend, of course, on you all as volunteer contributors.

With so much that is new in the field of our alumni relations, it may be as well to add to the *Annual Record's* reminder our own reminder of an entirely traditional means by which you may wish to re-connect with your College. As MAs you have the right to dine at High Table on four nights in each academical year, and to take wine in the Combination Room, both free of charge. We invite you to exercise this right. There are two provisos. There will be a few occasions in each year when special dinners or other College entertainments are held, and we have to exclude these from our invitation. Secondly, we regret that, for reasons of space, our invitation applies only to MAs themselves. However, once in each year you may, with the permission of the Vice-Master, bring a guest at your own expense. Please give good notice to the Catering Office of your intention to dine—if possible a week in advance. Either write or phone (01223-350128). We look forward to your company.



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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Professor John Lonsdale

Editor-in-Chief & Secretary Alumni Relations Committee

Mr John Easterling

Editor Annual Record

Dr Richard Serjeantson

Webmaster,
www.trin.cam.ac.uk
– currently on sabbatical writing a book

Mrs Corinne Lloyd

Editor & Alumni Relations Officer,
e-mail: cdl28@cam.ac.uk



THE TRINITY ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

BY MARK SOUNDY

After graduating, I forgot about Trinity. Likewise—after I had persuaded my long-suffering father to pay my Buttery bill—Trinity seemed to forget me. For almost twenty years, I lost touch, not only with my College but also with many of my friends.

Nearly two years ago Corinne Lloyd offered me an opportunity to re-connect with Trinity. She had just been appointed to the new post of Alumni Relations Officer—one small step for any alumni relations programme, one giant leap for Trinity! Corinne invited me to join the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB), which was being established to make Trinity's proposed fund-raising campaign more inclusive. It was not a difficult invitation to accept.

The AAB is an ad hoc advisory body, just over a year old. Its purpose is two-fold. First, to support the internal Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) and the Alumni Relations Officer, mainly by acting as a sounding board. And second, to represent the views and interests of Trinity's members to the College.

The AAB currently has ten members spanning six decades of matriculation, from 1944 to 1999. Names and most e-mail addresses are set out below. All of us feel immensely privileged to have been invited by the Master to join the AAB. We meet four or five times a year. Our meetings are informal and often lively—the frank and passionate expression of our many enthusiasms and occasionally differing views.

No matter how much time has passed nor how varied our lives have been since we were at Trinity, all of us on the AAB share a common bond. Each of us feels indebted to Trinity, particularly those of us fortunate and, dare I say it, old enough to have received Government grants while up at Cambridge. We believe it is our duty to give something back and to help Trinity continue, for future generations, the task it has done so well for centuries.

Improving alumni/ae relations is not just about fund-raising, in the context of the campaigns recently launched by Trinity and the University. This exciting initiative can and should reach wider and endure far longer than the University's 800th anniversary in 2009. It gives all of us Trinity members, a unique opportunity to

re-connect with our College in many valuable ways, in addition to giving money.

These are early days for Trinity's alumni/ae relations programme, as for the AAB. We have a long way to go. Other Colleges have programmes that are far more advanced. Trinity, however, has never settled for being second best. I am confident that, over time and with your help, we will catch up and then begin to lead the way. I would urge each of you, please, to take this opportunity to re-connect. Your contribution will be warmly welcomed and I guarantee you will find the consequences immensely rewarding.

Mark Soundy, 1983, Chairman of the Alumni Advisory Board

THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Please find below a list of the members of the Trinity Alumni Advisory Board in order of matriculation. Do contact individual members directly if you wish to comment or have a particular enquiry. In case of no e-mail address being listed please send your enquiry to the Alumni Relations office and we will forward it to the AAB member concerned.

Sir Robin Ibbs, 1944

Mr Laurie Van Someren, 1958
laurie@aleph1.co.uk

Mr Simon Ward, 1960
dowerhouse.t21@btinternet.com

Sir Paul Judge, 1968
pjjudge@paulrjudge.com

Mr David Kershaw, 1971
David.Kershaw@ashurst.com

Mr Nick Butler, 1973
n.butler@jbs.cam.ac.uk

Mr William Morris, 1981
William.Morris@ge.com

Mr Mark Soundy, 1983
Mark.Soundy@weil.com

Mr Adrian Weller, 1988
adrian.weller@gmail.com

Ms Theodora Fairley, 1992
thefairley@hotmail.com

Ms Rita Tetere, 1999
Rita.Tetere@ashurst.com

MAGMA, RUM, A

BY MARIAN HOLNESS

For most people, molten rock (magma) is the stuff that comes out of volcanoes to form lava flows. But most magma doesn't make it to the surface; it solidifies deep inside the Earth. Understanding magma solidification is a fundamental problem in Earth Science. It controls magma composition, the explosiveness of volcanic eruptions, and produces most of the world's deposits of precious metals. Since it involves the development of a crystal mush, it also provides an opportunity to solve the much wider problem of how fluids, such as hydrocarbons and water, move through rock. Much the best way to investigate this is to study the ancient, eroded, remains of volcanic roots. That's why I spent years working on the Rum volcano, off the west coast of Scotland. This stopped erupting 60 million years ago and, like a boiled egg at breakfast, the top has been removed, revealing the magma chamber beneath. The Rum magma chamber is one of many intrusions of magma that line both sides of the North Atlantic, all related to the gigantic plume of hot upwelling material now sitting underneath Iceland. The most famous of these intrusions is Skaergaard on the coast of East Greenland. This defined the subject of igneous petrology for decades and is the *non plus ultra* for anyone interested in solidification.

So it was, when I thought I understood Rum (I have since been disabused of this

notion), I decided Skaergaard should be next. Fieldwork in Skaergaard is no picnic: the nearest permanent settlement is 300 km away; the indigenous fauna include polar bears; the terrain is rugged and climate harsh; much of the intrusion occurs on a series of islands. But the intrusion was recently discovered to host vast amounts of gold and palladium, and the concessionaires, Galahad Gold plc, were happy to collaborate in a studentship. We were on course for a trip to Greenland in the summer of 2005.

My newly-arrived student and I went on a gun-training course: an adrenaline-charged day listening to bear-behaviour

talks (they run faster when hungry) and firing powerful rifles (they are extremely loud). It was not a comfortable experience for a highly-strung person. The following day Galahad told us they had cancelled their drilling operation for that year—less than a month before we were due to leave.

We were understandably cautious about planning further work in the field, and were not downcast when Galahad Gold told us they were not planning to drill before 2007. We had enough to work on from other people's expeditions and Galahad's existing drill cores. Galahad then said they were returning the concession to the Greenlandic authorities and were going to



Gemma hard at work labelling up samples. We had to carry a loaded rifle at all times – it even came into the tent with us at night—in case we met a hungry bear. But it is heavy and unwieldy, and not the easiest thing to deal with on rough terrain.



ND ICE

Skaergaard after all, to clear up, in August 2006. We had six weeks to prepare: another session at the rifle range, assembling kit, maps, aerial photographs, food, all the while keeping a weather eye open for possible cancellations.

Nothing really prepares you for East Greenland: the vastness and emptiness, and the sheer quantity of bare rock. As soon as the Twin Otter had landed on the rudimentary airstrip we were stuffed into a helicopter and taken to our campsite: in the excitement we managed to forget both our stove fuel and to make any plan for communicating with the mining people. A brief visit during breakfast the next day from a tight-lipped helicopter pilot sorted out that little glitch and we threw ourselves into the work, collecting samples from the margins of the intrusion and making detailed notes of the variations in rock types. Camping was enlivened by the arrival of a pair of Arctic foxes, who declined our offer of porridge for breakfast. They preferred butter. An unanswered question remains: what happens to an Arctic fox when a helicopter lands nearby? I suspect they get blown away by the down-draught but they always reappear, unper-turbed.

Helicopters are fun, especially flying low between icebergs with the door open—you need to hold the bags when it turns corners—but those who commute in them



When the wind drops, there is no sound apart from the icebergs and glaciers cracking. It was spookily still on this particular day.

need nerves of steel: they fly so fast they arrive less than a minute after you hear them, yet you have to be ready to be picked up on time, in the right place, with all your kit and samples. We did leave some samples behind when the helicopter arrived early on a mission of mercy one rainy day, just as we were nodding off to sleep in our bivy bags. We'll pick them up next time we're passing.

Leaving Skaergaard was as difficult as getting there. We sat glumly under full cloud cover listening to the Twin Otter circling overhead, looking for a way down. We had just resigned ourselves to putting

up the tent on the airstrip, when the plane miraculously appeared behind us, having found a break in the clouds further down the fjord.

I am now convinced Skaergaard provides the key to understanding magma solidification. The next job is to raise money for another trip in 2008, this time with our newly elected Title A (Junior Research) Fellow, Madeleine Humphreys.

Dr Marian Holness, 2000, Fellow, Natural Sciences (physical).

TRINITY WELCOMES A N

BY NICHOLAS YATES

At the start of this academic year Trinity made one of the most significant recent appointments in the world of choral music. On the retirement of Richard Marlow after an outstanding thirty-eight years, Stephen Layton was appointed as its new Director of Music.

Such has been the interest in this appointment that it has been covered by numerous national newspapers, *the Spectator* and even *Private Eye*, which believes that Oxbridge Colleges are now vying for pre-eminence on the strength of their choir directors rather than their Masters! If *Private Eye* says this, it must be true!

Stephen's performances and recordings have received world-wide acclaim, winning awards in the UK, Europe and the US, among them two Gramophone Awards, a Diapason d'Or, and two US Grammy Award nominations. Recent composer collaborations have included première performances and recordings of music by Arvo Pärt, James MacMillan, Morten

Lauridsen, John Tavener, Thomas Adès and Eric Whitacre.

Stephen is developing new collaborations for Trinity, giving the Choir the opportunity to work with leading composers and performers. At last year's Advent Carol Service the Choir was privileged to perform a work by Pawel Lukaszewski in the presence of the composer himself. Later this year the Choir will record more of his music on the Hyperion label, and perform with two of the UK's leading orchestras.

December 2006 saw Trinity Choir's successful debut performance with Britten Sinfonia at Snape Maltings Concert Hall. The concert was a highlight of the Aldeburgh Britten Weekend, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the composer's death. In April the Choir will again join forces with Britten Sinfonia for recordings and performances of Poulenc's *Gloria*, with soprano Susan Gritton, in Norwich Cathedral and Trinity Chapel.

The Choir will also be working on a number of projects with one of the country's leading period instrument orchestras, the Academy of Ancient Music. The first of these is a pair of concerts featuring Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum* and *Zadok the Priest*, together with a Handel organ

concerto played by former Director of Music, Richard Marlow. The concerts, in Trinity Chapel and London's St John's Smith Square, will be followed by recordings of the same music later in the year.

As well as enabling choral scholars to work with leading performers and composers, Stephen Layton is working to ensure the Choir's place at the heart of College life. In addition to its regular services, last term the Choir gave a free lunchtime concert of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The concert was warmly received by Fellows, Staff and Students from Trinity, and across Cambridge. A similar performance of Howell's *Requiem* is planned for this term.

Stephen is also putting in place a number of measures to attract choral scholars to all Cambridge Colleges, from a wider spectrum of schools and backgrounds. One of these is the inauguration of a summer choral music course at Trinity. Stephen is also working to make his and the Choir's music-making as accessible and tangible for all those who live, work and study in Trinity.

You are very warmly invited to attend any of the events listed opposite. If you are able to come, please do introduce yourself to Stephen, members of the Choir or anyone on the TCCA committee.

Nicholas Yates, 1991, General Secretary of the Trinity College Choir Association



NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Photo: Gerald Place

The Choir

FUTURE CHOIR CONCERTS

Thursday 15 March 2007

Trinity College Chapel—1.15pm

Howells—*Requiem*

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Stephen Layton

Admission free

Thursday 22 March 2007

Trinity College Chapel—7.30pm

Handel—*Zadok the Priest*

Handel—*Organ Concerto No 14 in A Major*

Handel—*Dettingen Te Deum*

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Academy of Ancient Music

Organ: Richard Marlow

Stephen Layton

Tickets: £25, £19, £12, £7 (restricted view).

Concessions and TCMS members £5

any seat

From Cambridge Corn Exchange Box

Office, Tel: 01223 357851

Friday 23 March 2007

**St John's Smith Square London—
7.30pm**

Programme as 22 March

Tickets: £25, £20, £15, £10.

Concessions 25% off any seat

From St John's Smith Square Box Office,

Tel: 020 7222 1061, www.sjss.org.uk

Friday 13 April 2007

Norwich Cathedral—7.30pm

Poulenc—*Gloria*

Messiaen—*Les offrandes oubliées*

Poulenc—*Quatre motets pour un temps de
penitence; Exultate deo; Salve regina*

Polyphony

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Britten Sinfonia

Soprano: Susan Gritton

Stephen Layton

Saturday 14 April 2007

Trinity College Chapel—8.00pm

Programme as 13 April

Tickets: £25, £19, £12, £7 (restricted
view). Concessions £5 any seat

From Cambridge Corn Exchange Box

Office Tel: 01223 357851

Sunday 10 June 2007

Trinity College—noon & 8.45pm

Towers Concert

River Concert

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Cambridge University Brass Ensemble

Sunday 8 July 2007

Trinity College Chapel—4.00pm

Live BBC Broadcast of Choral Evensong

Trinity College Chapel

If you would like to know more about the TCCA please see our website at: www.trinity-choir-association.org

MAKING THE BE

BY JACK COATES

It is with great hesitation that I have agreed to write down for *The Fountain* a few memories from those far off days after I matriculated in 1938.

Two uncles were brilliant engineers in Bellis & Morcom, and when I was accepted by Trinity my parents pressed me towards the Mechanical Sciences Tripos. In retrospect this may have been a mistake but it was an unexplored world to me. Against my parents' wishes but mad about planes, I joined the University Air Squadron in September 1938 and spent too much time away from lectures learning to fly at



Pilot of a Blenheim, 1942

Duxford. I still remember the intense elation of being sent off by my instructor for an hour's 'circuits and bumps' in that lovely summer before the war. The station was home to the first Spitfire squadron and I saw several of them standing on their noses, thanks to their tricky undercarriages in the long grass. There were no runways then.

I was from the generation of whom some in pre-war University debates asserted they would not fight for King and Country, but went on to produce the young victors of the Battle of Britain. I don't think we were very different from the young of today—certainly not heroes—but we did believe Hitler was evil and had to be stopped. The C.U.A.S. office and club-room were close by the Engineering schools and very tempting for us young men. We lived each day as it came and had a lot of fun, meeting undergraduates of all ages and from different Colleges. We also learnt to drink beer the RAF way!

After summer camp in 1939 I was told I would not be going back to College but would be attested into the RAF to save me from being called up by the Army. At the same time I learnt that my first-year degree results—perhaps hampered by the time spent learning to fly—would only entitle me to a war degree in Engineering. I regretted what I thought would be a



Youngest Wing Commander? September 1943

temporary separation from Trinity and particularly from athletics, in which I had represented the College. On the other hand, I would be among other University recruits. We all went to Cranwell as very untried Pilot Officers, although some post-graduates seemed much older. We were the first course after the regular cadets. It was an excellent place to start as we were made to work like stink and learned a lot about flying.

At the end of May 1940 we passed out. Most of my contemporaries went on to Fighter or Bomber Commands just as



ST OF IT

the war was beginning in earnest. Being keen about aircraft, I opted for the most modern type then in service, the Beaufort. Fortunately for me, the type was grounded due to teething troubles with new sleeve-valve engines, and so, bitterly disappointed at the time, I volunteered to fly Ansons with trainee wireless operators round the Irish Sea. By August an operational posting came through to 608 Squadron at Thornaby on Tees; and the reason why I was probably one of the few survivors among my contemporaries was that for the next nine months I gained masses of hours flying in all weathers on convoy escorts over the North Sea.

In May 1941, rearmed with beautiful Blenheim IVs, ten crews were hastily sent on embarkation leave, and in great secrecy were despatched south. At Gibraltar we were briefed to rendezvous with a fleet, with two aircraft carriers, in order to lead Hurricane reinforcements to Malta. The fighters had no hooks, so could not land back on the carriers, nor did they like flying so far out over hostile sea. They stuck very close to their shepherds!

In our Coastal Command Blenheims we eventually arrived at a patch of Egyptian desert at Burg el Arab, near el Alamein, to join 203 Squadron. Our new role was to search for ships and sub-

marines throughout the Eastern Med. We flew up the desert as far as the fluctuating battles would permit; we guarded Malta convoys, and shadowed occasional sorties by the Italian fleet. After a spell on the staff in Alexandria where, among other excitements, we planned the invasion of Sicily, to my astonishment I was appointed to command 454 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, just after my 23rd birthday. We were to fly the new Baltimores, on shipping and submarine reconnaissance, mainly in the Aegean: 16 aircraft, 64 crew, and about 200 ground staff.

The Australians had not been able to fully man their squadrons in the Middle East, due to mounting pressure in the Pacific, but the RAF/RAAF combination, underpinned from South and East Africa, was a great success, with the RAF's greater operational experience and the Australians better qualified in most of the technical areas. We were all miles from home and equally browned off with both desert and higher authority, so we got on splendidly together. In Alexandria and Cairo there were the Cecil and Shepherds Hotels—yes, and Mary's House and the Berka too—but 48 hour leaves were most remembered for the joy of proper baths and civilised food. Girl friends back in



New Uniform, 1940

Australia and the UK were not sympathetic, having heard of all the Sheilas in the Gezira Club.

What a wonderful education for the very young men who survived.

*Mr John (Jack) Arthur Gordon Coates,
1938, CBE DFC June 1942
Mention in Despatches Jan 1944
Demobilised April 1946*

NEUROSCIENCE:

WHY DO WE HAVE A BRAIN? A MOVING STORY

BY DANIEL WOLPERT



Why do we have a brain? From the movement chauvinist's point of view, the entire purpose of the human brain is to produce movement. Movement is the only way we have of interacting with the world, whether foraging for food or attracting a waiter's attention. Indeed, all communication, including speech, sign language, gestures and writing, is mediated via movement. Without the need for complex movements we could, as trees have done, forgo the luxury of a brain. Perhaps the clinching evidence for the movement-brain link is the humble sea squirt, a creature with a rudimentary nervous system that spends its juvenile life swimming around in the ocean. Early in its life it implants on a rock and never moves again. The first thing it then does is digest its own brain and nervous system for food! Once movement is no longer required neither is the brain. This phase

of the sea squirt's life is often taken as an analogy to what happens to American academics when they settle down on being promoted to Professor.

To understand the control of movement is, therefore, to understand the brain. The effortless ease with which humans move—our arms, our eyes, even our lips when we speak—masks the true complexity of the control processes involved. This is evident when we try to build machines to perform human control tasks. While computers can now beat grandmasters at chess, no computer can yet control a robot to manipulate a chess piece with the dexterity of a six-year-old child. To understand brain processing could therefore lead to dramatic improvements in technology.

A major area of our research programme is to understand how the brain deals with the uncertainty inherent in the world and in our own sensory and movement systems. We only know about the world through our senses, but they provide information that is usually corrupted by random fluctuations, which lead to variability in our perceptions. When we act on the world through our movement system, the commands we send to our muscles are also corrupted by variability which leads to inaccuracy in our movements. This combined sensory and movement variability limits the precision with which we can

perceive and act on the world. Society rewards those who can reduce their overall variability. If you can reliably hit a small white ball into a hole several hundred yards away, using a long metal stick, the world is your oyster. It is not only society that cares about reducing variability. The brain also works hard at reducing the uncertainty and variability in its perception and actions.

We have shown that our brains implement a branch of mathematics known as Bayesian Decision Theory. The fundamental idea is that probabilities are used to represent the degree of belief in different propositions about ourselves and the world—like the probability that one is looking at an apple or tennis ball. Bayesian Decision Theory specifies the optimal way that these probabilities should be updated as we gather new information and how we should then select optimal actions. Our group is investigating how far this theory may provide a unifying mechanism by which the brain makes estimates about our own body and the world and then chooses how to move.

<http://learning.eng.cam.ac.uk/wolpert/>

Daniel Wolpert, 2005, Fellow and Professor, Department of Engineering, has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Programme Grant to study the computations the brain performs when controlling our movements.



GREEN TRINITY

BY ROD PULLEN

In Trinity we are trying to do all we can to protect our environment and reduce our carbon footprint. Fellows, Students, and Staff are all involved in discussion and action. We are doing a lot, as the list below makes clear. But we are always on the look out for other ways to make Trinity more environmentally-friendly. If any alumni members can spot something we are not doing and ought to think about I would be glad to hear from you.

Housekeeping

All the Bedders' cleaning materials are biodegradable; we use no aerosols; and our loo-paper uses recycled paper.

Battery Disposal

The students' mailroom has a collection point for batteries and the Works Department looks after their safe disposal.

Recycling of Glass and Paper

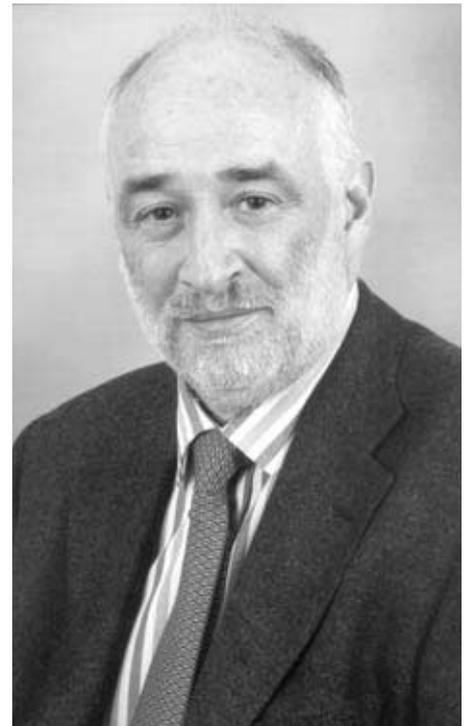
We have started a pilot scheme on "fresher staircases" in which student representatives collect paper and glass. Although the city authorities have found it tricky to remove what we have collected, thanks to our rabbit-warren of courts and lanes, we hope to expand this scheme next year, to add new freshers to those participating now. A separate scheme operates at Burrell's Field, where access is less difficult.

Energy Saving

We have fitted separate electricity meters in residential rooms, for all appliances other than lights. Students are billed individually, so there is a deterrent to waste. In public and communal areas the College is fitting low energy bulbs, and timers or movement sensitive switches, wherever we can. We have also installed a computerized Building Management System (BMS) to control boilers and heating systems. This allows us to monitor and regulate temperatures in different parts of the College, so as to cut down on unnecessary heating.

The Wolfson Building that many of you will have lived in, off Whewell's Court, has just been refurbished. We took the opportunity to put in efficient heat exchangers, and to fit photovoltaic panels on the roof. We hope to install similar systems in any future improvements, wherever we can do so, in agreement with English Heritage, without detriment to our historic buildings.

New workshops for the Works Department have just been commissioned. Here we have another pilot scheme—the latest thing in emergency lighting systems, using LEDs. It is said to reduce energy consumption, and therefore the use of the batteries on which it depends. If this pilot proves successful, we will



Dr Rod Pullen, Junior Bursar

replicate it in the larger refurbishment programmes that we plan for the College in coming years.

Dr Rod Pullen (2006) has succeeded Paul Simm, who was our Junior Bursar for 13 years. Dr Pullen joined us after 25 years at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where, after being the British High Commissioner to Ghana and Ambassador to Zimbabwe, he was the UK's Special Representative at the recent Darfur Peace Talks.

FROM ENGINEER TO INVESTMENT BANKER TO NOVELIST

BY POLLY COURTNEY



If I had to choose again, I'd do it again: engineering at Trinity. I picked Trinity for its size. I thought that the bigger the college, the broader the range of opportunities. Looking back, it was probably the fact that I was there – playing hockey and football, doing concerts in the College Chapel, organising events in the Wolfson Party Room—that got me a place in one of the world's top investment banks.

I joined the firm in summer 2002, armed with a First in Mechanical Engineering and high ambitions for a career in London's square mile. The recruitment team had described the world of banking at the graduate 'milk round' dinners: hard work, long hours and a competitive workplace—with tremendous rewards. I knew what to expect.

So it was with trepidation and excitement that I boarded the plane for an eight-week summer 'boot camp' in New York. The training was hard, but the trip was exhilarating. How could it be otherwise, with three hundred fresh-faced twenty-somethings living in plush hotel suites in the heart of Manhattan? It helped, of course, that a lump sum of £7,500 landed in our bank accounts on the day we arrived.

Back in the UK, we were shown to our desks in the giant white building, and put to work. It was daunting, but I knew I'd be all right. I was used to the work-hard, play-hard regime.

Within weeks, my life took on a new rhythm. I would be in the office by 8am, and sit at my desk until late at night—whenever the work was done. The assignments were mundane, often pointless, but the strict hierarchy meant that analysts like me had no way of managing

our workload. I frequently cancelled social arrangements because of work set at 6pm with a deadline of the following morning. One night, I was woken at 2am by a taxi waiting to take me back into the office. I was beginning to realise why we were being paid £40,000.

It was Christmas when I made my decision. I was going to leave—but not right away. I needed to hold out for a whole year, partly for the sake of my pride and my CV, but mainly because if I left during my first year, I would have to repay the £7,500 'golden hello'.

It felt defeatist, leaving after only a year, but it was the right thing to do. I had underestimated the sacrifices that went with the salary.

My time in the city didn't go to waste—far from it. I turned my experiences into a book, *Golden Handcuffs*, a fictional account of two young graduates trying to make it in the square mile. I never imagined, sitting slumped in the back of a taxi scribbling notes on a frustrating day's events, that this would be the start of my career as a writer. But that is what it was. Artists used to work in garrets, but today in taxis.

Polly Courtney, 1998, is the author of "Golden Handcuffs".



TRINITY ONLINE

Some of you may remember Dr Richard Serjeantson's article, in the last issue of *The Fountain*, about the College website, the planned Alumni website, and our call for volunteers to test this new venture.

Twenty-eight members volunteered. With their help we have successfully tested the new webpages, 'Trinity Online'. This service is now open to all members of the College and we hope you will enjoy it.

'Trinity Online' is intended to make it easier for you to communicate with the College and your friends. You will be able



to find your own record; change your address; add personal information, if you so wish; indicate whether or not you are happy for other members to contact you at your e-mail or postal address; download application forms for College events; and get information about fellow members of Trinity—if they have given us permission to make such information available.

To use this new service please go to the main Trinity website www.trin.cam.ac.uk and then to the Alumni pages. Once there, click on the 'Trinity Online' link. Some parts, such as the alumni events page, are public. Others require a Username and Password. You can ask for these at the Login area. If you need help, please e-mail the office at alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk Happy Surfing!

SEMPER EADEM?

Trinity College Ordinances of 1961 read, in part, as follows:

XXXVIII B 2 D. SHOEBLACKS

1. The Shoeblocks are to commence work not later than 7 a.m. and to continue their work until finished, which must be not later than 11 o'clock. On Sundays they are to work only as far as may be necessary.
2. The Shoeblocks may employ assistants, but the assistants and the terms of their employment must be approved by the Junior Bursar. The Shoeblocks will be responsible for the good conducts [sic] of their assistants.
3. A Shoeblock is entitled to receive 11s 6d. a term and 1s 3d a week in vacation in respect of each master for whom he works.

4. If rooms are temporarily occupied by a visitor in Full Term, the Shoeblock is not entitled to any payment if there is a regular tenant of the rooms who is liable for the terminal charge; if there is no tenant so liable, or if the temporary occupation is during vacation, he is entitled to 3d. for every pair of shoes cleaned. He is to learn from the Bedmaker whether the visitor or his host will make the payment.
5. The Shoeblocks are in no case to ask for gratuities either from regular masters or from visitors.

[Editor's note. It is believed that this Ordinance has since been rescinded.]

THE FUONTIAN

We must correct two unfortunate mistakes in the *Fountain's* third issue, which came out in September 2006. The first was on the cover, where Ethiopia was misspelt Ethopia. The second occurred in Tacitus's article on post-war Trinity, in which the 'Schaeffer' twins ought to have been the 'Shaffer' twins' (Sir Peter and the late Anthony). We should have spotted this when reading that one of them presented a paper on Atahualpa for Kitson Clark's seminar—clearly a foretaste of 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun'. We have apologised to Sir Peter and must hope that this column will not become, as in *The Grauniad*, a regular feature.

SOUND, VIBRATION,

BY PETER DAVIES

I came up to Trinity in 1947 from Sydney with a shining new first class degree and a Charles Kolling Mechanical Engineering Travelling Scholarship. It had to be Cambridge as my parents had met there, and Trinity was my father's college. I had joined the Royal Australian Air Force in October 1940 and was commissioned in early 1942, after completing the first Radar Course held at Sydney University, where we were known as the Bailey boys. Until Easter 1945, when I resumed my Engineering course, I was responsible for radar calibration throughout our war sector, the south-west Pacific. The stations were scattered around Australia, New Guinea and the islands in areas unoccupied by the Japanese, but often next to them. After this, my academic interest had returned to studies of fluid motion. In Cambridge I joined Chapel Choir, 1st&3rd, Magpie and Stump, CUMS and the Air Squadron. Outstanding in the spring of 1948 were the Queen honouring Cambridge as its first woman graduate, and then Jan Smuts's installation as Chancellor. I still remember the service in King's, with the Choirs of John's and Trinity joining in, while Churchill peeped around the screen from the Vice Provost's stall, impatient for Smuts's arrival. We overheard their lunchtime repartee from the musicians' gallery.

Smuts displayed a flattering interest in my research when he toured the Engineering Laboratories. He also cycled along the towpath, to cheer for Christ's. Many of the friends I made at Trinity have lasted a lifetime and influenced my research. Rudolf Wille, a visitor from Berlin, was an early one, while Alan Townsend, who I first met on a hockey pitch in Canberra, was another. Then G I Taylor, whose student's rig lay next to mine, and several others further afield. I have vivid memory of an afternoon I spent with Ludwig Prandtl in Göttingen, going through my new turbulent boundary-layer measurements. Like my father, I met and married a Newnham graduate! Meg Pite had served as a Radar Officer in REME, while her father, uncle and brother were Trinity men, as later were a son-in-law, a nephew and a grandson. Early in 1951, we settled, like my parents in Australia, but in Adelaide not Sydney.

We were happy in this friendly, relaxed city with its mild Mediterranean climate, but over half a century ago one lacked the easy, cheap, and rapid communications we now enjoy. With many colleagues, I felt a growing sense of isolation from the expanding frontiers of science. I felt I had to tell my students it was in their best interests to travel, to broaden their ideas and

experience with new contacts beyond their local boundaries. I eventually decided to follow my students and in 1956 accepted a senior research fellowship in aeronautics at Southampton to lead experimental studies in jet turbulence and aircraft noise. Meg loyally agreed with this decision, which was a happy one, involving me in several new and exciting developments, like founding of the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR).

Sound and vibration have wide applications in engineering, biomedicine and human sciences, and affect our lives in many ways. The research interests of the ISVR soon expanded into many areas, and has continued this growth ever since. The sound produced by unsteady and turbulent fluid motion is also a general phenomenon, and its successful identification and control continue to demand experiment. As a pioneer in these fields, I am still happily and fully occupied at the ISVR with flow noise. We continue to visit universities, research and industrial establishments worldwide, and enjoy receiving visitors from them in return.

Last year the ISVR was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, for improving the quality of life for the profoundly deaf and reducing noise pollution. This formally



AND TURBULENCE



Paul Mellor Photography

Peter Davies meeting the Queen

recognised our sustained excellence in teaching and research over the past 40 years, and the many contributions to advanced technology, to health, to the wider community, and to business, particularly those concerning the control of aircraft noise and structural fatigue, transport and industrial noise, ultrasonics

and underwater sound. The Institute has also researched and taught in the fields of audiology, human response to vibration, medical imaging, patient monitoring and physiological modelling, and run Clinics for Cochlear Implants and so on, in collaboration with hospitals. I was honoured to be a member of the team

of five students and three staff who went to receive the award and meet Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace, nearly sixty years after I, with other students from the Dominions, had met her mother.

Peter Davies, 1947

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11 May 2007

Scottish Dinner in Glasgow

Following the College's successful dinner in Edinburgh last year, another Scottish event will take place in the Western Club in Glasgow. Tickets will cost £30 for a champagne reception followed by a four course dinner. Please note that numbers are limited (first come, first served).

8 September 2007

Trinity Dinner in Paris

We hope that many of our members based in Europe will take this first opportunity to meet the Master and some of the Fellows. The College Choir will sing Mass in Notre Dame Cathedral on Sunday, 9th September, at 11.30am.

23 September 2007

Annual Members' Buffet Luncheon

This, the third Members' Luncheon, will be held on Sunday 23 September and offers an opportunity for members to bring a guest and enjoy an excellent buffet in the lovely surroundings of Neville's Court. Tickets are subsidised by the College and thus only cost £15.00 each. Please apply using the enclosed form. Please note that numbers are limited (first come, first served).

To obtain further information about any of the above events, please contact the Alumni Relations Office:
e-mail: alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk
tel: 01223 338484

ANNUAL GATHERINGS

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

21 September 2007—(1992–93)

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm
Dinner at 8.00 pm

Invitations are usually sent out 2 months in advance.

Please contact the Annual Gatherings Secretary for further details:
records@trin.cam.ac.uk
tel: 01223 765748

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS: TRINITY REFLECTIONS ON POST-COLONIALISM



Katya Leney, 1993

A few years ago I was invited back to Trinity, to dine at High Table. My host, my former supervisor, started across the Neville's Court grass towards Hall. I hesitated. It was not only the shock of sharing privilege. As a civilian peacekeeper with the UN in Bosnia, I had been trained never to walk on grass without first looking out for the sinister wiring of a mine.

Mines were not the only relics of the Bosnian war. A divided society had to be rebuilt. My job focused on democratising the police, whom nobody trusted. At first I wondered how my doctoral research into British and French decolonisation in West Africa would help. But then my whole UN career involved patching up failures in post-colonialism.

Bosnia, first, was part of the Balkan labyrinth, product of nearly six hundred

years of Ottoman and Habsburg colonial rule, and Communism. And then I was off to Sierra Leone, more than thirty years after the British had departed, to help rehabilitate former rebels but with ridiculously few resources. Most of them wanted to become tailors. All we could give them was a few weeks' training and a sewing kit. And then, finally, back to the Balkans, to Kosovo, where ethnic conflict echoed Africa's. The Albanian majority hated the Serbs, who saw Kosovo as the birthplace of their nation. Will the UN be any better at decolonisation than the British and the French a generation ago?

Now I am a mother of two—a new sort of peacekeeper, while also battling to balance work and family. I'm sure the confidence learned at Trinity will be a help, but I still hesitate before walking on grass.

THE KING'S HALL

Members interested in Trinity's history will be glad to know that Cambridge University Press has reprinted, in paperback, the definitive study of one of our two antecedent Colleges,

The King's Hall within the University of Cambridge in the Later Middle Ages (ISBN: 13-978-0-521-02186-9, price £30) by Dr Alan Cobban, formerly a Title 'A' Research Fellow of the College.

Front cover: by Dr Richard Glauert, 1943, Fellow, The Avenue in Spring