



# THE FOUNTAIN

TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Tony Weir

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New Fellows

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An old Fellow

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New Stuff

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Old Friends

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New Novelist

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Clean Space

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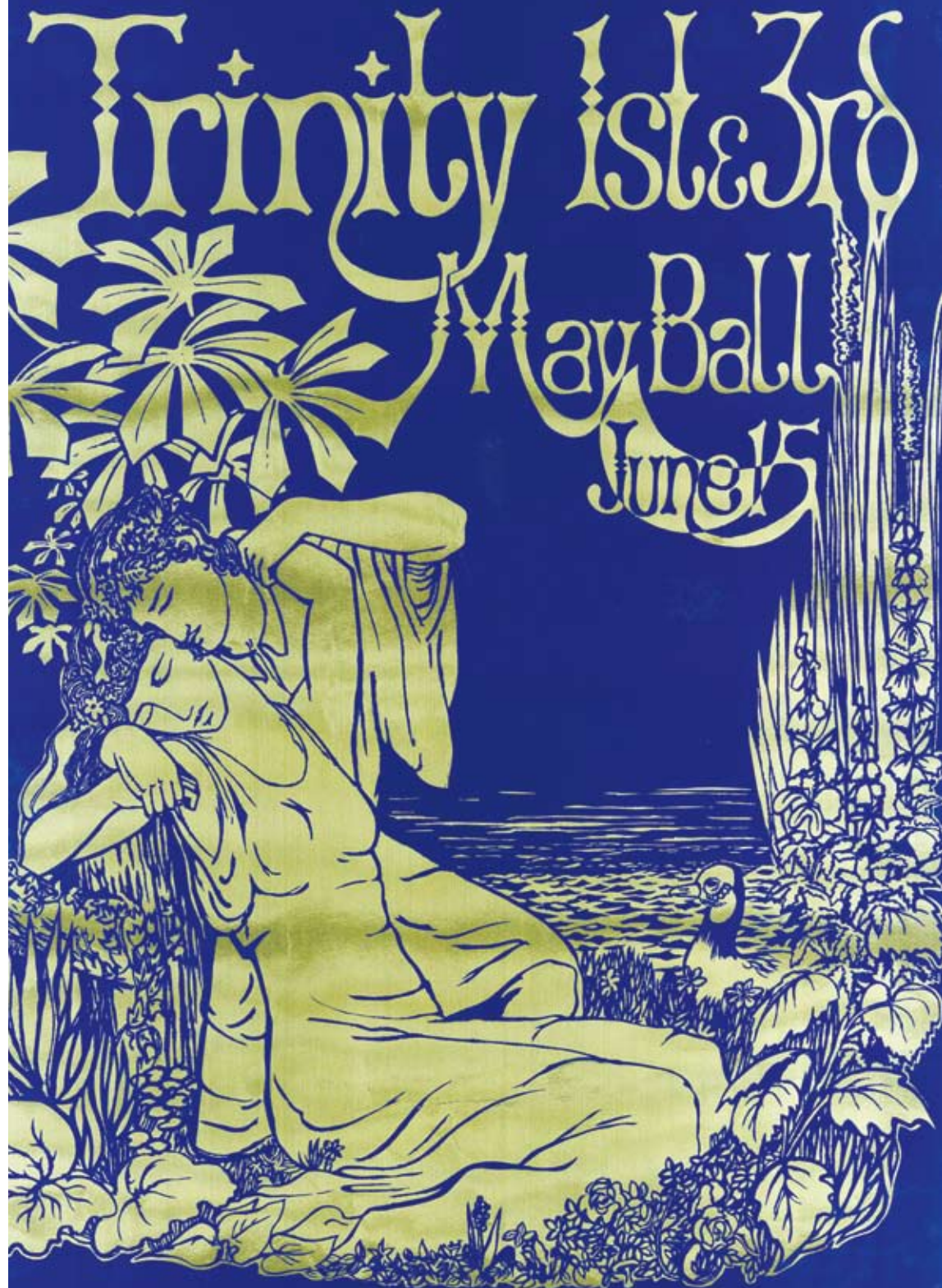
Christchurch  
quake

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College Spirit

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Year  
Representatives



# EDITORIAL

Tony Weir's death in December came as a sad shock to the College. He forbade any formal manner of commemoration. But he rendered extraordinary services to Trinity, to the law, and to his students. These deserve to be remembered. Catherine Barnard, senior law Fellow, feels able to recall them, accordingly, in our less-than-formal pages. Among Tony's gifts to us was his assistance to our infant alumni relations programme. It is at his suggestion that an old May Ball poster graces our cover. Corinne Lloyd, our pioneer alumni relations head, being warned of his likely grumpiness, was delighted with Tony's kindness in helping her start the Trinity Law Association, with his lists of hundreds of former students. His interest in the TLA overcame any alumni doubts about the wisdom of the enterprise, and the promise of his presence at TLA events guaranteed a large attendance. Eminent lawyers used to queue to have a word with their former supervisor.

Tony was a Fellow for more than four decades. His loss seems irreparable. Masters are more transient. But without Martin Rees's leadership we might not have embarked on alumni relations at all. We look forward to similar support from his successor Sir Gregory Winter (1970), due to enter the Lodge later this year. Their respective 'Farewell' and 'Hail' will find room in the autumn issue of *The Fountain* and 2012's *Annual Record*.

This issue of *The Fountain* welcomes many new Fellows, despite the absence, for this year only, of a new intake of Title 'A' or Junior Research

Fellows, thanks to a change in the electoral timetable. By contrast, Graham Chinner remembers an old Fellow's suspicions, while Ian Fells celebrates old Trinity friendships.

Alan Windle, Professor of Materials Science, gives us another insight into the important research led by Trinity's members. Since membership of the College does not cease on leaving Cambridge, we are also pleased to give wireless space to Axel Jessner, one of our continental (or mainland) members. Robin Carrell also shows how our world-wide connexions can inspire what we hope will be valuable support for our earthquake-stricken colleagues at the University of Canterbury at Christchurch, New Zealand.

Innovation and talent are scarcely the monopoly of our academic members. We welcome the knighthoods conferred in the New Year Honours on Mark Pepys (1962) and on our most recent Nobel laureate Venki Ramakrishnan (2008) for their research achievements in the biological sciences. But we also congratulate Anjali Joseph on winning a prize for her first novel, and delight in the triumph of our alumni/ae in the 'senior' University Challenge televised over Christmas 2011, reported by Daisy Goodwin on the back page.

First things last, however: our future students and the price they must pay for their education. John Rallison gives us an authoritative forecast of their growing needs. We cannot allow them to be discouraged. To the contrary, the College and all its members must be the more determined to ensure that financial



worry does not deter young people of talent from applying to Trinity. Their future is Trinity's future too.

Robert Eddison's (1955) aphorisms, to be found at the bottom of four of our pages, have been selected with that determination in mind.

*Professor John Lonsdale (1958), Fellow,  
Editor-in-Chief*

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# THE VIEW FROM THE OLD SCHOOLS

By John Rallison



These are turbulent times for higher education (HE). The Government has cut the teaching grant; its new undergraduate funding model has also created an inter-University market in fees. The consequences, both short- and long-term, are uncertain.

In 2009 Cambridge suffered a £5m reduction in our teaching grant and the Department of Business, Industry and Skills assumed responsibility for HE. Changes have accelerated since the 2010 general election: the teaching grant has been cut by a further 60 per cent; market principles have been introduced; the funding burden has been shifted on to students and their families by raising the fee cap to £9,000; the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) requires us to widen participation; and there are growing differences in HE funding between different parts of the UK.

Collegiate Cambridge regards this radical (some say reckless) funding experiment with concern; both academics and students have protested. Most accept that a degree brings private financial benefit, so it is reasonable for students to bear some of the cost. But graduate skills also benefit wider society, not only

materially. It is not clear that the new arrangements strike the right balance, for the terms of debate have been narrowly economic, symbolised by the transfer of HE responsibility to a Department of Business.

How should Cambridge respond? We start from a position of strength: the brightest students compete to come here; we top the National Student Survey in terms of student satisfaction; our graduates readily find employment; we are top of most UK newspaper league tables, consistently in the top six in international leagues, and are best in Europe. Our reputation rests on our excellent staff and students, so we are determined to maintain our admissions standards. Since we do not currently recruit as many high-performing students from state schools as the national average performance suggests we could, we have agreed with OFFA an ambitious target to raise that proportion to the national average.

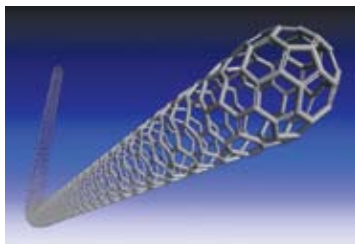
After earnest debate, Cambridge has decided to charge £9,000, the highest annual fee permitted. This by no means covers our teaching costs—which average about £17,000 p.a.—so that, even with the residual state teaching grant, colleges will still subsidise students to a considerable extent. No UK or EU student has to find this fee during their studies. It can be funded by a government loan to be repaid, effectively as a graduate tax, by graduates earning more than £21,000 p.a. This loan arrangement should support, in part, those students from poorer backgrounds, but Cambridge will give additional support, when

needed, through non-repayable bursaries of up to £3,500 p.a.

College supervisions remain the jewel in our crown. They will be preserved, but are costly; some of their features are being reviewed. Are one-to-one supervisions—the norm in some Arts subjects—essential, or even pedagogically desirable? My own belief is that groups of two or sometimes three—the norm in the sciences—can offer greater educational benefit. We will also explore sharing lecture courses across Triposes. Innovative new Triposes in the Human, Social and Political Sciences, and in Psychology, will start in 2013. They will revitalise teaching, offer a broad introduction to their core disciplines—like the current Natural Sciences Tripos—use academics' time more efficiently, and appeal, we hope, to a talented group of applicants we currently fail to attract.

What next? The 2011 White Paper promises a wider HE market with new private providers and lower fees. Financial pressures may make some science subjects unviable at some institutions; student numbers may fall at others, causing closures and mergers. The new fee regime's impact on postgraduate study has been largely overlooked, and is of great concern to research-intensive Universities. The challenge for Cambridge will be to maintain our international excellence across all our disciplines. We will meet it.

*John Rallison (1970), formerly Trinity's Senior Tutor and Director of the Isaac Newton Trust, is Professor of Fluid Mechanics and the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.*



# A NEW KIND FIBRES MADE FROM C

By Alan Windle

## ‘NANO’

The nano prefix was probably introduced to the general British public by prime minister Harold Wilson as he campaigned for office in the 1960s, when he explained that new computers were so fast they could do a calculation in a nano second, a time so small that there were more nanoseconds in a second than seconds in a man's life. (If one checks this calculation, it doesn't come out too well!) Basically a nano is one thousand millionth of anything, and in the context of nanotechnology today, it is generally taken as referring to a very small length, a nanometre being one thousand millionth of a metre, about the distance which our finger nails grow every second. The prefix comes from Greek (*νᾶνος*), where it means dwarf and, interestingly, it also means small in Gujarati (નાનું).

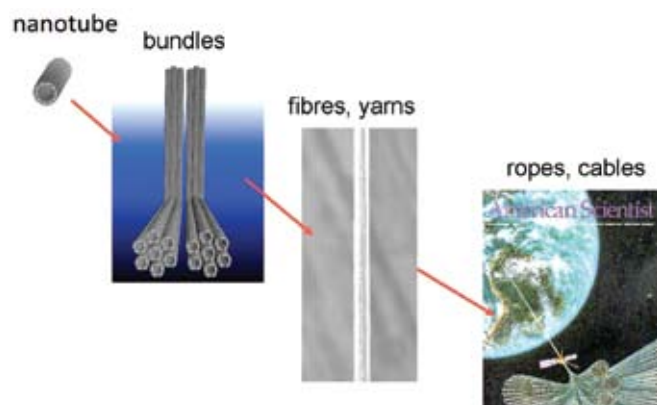
Carbon may currently have a bad press, it even has a tax, but to the materials scientist it is wonderful stuff: it has interatomic bonds which are the strongest known in a light atom so that, quite apart from its central role in biology, there are innumerable other exciting things which can be done with it. To squander it by burning, to make heat, seems intrinsically profligate, quite apart from global warming issues. Perhaps Nature, as ever, has shown the way by turning carbon into two very different forms of material: sparkling diamonds on the one hand, and dull graphite on the other.

The Nobel prizes awarded to Smalley, Curl and Kroto in 1986 for their discovery of bucky balls—a new form of carbon consisting of small football-

like spheres of 60 carbon atoms with an overall diameter of 1 nanometer—was one of the launch pads of the nano-technology revolution. Hard on the heels of this discovery came the recognition of the relationship between bucky balls and the thinnest sort of carbon nanotubes, also ~1 nanometer in diameter, which are as if one of the single sheets of carbon atoms (as occur in graphite) had been tightly rolled into a tube and joined along the edge. Despite their very small diameter, nanotubes can be up to 1cm long, a length/diameter ratio of some 10 million! For one whose research had focused on long and thin polymer molecules, this was especially interesting, albeit uncharted, territory. The application of the principles of polymer science and polymer processing to carbon nanotubes, seeing them as perhaps the ‘ultimate polymer molecule’, led to some unusual developments. One of these was the creation of a process to make high performance fibre directly from the reactor in which the carbon nanotubes were first formed, turning a cheap hydrocarbon source such as natural gas into a high-tech fibre on a continuous basis.

To make carbon nanotubes one needs to supply carbon atoms, normally as a hydrocarbon which is ‘cracked’ at high temperature in the

absence of oxygen, but in the presence of minute particles of a metal such as iron which provide the seeds on which the nanotubes grow. Running at Cambridge we operate our process at 1300°C in hydrogen. The amazing thing is that the smoke we make, because it consists of carbon nanotubes which entangle, is ‘elastic.’ Technically one might call it an aerogel, but it means that one can get hold of one corner of the smoke and wind it in, continuously keeping pace with the rate at which is formed. We thus make, and wind up, a single strand of fibre, some 10 microns in diameter—which means that one can just about see it against a white background—continuously at rates up to 50 metres/minute. But why should we be so enthusiastic, given that the world already has carbon fibre? One answer is the quest for yet stronger materials. To make, for example, the cable to a satellite for a space elevator, which has to be



*The hierarchical structure of fibre and ropes made from carbon nanotubes. The nanotubes self-assemble into bundles, which are aligned to form a single filament of fibre, which is almost too thin to be seen by the naked eye although containing more than one million nanotubes in its cross section. The fibres are tough and flexible so that they can be formed into very high performance ropes or cloth.*



# OF STUFF

## ARBON NANOTUBES



Research team spinning the fibre in a laboratory in Cambridge.

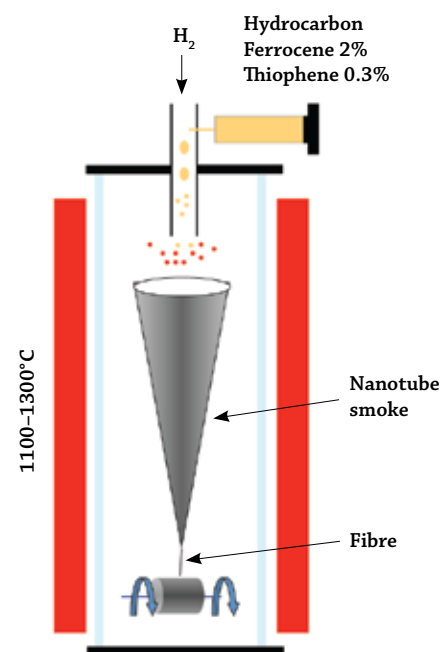
60,000 miles long and yet support its own weight, the strength needed is some 10 times that of the very best fibre now available. As a respectable card-carrying materials scientist one would say it is impossible, even though the strength of an individual nanotube is just about enough. The challenge, as ever, is to translate the brilliant properties of the nanoscale-building-blocks into something useful like a fibre, which can be woven into ropes. How are we getting on? We have already seen fibre strengths greater than ever recorded before, but yet are only about one third of the way to our target. But why this focus on the space elevator cable when its realisation will be decades away, while the rest of the world wants the fibre for other more practical but equally important applications? The answer may be that it is the space elevator application which really seems to inspire the next generation or two, indeed the new fibre was used in the climax story in last Christmas's Royal Institution Lectures to very good effect. The media also seem to be turned on by it, which can be something of a two-sided coin.

Our nanotube fibre process has the potential, if it can be scaled up successfully, of making carbon fibre which is both cheaper and better than the current product. However, a large, efficient plant will cost something approaching a quarter of a billion pounds, so there will have to be multiple high-volume applications not currently within the ambit of conventional carbon fibre. It is perhaps a sign of the times that enthusiasm for scale-up and the associated level of investment required was only found overseas, although the cutting edge science base remains firmly in Cambridge.

The fibre itself has uniquely different properties from conventional carbon fibre which is itself at the cutting edge of materials applications, such as the new Boeing 'Dreamliner', as well as in sports, including Formula 1 motor racing, rowing and cycling. The central difference is that carbon nanotube fibre, the basic 10-micron diameter filament (see image above left), is itself a yarn, made up of millions of nanotube sub-filaments. The result is a fibre which is much tougher than conventional carbon fibre, able to be woven into fabrics and very compatible with plastics for forming composite materials. It also shows remarkably high levels of thermal conductivity, opening up the prospect of heat cables able to cool hotspots in computers or other complex machines. The fibre is already three times better than copper at conducting heat, and very much lighter. However, probably the greatest potential of carbon nanotube fibre is as a replacement for copper for

electrical applications. Through the control of the exact type of nanotubes we make, in particular the control of the chirality (twist of the atomic structure) of single-wall nanotubes, it is possible to move towards the much vaunted 'quantum wire' where quantum effects associated with the very small circumference of the conductor mean that the deleterious effects of the inevitable defects and thermal vibrations are minimized. So far, the improvements we are making in electrical conductivity suggest that our carbon nanotube fibre will challenge copper on a per-unit-weight basis by 2013.

Alan Windle (1963) is Professor of Materials Science in the University and was formerly Tutor, Side J.



Schematic view of the reactor in which the carbon nanotubes are made and spun directly into fibre.

# CLEAN RADIO SIGNALS

By Axel Jessner



Radio astronomy has mastered the art of detecting radio signals where other users of radio waves would not sense anything. A one-watt mobile phone in space, 40 million km distant, would still be detectable as a weak radio source but only, and crucially, if the background is radio-quiet. This means that even a one-watt radio transmitter that was in geostationary orbit 36000 km above a radio observatory would disturb this background if it were transmitting on the radio telescope's reception frequencies. Cambridge is playing a key role in trying to keep space clean enough for radio astronomy to continue.

Radio astronomy is non-profit fundamental research, fully funded from the public purse, and *ipso facto* in the public interest and, therefore, of interest to tax-paying members of Trinity! Like most other pure research, its benefits are often indirect, long term, and hence not easily measured in simple economic terms. Nonetheless, in the 1960s governments recognised the value of radio astronomy and therefore agreed to reserve quiet frequency bands of special interest to it; these frequencies became virtual nature reserves in the

crowded radio spectrum. Since radio interference does not respect national boundaries international treaties now govern radio frequency use; national regulators like the UK's Ofcom are there to ensure that radio emissions from one service in one country do not interfere with other radio emissions in other countries.

Radio frequencies are a common good. Like so many other common goods these days they are seen chiefly as a source of revenue by both governments and industry. This temptation and the ever-increasing demand for more wireless communications come into conflict with the requirements not only of passive services such as radio astronomy, but also with meteorological earth sensing and atmospheric research. Few radio engineers and radio-spectrum managers know anything about radio astronomical research. They are equally ignorant of special radio astronomical techniques and of how absolutely essential it is to preserve areas of radio-quiet background for research. The research community needs competent people to speak up for us! In 1987, therefore, radio astronomers from twenty radio observatories in Europe, Russia, Ukraine, South Africa and Turkey founded CRAF ([www.craf.eu](http://www.craf.eu)), the Committee for Radio Astronomical Frequencies, hosted by the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg. CRAF is consulted by national regulators and by industry whenever it appears that interference might endanger the work of radio observatories.

CRAF is a sector member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, that branch of the UN which manages the obviously essential task of harmonising the allocation of all the world's radio frequencies. The European Communications Committee (ECC), with its many specialised subcommittees, is responsible for taking decisions about radio frequency use in European countries. CRAF experts take part in the decision-making process at all levels. Forty years ago, Jocelyn Bell and Anthony Hewish detected strange radio signals at Cambridge's Lord's Bridge Observatory. At first glance these looked like interference but further diligent analysis distinguished the newly discovered pulsar signals from mere local interference. CRAF aims to preserve the clean radio environment that alone can ensure that such discoveries will continue to be possible and not swamped by all sorts of man-made signals. Cambridge is well represented in CRAF, not only by the current chairman, but also by its frequency manager Harry Smith (St Edmund's) and by Andy Faulkner who is the official member for the Lord's Bridge Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory. Like me, both cherish their memories of that special time in life when we were all at Cambridge.

*Axel Jessner (1979), member of CRAF for the Max-Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, did Part III of the Mathematical Tripos in Astrophysics at Trinity. He is the current CRAF chairman and is doing pulsar research in Bonn.*



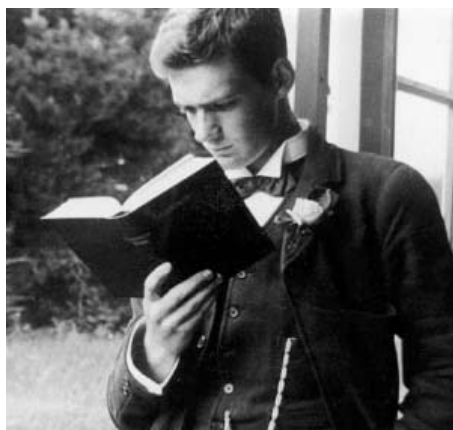
# A CANTERBURY TALE

By Robin Carrell

In 1897 two research students, Ernest Rutherford and John Erskine met on holiday in Berlin. Both had graduated from Canterbury College in Christchurch New Zealand with top honours in mathematics and physics and had jointly pioneered studies of electro-magnetic radiation. Each was subsequently awarded an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship, Rutherford's award taking him to Trinity and the Cavendish, Erskine's to the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig. Thereafter their paths diverged. Rutherford moved on in 1898 to the Professorship of Physics at McGill and to fame, whereas Erskine on his return to New Zealand in 1900 had to settle, abysmally, for a job as a boiler stoker!

Christchurch was founded in 1850, sponsored by graduates mainly from Christ Church Oxford and Trinity College Cambridge. Their vision included parks and botanic gardens, a cathedral, schools, a teaching hospital and a university college. The settlement flourished. With a temperate climate and situated at the foot of an alluvial plain 70 miles from the alpine backbone of the South Island, Christchurch became New Zealand's garden city.

New Zealand is prone to earthquakes but these primarily occur along the alpine fault-line with only outlying rumbles being felt in Christchurch. However, any complacency was shattered on 4 September 2010 with a severe earthquake centred 25 miles from Christchurch and again, six months later on 22 February 2011, with a second quake directly under the city.



*John Erskine*

The consequences were devastating. The first quake weakened even reinforced structures; the second demolished them. The centre of the city was in ruins and 182 lives were lost.

The University, although safer on the city's western fringe and largely intact, was declared out of bounds pending an engineering survey. Lectures were cancelled and graduate students directed elsewhere while temporary theatres were constructed. Now, one year later, the University has substantially recovered despite recurrent aftershocks and the people of Christchurch are rebuilding their city—boldly so, not as a garden city but as a city in a garden. The joint resolve of University and city has been bolstered by support from abroad.

An apt opportunity for Trinity to contribute to this reinforcement of morale arises from the friendship of Rutherford and Erskine. Erskine soon gave up stoking boilers, studied engineering at Canterbury, and went on to a mining career in the USA and Australia. He amassed a fortune which he bequeathed in 1960 to



*Ernest Rutherford*

the University of Canterbury. His bequest funds short-term study exchanges for academic staff, notably between Canterbury and Cambridge. But the scheme lacked reciprocity. Cambridge visitors were integrated into the academic life of Christchurch while those from Canterbury arrived in Cambridge without a College or formal University linkage. So Trinity has established two annual Rutherford Visiting Scholar Awards tenable with an Erskine Fellowship. The Rutherford awards will provide Canterbury visitors with a College attachment, including accommodation and dining rights. They will reaffirm historic links and send a message of confidence from Cambridge to the people of Canterbury as they rebuild Christchurch and restore its University.

The first Rutherford Visiting Scholar, Peter Roberts, Professor of Education at Canterbury arrives in April.

*Robin Carrell FRS (e1987), Emeritus Professor of Haematology, is a graduate of the Universities of Canterbury and Otago.*

*Many work in the shadows to give others a place in the sun.*

# TONY WEIR, A RE

By Catherine Barnard

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Weir on 14 December 2011 at the age of 75. Held in awe and loved in equal measure, Tony was an extraordinary and highly influential college fellow. He was knowledgeable, intelligent, witty and irascible. The college and many of its members owe much to him.

Tony was a renaissance man. He was exceptionally widely read, passionate about art and literature and a talented musician. Yet he wore this learning lightly, nowhere more so than in the field of law itself. He was somewhat ambivalent about the study of law as an academic discipline. Yet he inspired generations of students with his critical insights and original approach to the subject. Students recall the profound effect his 'library tours' for freshers had on their thinking (read cases in reverse chronological order; value an index—indices of Civilian law texts have a smudge down the side of the page where readers have run their fingers). Sometimes he expressed his views in trenchant terms. Most famously, one of his case notes for the Cambridge Law Journal (CLJ) was turned down for its strident tone. Undeterred, he published the note himself and distributed it personally outside the law faculty. (The CLJ is going to rectify this omission by publishing the note in its March 2012 edition.)

The book for which he is best known to students, the *Casebook on Tort* (first published in 1967 and subsequently in nine further editions, the last appearing in 2004) was more famous for its style and criticisms of orthodoxy, than for offering a standard presentation of the

material (a poor decision was 'most unsatisfactory'). And this was Tony's great strength: he did things his own way, even if that did not necessarily coincide with the requirements of bureaucracy (HEFCE, QAA et al): brief, if any, supervision sheets, no exam practice. Taking notes in supervisions was also forbidden. Difficult moments in supervisions were punctured by one of his cats—Groovy, Donoghue and Stephenson and latterly Smilodon—leaping up to grab the ponytail of an unsuspecting student or bringing in a dead offering. (Cats were a passion and his rooms were full of cat memorabilia.)

Tony's supervision style could be intimidating for the faint of heart. His supervision reports pulled no punches either: 'this student has finally located the stick and is groping his way towards the right end'. But for students who stood up to him or genuinely asked for his help he could be inspirational. One student has written:

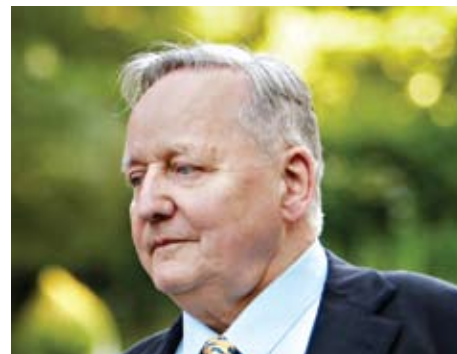
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*'It was this process of vigorous honesty and integrity combined with care and support, where sought, that I believe inspired the loyalty that followed Tony wherever he went.'*

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Even those students who were on the receiving end of his barbed remarks wore them as a badge of honour and reflected subsequently on what they had gained from having their work described as 'wretched'. This is what led to the queues of former students, including silks and judges, surrounding Tony at any public event.

Political correctness was as a red rag to a bull to Tony. No equality and



diversity training for him. And since he was not allowed to ask prospective students to name their favourite opera (even though he hated opera himself and refused to have any opera in the library's CD collection), he was no longer able to participate in admissions. The EU also made Tony see red. For a long time he had a UKIP sticker in the back of his car and an EU flag crossed through on the door to his rooms. Yet, Tony was a passionate European in the broadest sense of the word. He spoke excellent French, German and Italian, was a renowned comparative lawyer (his superlative translations of German comparative law texts are regarded as the gold standard), and he adored the cultural and gastronomic life of Poitiers, Pavia and Potsdam.

But he preferred being home, and home for Tony for more than four decades was A3 Nevile's Court, the rooms in which he hosted memorable lunches for small groups of students, cooked by himself in his tiny kitchen and where he fried chips at 2am after student parties. He detested change, even to the (ghastly) orange paint on the walls up to his rooms. Orange was his favourite colour and this love extended to his choice of





# NAISSANCE MAN

carpet, lampshade and flowers. While colleagues recall him as a dapper young man, always wearing a bow tie, the preferred attire of his retirement was an orange T-shirt which emphasised his increasing girth.

Tony was passionate about Trinity. He had a profound knowledge of its inner workings and he devoted his considerable energy in recent years to tidying up college affairs. This did not always endear him to the college officers. He detested waste and was often on the side of stasis when building work was being proposed. (He particularly loathed the new Norman Foster law faculty building which he regularly referred to, dismissively, as ‘the terminal’.) Tony was very generous—on a personal level he supported a number of people financially and he was generous too with his contacts. He was also responsible for encouraging and directing the generosity of Bruce Dunlevie, his former student and great friend, for the benefit of students of Trinity.

For four decades, Tony was synonymous with law at Trinity. At his 70th birthday, he reluctantly agreed to a tea party, with a cat cake, candles and (short) speeches. For a man who had renounced formal recognition, including a Chair at Cambridge, this was a major concession. It gave the students a rare opportunity to express their appreciation. They offered him a new word: “Weiry” meaning “to think before one speaks”.

*Catherine Barnard (e1996) is the senior law fellow, Senior Lecturer in Law and the University’s Professor of European Union Law and Employment Law.*

## Trinity Fellows’ Winning University Challenge Team



*Jack Gallagher, James Lighthill, John Bradfield, Tony Weir.*

### A Toast to Tony Weir on his 70th birthday

*by Kevin Gray (Allhusen Room, Tuesday 25 April 2006)*

Tony: This afternoon provides a unique opportunity for us to say collectively how extremely pleased we are that our world has been graced by your presence for the last 70 years. We are just as pleased that we have all been able to share some part of this period with you as your students, colleagues and friends.

Now is not the time to unroll Tony’s curriculum vitae. Suffice it to say that he is close to the irreducible core of Trinity, the community and the institution. His time here spans five decades and will, we trust, span several more. He is a very remarkable star in a firmament that will never see his like again.

My memories of Tony are rich and

varied. I can remember the dapper young man in the smart pale blue blazer who held a lecture audience spell-bound in the late 1960s, who had us howling with mirth as he dissected the Civil Law or said quite unspeakable things about the Law Commission. I can equally remember the man who, in the small kitchen in his rooms, fried up chips for party survivors at two o’clock in the morning.

Tony needs no encomium from me. He has quietly and discreetly turned down more honours and distinctions than you can poke a stick at. He is an absolutely authentic human being. And so it is that we meet today to salute Tony and to raise a glass to a true gentleman, teacher, scholar and friend—much loved by us all.

*Kevin Gray (e1993) is Dean of College and a University Professor of Law.*

# NEW FELLOWS AND OF HIGH TABLE



Elliot Meyerowitz



Chai Lieven



Hoenik Kwon



Sarah Worthington



Huw Price



Paul Brakefield



Michael Köhl



Eriks Esenvalds



Emma Jones



Thibaud Harrois



Martin Barlow



Denis Pelli



Robert Watson



Lilya Kaganovsky

This year Trinity changed the timetable of its 'Title A' Junior Research Fellowship election. Previously elected and admitted each October, JRFs will now be elected in January for admission the following October. The September *Fountain* will introduce those elected this past January. Notwithstanding their absence, the Master was able to welcome many distinguished newcomers at the Fellowship Admission Dinner.

Under Title F—used rarely for short-term visitors of great eminence, the last being J.K. Galbraith—the Master introduced **Elliot Meyerowitz**, a leading plant scientist whose lab at Caltech has spearheaded advances in genomics. For the next two years he will be co-director of the new Sainsbury Laboratory in the University's Botanical Gardens.

Two Senior Research Fellows have been appointed under Title B. The historian of Russia and of empires,

**Chai Lieven**, comes from the LSE. Calling himself 'both eagle and earthworm', scanning the big picture while burrowing in detail, he proposes both a global history of monarchy since antiquity and a biography of a single monarch, Alexander II of Russia. The Korean anthropologist **Hoenik Kwon** researches into the divisive and traumatic aftermath of war in Vietnam and Korea, asking how reconciliation becomes possible, not least between members of families who fought on opposing sides.

Trinity has also elected four new Professorial Fellows under Title D.

Two come from Australia. **Sarah Worthington**, appointed Downing Professor of the Laws of England, specialises in equity, corporate and commercial law, and is our third transfer from the LSE. As a College Senior Lecturer, she will also supervise our undergraduate lawyers. **Huw Price**, appointed Bertrand Russell

Professor of Philosophy—a chair the College helped to endow in memory of a great Trinity mind—works on both the philosophy of science, especially the nature of time, and on pragmatism and theories of truth.

The two others come from nearer home. **Paul Brakefield** is the new Professor of Zoology and Director of the Museum of Zoology and, in Trinity, Senior Lecturer in Biology. While Trinity's biologists tend to focus on microbiology: DNA and cells, Paul can actually tell the difference between species of butterflies. **Michael Köhl**, educated in Germany, has been promoted to an ad hominem chair in Physics. His Munich PhD was on atom lasers; thereafter he worked in Zurich on fermions in optical lattices, and ion trapping in Bose Einstein condensates.

Under Title C we have three new College Lecturers. **Matt Dyson** comes from Jesus College as Lecturer in law. He's an expert on the historical



# D MEMBERS



Matt Dyson



Cameron Petrie



John Rudge



Madan Mohan



Murray Stewart



Anne Stillman



Robin Sharp



Paul Dominiak

development of tort and criminal law, and on European Law. Our other four college lawyers are all women but Matt has been appointed on merit, not to promote gender equality. **Cameron Petrie** will teach archaeology, for which he has been our director of studies for the past three years. Originally from Sydney, he has worked in Pakistan and Iran, studying artefacts as far back as the Neolithic. **John Rudge**, lastly, appointed lecturer in Maths for Natural Sciences, is already a Fellow, hitherto under Title A. He studies the earth's interior, with evidence derived from fluid dynamics and chemical fractionation.

We have also appointed three Temporary Lecturers, in the absence of teaching fellows who are unwell or are on sabbatical leave. Two are biologists. **Madan Mohan**, from India, was a Trinity research student and now leads a group in the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, while **Murray Stewart** is a programme leader at the same LMB, researching into the cellular basis of muscle contraction. **Anne Stillman** will be helping out, as she has done before, with our English teaching. A Fellow of Clare, she works on Shakespeare's influence on 20th century literature.

We have a new Assistant Bursar in **Robin Sharp**, who will take on a new role—for which she has distinguished experience—as Campaign Director. We already have an Annual Fund, but Robin will work to attract major capital donations, to help sustain our globally first-rate support for research and our students in an increasingly competitive world.

**Paul Dominiak** is our new Chaplain. He has worked pastorally in the US and South Africa, earned an undergraduate degree in the US, an MPhil at Cambridge, and a PhD from Durham.

We also have a new Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts. **Eriks Esenvalds** has sung in the Latvian State Choir, the largest professional chorus in Europe. But his reputation as composer brings him here; our choir has already produced a highly-praised CD of his work. The Gould Lectorship in Creative Writing is a new post, initially for a single two-year tenure. **Emma Jones** is the Lector and will teach all interested students, not only those reading English. Another Australian, she did her PhD at Trinity on Christina Rossetti. Her poetry collection, *The Striped World*, was a prizewinner—as noticed in *The Fountain* number 12 (Spring 2011)

Among other members of High Table we welcome this year's French lecturer, **Thibaud Harrois** who, besides teaching French, will pursue his research interest in Anglo-French defence co-operation (not yet vetoed). Then, among our Visiting Fellow Commoners, all from across the Atlantic, we welcome, first, **Martin Barlow**, a probability theorist. He will study 'random walks and diffusion in irregular media' but should know where he's going since he left Trinity for Vancouver only in 1992 after being here as a student, research fellow and college lecturer. **Denis Pelli**, next, from New York University, came here thirty years ago for a PhD on visual perception. He studies how our brains analyse the visual field and recognise patterns. **Robert Watson**, thirdly, from the University of California at Los Angeles, studies Ben Johnson. His own book *Back to Nature* showed how 17th century authors and painters foreshadowed modern environmental sensitivities. Last but not least, **Lilya Kaganovsky**, from Illinois, studies how Russian films in the 1920s and '30s, in their transition from silent films to talkies, offered a powerful new voice for the state.

# 1952 NEW COURT

By Ian Fells

In October 1952 six young men arrived at Trinity, having served in the army in various places around the world, doing their National Service. They were Eric Cahm, Donald Candlin, Derek Glenton, Tom Meeks, John Rogers and myself. We matriculated that year and embarked on our different disciplines, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Modern Languages, History and English. We had not known each other before coming up; we met for the first time in Hall. After a year we decided that New Court in Trinity would be a nice place to live and moved into K staircase. My brother joined me that year and we shared a set in K2. We had a large sitting room, two bedrooms, and, extravagantly, two gyp rooms but no bathroom. To bathe we had to walk outside and across to J staircase which housed the ablution block. It was our bad luck that 1953 was one of the coldest winters in living memory; the river Cam was frozen for weeks, I sent for my skates and skated all the way from Trinity Bridge to Granchester. Fortunately the College had decided to equip each ground floor room with a powerful, closed, coal-burning stove. The thinking was that the heat generated in the stove would drift upwards to the rooms above, which it partially did. It meant that we kept our room very hot. We collected our ration of coal each week in a hand cart from the back of the Old Brewhouse. We were comfortable and, perhaps surprisingly, accepted the arcane College rules; back in College before midnight, no girls in our rooms after that time (10 pm in some less relaxed colleges), wearing gowns after dark.

As we had a ground floor set people tended to congregate for sherry in our rooms before Hall; a bottle of College sherry cost a pound, quite expensive by today's standards. I remember the fine chestnut tree standing in the centre of New Court and walking round and round it, trying to console the College chaplain, Simon Phipps, later Bishop of Lincoln. He lived in Bishop's Hostel and was being pursued by Princess Margaret.

After we had graduated in 1952 and gone on to be quite successful in our various careers, we decided to meet for a reunion from time to time, and to bring our wives to whom, in 2012, we are still married; sadly, two of us, Tom Meeks and Eric Cahm have died. We now meet annually. Here are three entries from my diaries charting the progress of these reunions, usually in late September or early October.

**9th October 2005.** We arrived at Ravenstone Lodge on the north east

side of Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick, in time for lunch and waited for the arrival of the others, who had driven up from the South. They arrived in time for a splendid dinner of roasted local lamb, served in the listed stables, now a cosy dining room with a slightly bucolic air about it. We chatted until midnight.

Tuesday morning we drove in convoy to Dove Cottage in Grasmere where we were met by the curator, Dr Robert Woof (I had appointed him



*A Trio of Trinitarians: from left to right, Donald Candlin, Derek Glenton, Ian Fells*



# T REUNIONS

as Reader in English at Newcastle University some years before). He has enormous enthusiasm for his subject, the romantic poets and particularly Wordsworth, and has devoted his life to developing Dove Cottage and raising money for the iconic Jerwood Centre, built alongside from local materials, slate and stone. Robert and his wife took us round to look at the carefully preserved manuscripts and books, and the Spooner collection of water colours, which was on display. We had lunch in Keswick, courtesy of *Times* luncheon vouchers, which we had thriftily collected. Then we went to try and find the ancient stone circle, circa 1000 BC, Castlerigg. It is perched high above Keswick and is remote, but worth the effort to find it with fine views over the Lakes. In the evening we went to see the melodrama "Gaslight" at the newly built Theatre by the Lake, in Keswick. It replaces the rather dilapidated but much loved Blue Theatre with its leaking roof. It was a stirring, dramatic performance leaving some of our members unable to sleep. The next morning we assembled at the noble Victorian Hotel, Armathwaite Hall, which looks down over Bassenthwaite Lake. We lunched with the *Times* again and then drove down the east side of the lake to Mirehouse. It has been in the Stebbing family for 300 years. We were met by John Stebbing; he was a few years junior to us at Trinity. His great-great-grandfather was Richard Bentley, the great classical scholar who became Master of Trinity in the early 18th Century and had a standoff with the Fellows.

He tried to reduce their stipend and they tried to impeach him. The recriminations went on for years. We listened to a very early recording of Tennyson reciting his poem the "Charge of the Light Brigade"; he spoke in a flat, boring monotone. The house was stuffed with Trinity memorabilia.

**26th September 2006.** We set off from Newcastle for North Yorkshire and Arkengarthdale on a wet and misty morning, driving over the steep Strang Pass in County Durham. It was good to arrive at the Charles Bathhurst Inn which had been Bathhurst's house. He was a successful mining engineer as well as being Oliver Cromwell's physician. The inn is a rambling structure, full of nooks and crannies with a separate dining room for the ten of us. The hospitality and food was tremendous with rabbit, black pudding, local lamb, tripe for those who wanted it, fish and lots of fresh vegetables. The next morning we set off to drive over the Buttertubs Pass, calling at the Hardraw Falls, in marvellous autumn sunshine. We arrived in Hawes to find it was Market Day. Two of the ladies in our party took the opportunity to buy some smart trousers from a market stall, which had expandable waist lines, in anticipation of more fine dining. We wandered through the market, down to the Rope Walk, much improved since we saw it 30 years ago. That was when our son Crispin, aged 10, shot his first rabbit in its vicinity. We drove back to the Inn via Reeth and Bolton Castle, outlined against the sky in

the evening sunshine. After supper we played *Articulate*, a cerebral game, men against women.

**22nd September 2011.** We convened at the White Rock Hotel in the rather louche but attractive town of Hastings on Monday. After some exciting Turkish cuisine and a visit to the De la Warr Pavilion, which epitomises 1930s architecture at its best, we decided to go on a trip the following day on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch miniature steam railway running from New Romney to Dungeness. On our way we passed the huge wind farm which has destroyed the view of Romney marsh. It was a cold, damp, dark morning as we arrived at Dungeness station, which is alongside the twin reactors of the nuclear power station and stretches out to sea on a shingle beach; it was rather like coming to the end of the world. But the locals like their nuclear station and want it replaced with a new one. It will take 2,400 wind turbines to replace it. We returned to Hastings and spent an evening in that bustling town, full of young people. We also found ourselves in Trinity Triangle, in the old town; an unexpected reference to our connection.

We hope to continue our reunions for a long time yet. 2012 is our 60th anniversary from matriculation.

*Ian Fells CBE FRSE FREng (1952), Emeritus Professor of Energy Conversion at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, television presenter with Carol Vorderman, and Energy Adviser to the European Union.*

# “WHY, SIR, LET US COUNT OUR SPOONS”

A 1960s' Reminiscence by Graham Chinner

“Quodcumque rectum verumque arbitrabatur acriter defendebat” is the faintly equivocal eulogy engraved on the memorial brass for distinguished Organic Chemist Frederic George (F.G.) Mann, FRS, (Fellow 1930–82): “Whatever he considered right and true, he defended fiercely”. Even had I been aware of this trait, I could hardly have connected it with F.G.’s initial unfriendliness. At table I often sensed an eagle eye of suspicion upon me. Overhearing him one day voice dislike of Australians, I stepped in and asked why. Taken aback by this direct approach, he replied with a curious story.

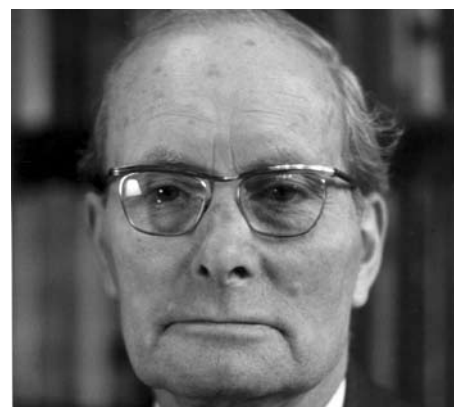
On his commissioning into the Royal Engineers early in 1918, Mann received a recommendation to a good tailor for an officer’s uniform, a railway warrant, and orders to join a troop train for France. Arrived at Victoria Station and struggling his way through the mass of men and kitbags, distraught wives and squalling children, he found himself accosted by a red-faced Major who jabbed a finger at his chest with “You-who are you?” “2nd Lieutenant Mann, Sir!” “Right, Mann- you’re O/C Train” - with which the Major disappeared into the press, leaving the bemused young subaltern to push his own passage through the throng in search of his First Class carriage. Finding an empty compartment he seated himself and ruminated in lonely apprehension on what the duties of an O/C Train might be. Whistles blew, the shouting and lamentation outside rose to a crescendo, and his little world began to glide past the packed platform. Abruptly the outside door of the compartment was wrenched open and a breathless officer

burst in. Mann recognised the radiating bayonet badge of the Australian Imperial Force and the crown plus pip epaulettes of a Lieutenant Colonel. Springing to the salute, he blurted: “2nd Lieutenant Mann, Sir! I’m O/C Train, but you as superior Officer...” “Aw, siddown, sonny” interposed the Aussie, amiably, relaxing comfortably into the opposite seat and calmly removing a crown from each shoulder. His military status was now precisely that of the other. Spotting Mann’s goggle-eyed amazement he explained “you get on much better in London with a bit of rank up.” Now as the train raced out into the Kentish countryside the “Digger” delved into the recesses of his service jacket. He withdrew an army “housewife” which, unrolled, revealed nestling in each of the individual pockets a fork or a spoon (in those days all the best London Hotels sported sterling silver tableware). Surveying these with some satisfaction, the verdict “Not a bad haul this time” was given with a grin to his companion, and (doubtless) a conspiratorial wink.

That is all “F.G.” told me, and as close as he came to answering my question. Was this wide-boy really so shocking to the right-thinking young Mann? If so, it seems excessive for him to have nationalised his outrage, and perverse if he had nursed it for over forty years. In that time he must have fraternised with many a spotless son of the Southern Cross. So perhaps I was the awakener of a long-dormant Aussie animus! At High Table I often scrutinised the dates engraved on the silver tableware before me. Occasionally a distant date would call to mind an interesting Fellow of the



Young Mann



Older Mann

past who might have handled the piece, and with whom I could imagine myself to be supping. “F.G.” must have mistaken my fantasy for avaricious intent. After all, I was an Australian. As the great sage Sam put it: “... if he really does think that there is no distinction between virtue and vice, why, Sir, when he leaves our houses, let us count our spoons”. *F.G. Mann, FRS, (1897–1982) Fellow 1930–82, researched into the chemistry of metal-complexed organic compounds.*

Graham Chinner (1954), formerly Lecturer in Earth Sciences (once known as Geology), has also served as Tutor, Senior Tutor, and Dean of College.



# EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES

By Anjali Joseph

The year I came to Trinity the intake of English undergraduates had doubled, to sixteen. There were too many of us for the sofas in the eau-de-nil-painted rooms in the turret in New Court which at that time belonged to Dr Griffiths. We sat where we could, including the floor. As he went about giving us coffee, he grinned to himself and quoted, perhaps with a spark of hope, “Because we are too menny”. No one took the (obscure) hint.

In my first year, Tony Blair was elected. Someone I knew, who had a TV, threw an election party in the Wolfson building. We woke up to a new government, partly brought about by our votes. There was a matriculation dinner, in Hall. People wore gowns, and afterwards drank port in the OCR. Several of my contemporaries didn't know how to operate a washing machine, but seemed to have about seven A levels and experience in 'debating'. This was a long way from the comprehensive school I'd been to. I went to the phone-box in the market square to let my parents know that things were strange, and I might be home sooner than they'd expected.

Meanwhile, there were supervisions, preceded by reading lists of books that I'd go and take out of the library, but oddly not get around to reading till the day before an essay was due. Not because I was busy. A family friend who'd read English years earlier told me he'd been asked, “Were you in the choir? Did you row? Did you act? Then what did you *do*?” I wrote one film review for *Varsity*, then stopped. In the morning there would be a stampede in the corridor as fledgling boaties left

their rooms. After this it was possible to return to sleep.

Prevarication, indolence, and an inability to take my own opinions seriously were inconvenient. I turned up to my first supervision with a charming American fellow of Sidney Sussex and told her about the problems I thought there were with my essay on Shakespeare's stagecraft. ‘Never explain,’ she said. ‘Never apologise.’ I tried to absorb this, but failed; much of the ensuing three years was spent feeling embarrassed and occasionally truculent when asked what I thought of some classic or other. How could anyone take my opinion seriously? It was little comfort to sit under the portrait of Francis Bacon in Hall, eating oleaginous soup while pondering a return to my room to try to finish reading *The Advancement of Learning* – hilarious title. A term later I wrote an essay on *Clarissa*, which I hadn't quite managed to finish. My supervisor suggested I try again. I wrote another essay. He sighed. ‘Don't worry,’ he said. ‘I won't make you do it until you get it right.’

Much as I enjoyed most of the things I read at Trinity, the beauty of the places I lived in, and the conversations curricular and otherwise with exceptionally bright people, I graduated with nothing so much as



SIDHARTH DHANWANT SHANGHVI

a more precise outline of my own ignorance. It was probably at Trinity, though, that I was first encouraged to sit at a desk with a pile of books and a piece of paper, chew the end of my pencil, and stare out of a window, something I now do for a living. But this was all probably a very ordinary experience. Another rather more illustrious member of Trinity, Vladimir Nabokov (1919) writes in *Speak, Memory* of walking into his supervisor's dim study, and treading on the tea tray: “Thus the college period of my life began on a note of embarrassment, a note that was to recur rather persistently throughout my three years of residence.”

Anjali Joseph (1996) read English. Her first novel, *Saraswati Park (Fourth Estate, 2010)* won the Betty Trask Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, and (jointly) the Crossword Book Award in India. Her second novel, *Another Country*, will appear in May this year.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

19 April 2012 **Trinity Law Association**  
talk and drinks reception at DLA Piper, London

21 April 2012 **Trinity Faiths Association**  
conference with lunch, Trinity College

21 April 2012 **Trinity Medics  
Association** talk followed by a dinner in Hall.

26 April 2012 **Trinity Engineers  
Association** meeting followed by a dinner  
in Hall.

22 May 2012 **Trinity in the City  
Association** dinner at Merchant Taylors'  
Hall, London.

26 May 2012 **Great Court Circle  
luncheon** in the Old Kitchen followed by  
two afternoon activities and tea in the Master's  
Garden. This event is by invitation only.

15 July 2012 **Fourth Annual Trinity  
Family BBQ**. This popular event will  
comprise musical entertainment, puppet  
shows, garden games and more. Please see  
the enclosed form.

8 September 2012 **First and Third Boat  
Club Biennial Association Dinner**  
in Hall. Please see the enclosed form.

23 September 2012 **Eighth Annual  
Members' Luncheon** in Nevile's Court.  
Please see the enclosed form.

## ANNUAL GATHERINGS

Saturday 7 July 2012—(1980–1981)

Wednesday 18 July 2012—(1990–1991)

Friday 14 September 2012—(2000–2001)

Choral Evensong: 6.30pm

Dinner: 8.00pm

*Invitations for Annual Gatherings will be sent  
out at least three months in advance.*

For further information about Annual  
Gatherings or any of our other events,  
please contact the Alumni Relations &  
Development Office at [alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk)  
or on +44 (0)1223 761527.

## UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE AND COLLEGE SPIRIT



I don't remember taking part in any college team when I attended Trinity in the early eighties; perhaps being one of the early intake of girls was enough. But I jumped at the chance to appear in a Christmas edition of University Challenge featuring teams of graduates from institutions that had previously won the competition. The Trinity Team consisted of Robin Bhattacharyya (1992), a Maths graduate who captained the winning Trinity team back in '96 and is now a Maths teacher in Loughborough; John Lloyd (1970), a law graduate who has gone on to become one of the country's greatest comedy producers and the creator of *QI*, and Edward Stourton (1976), author and broadcaster, who had read English. I had met Lloyd and Stourton before socially, but our first meeting as a team was in the green room of the Granada studios in Manchester, over some stale croissants. Robin, the only team member who had played before, gave us his top tip: 'If you even

suspect you know the answer to a starter question, go for it.'

Easier said than done, as the gap between knowledge stored in the attics of the brain and correct articulation, under the basilisk glare of Jeremy Paxman, is huge. I found myself stammering for the first time in my adult life. But somehow, thanks to the Trinity Team's collective knowledge of topics as diverse as the provinces of China, monkeys, librarians and contemporary fashion designers, we managed to beat St. Andrews, Magdalen Oxford, and finally Warwick University. Each match was a struggle. We came back every time from what looked like certain defeat, but that made victory all the sweeter. It was an added bonus to receive a letter of congratulation from the Master. Thirty years on I seem to have found my college spirit.

*Daisy Goodwin (1980), who read History, is a novelist, poetry editor, television producer and presenter.*

### Annual Fund Telephone Appeal 2012

The AR&DO will be conducting a second telephone appeal in 2012 in support of the Trinity Annual Fund. Student callers will be contacting Trinity members between 20 March and 2 April 2012. We look forward to speaking to many of our members during the course of the appeal. Please contact the AR&DO for further information.

### Year Representative Scheme

The AR&DO is currently recruiting members for its Year Representative scheme which aims to help keep members in touch with each other.

There are still vacancies for several matriculation years and we would be delighted to hear from members who would like to be involved. Please contact the AR&DO for further information.

Don't miss out on our email communications – make sure we have your email address.