Professor Marian Jeanneret Hobson CBE FBA, Trinity’s first female Fellow (e1977), captured by David Coble RP NEAC.
Welcome from a Fellow

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of The Fountain.

Trinity has been alive with the sound of women over the last few months, as we continue the celebrations to mark 40 years since the first female undergraduate cohort arrived, including the very special event in College on 28 April. It was wonderful to see so many Trinity women (and men) of all eras sharing the occasion, and we are delighted to feature a number of women in this issue of the magazine too.

We have also appointed a new (female) Master, Professor Dame Sally Davies, whom I had the pleasure of introducing to alumni and students at the event on 28 April. She will bring a fresh energy and new ideas to the College. In a world of uncertainty, the College will benefit from Dame Sally’s considerable political experience to help navigate the choppy waters ahead.

In this edition, we interview Trinity’s pioneering female Fellow Marian Jeanneret Hobson (e1977), whose magnificent portrait now hangs in Hall. Sonum Sumaria (2008) writes about her career as a film-maker, and her commission to capture Trinity on film. Catherine Arnold (1997), Laurie Bristow (1983) and Alastair Morgan (1976) reveal the challenges and unexpected moments of life as an ambassador, and students Eliza Harry (2017), Jennifer Ocran (2018) and Emily Song (2017) discuss their work on the Students’ Union Committee, supporting female students. We also spend a ‘Day in the Life’ of Dr Tom Coult, composer and Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts.

As I write these words, the future of the UK’s relations with the EU remains unclear. This will have implications for us all – the fees we charge for students, Cambridge’s continued attractiveness to staff and students from both home and the EU, and our ability to participate in European research programmes. There will be opportunities, too, in creating a new system which may level the playing field between EU and overseas students. Trinity will continue to deploy its creativity to ensure that the College will lead from the front, whether it be through the new top-up bursary scheme or introducing scholarships for students, which alumni have been so generous in supporting.

Professor Catherine Barnard (e1996)
Senior Tutor and Fellow in Law

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Trinity Ambassadors
David Nicholson (1983) has been selected to compete for Great Britain at the 2019 European Middle Distance Triathlon Championships in Romania on 7 July as an age group athlete. A middle distance triathlon involves swimming 1.9km, cycling 90km and running a half marathon. Best of luck, David!

Dr Thomas V. Johnson (2006), Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, received the 2018 Reverend Melvin B. Tuggle Community Excellence Award for his work with the Student Sight Savers Programme, a community organisation he founded in East Baltimore. He also received The David Epstein Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

Hugh Elliott (1984) has been appointed Her Majesty’s Ambassador to Spain and Non-Resident Ambassador to Andorra, and will take up his appointment in summer 2019.

Catherine Arnold (1997) has been elected Master of St Edmund’s College, from October 2019. She will be the 15th Master, and the first woman to hold the office. In the Queen’s New Year’s Honours 2019 she was awarded an OBE for services to British foreign policy (see article page 16).

Alastair Morgan (1976) was awarded a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the Queen’s New Year Honours 2019 (see article page 16).
Thibault Dornon (2003) has been appointed Managing Director of Michelin Turkey and will be based in Istanbul. If any alumni based in the region would like to connect with Thibault please contact the Alumni Office alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk.

Dr Rebecca Berrens (2013) has been awarded a Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowship, providing four years of funding at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, to carry out research into the role of mobile elements in the mammalian genome that can cause genetic diseases and cancer.

Professor Ananya Jahanara Kabir (1994) of King’s College London has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award, in recognition of her academic record in the field of European and American Literature, and will spend up to a year working on a research project with colleagues at Freie Universität Berlin.

Sir Laurie Bristow KCMG (1983) has been knighted for services to British foreign policy (see article page 16).

Tzo Tze Ang (1997), Dominic Chan (1988), Jessie Zhang (2001) and Tong Zhao (2008) [clockwise from top left] have established the new alumni group Trinity in Hong Kong. If you would like to join the group please email the Alumni Office via alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk, and sign up to their Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/trinityinhongkong/. 

Tong Zhao (2008)
Professor Dame Sally Davies DBE FRS FMedSci has been appointed the next Master of Trinity, taking up the role on 8 October 2019. She will be the 39th Master of the College.

Currently the Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Advisor to the UK Government, she is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and was made Dame Commander for services to Medicine in 2009.

Dame Sally worked in the NHS as a consultant haematologist for 30 years before joining the Civil Service in 2004. She became Director General of Research and Development for the NHS, and created the National Institute for Health Research. She was the first woman to be appointed the Chief Medical Officer, in 2010. Dame Sally led the UK Government’s international campaign on antimicrobial resistance, and advised the UK Government in health emergencies including Ebola in West Africa 2013–15, Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2018, Zika, Wave 3 of the flu pandemic in 2010, and the Novichok attack in 2018.

Dame Sally said, ‘It truly is a privilege and an honour to be appointed Master of Trinity, especially to be the first female Master. I am excited to get started and to continue building the prestigious legacy of this inspiring College.’

Trinity Mathematical Society hits 100

In February, the Trinity Mathematical Society celebrated its 100th year – a major achievement that cemented its place as the oldest surviving subject society of a British university.

As part of the special occasion, the Society hosted a two-day Centenary Symposium and a Centenary Dinner held in Great Hall. In the spirit of the TMS, the Symposium involved talks by members old and new. The first day featured nine wonderful talks from a celebrity line-up of speakers, giving a brief insight into the vast mathematical landscape within Cambridge during the last century, with a mixture of historical musings, charming personal anecdotes and occasional bits of mathematics! On the second day, ten current Trinity members gave fascinating talks about their diverse research interests. A remarkable number of guests of all ages (with matriculation dates as far back as 1950) filled up Hall for the Dinner and celebrated this momentous occasion in style. A particular highlight was the attendance of 23 former Society presidents, several of whom had spoken at the Symposium, who are pictured above. To find out more, please visit our Centenary website at http://tms100.uk/.

Warren Li (2016), President TMS
On Sunday 28 April the College community pulled out all of the stops, coming together to celebrate 40 years since the arrival of the first women undergraduates at Trinity.

Celebrating 40 years of women undergraduates

The packed afternoon of events, activities and exhibitions included two world premieres – a performance of Joanna Forbes L'Estrange’s choral composition ‘A Place for Us Maids’, sung by female choir members and alumnae, and screenings of the Trinity film *It felt like a revolution* commissioned from Sonum Sumaria (2008) (see article page 10).


Ellie Tobin (2014) and Kate Apley (2014) led a Trinity College Choir workshop for a performance of ‘Twenty-First Century Woman’ by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange in Hall, and art installations and exhibitions included the ‘Living History of Women at Trinity’ project. Alumni contributed their experiences, memories and thoughts about studying, living and working at Trinity, which you can explore on the website: https://web.trin.cam.ac.uk/living-history/.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a special Trinity day.

Marking LGBT+ History Month

The rainbow flag flew beside Newton’s apple tree at Great Gate on the first and last Friday of February to mark LGBT+ History Month, the annual celebration to promote equality and diversity.

Fellows, staff and students welcomed the flying of the flag: “I’ve been really happy to see the flag as I, and many other students, see it as a big sign of support from the College in recognising and celebrating the diversity of its members. With up to 19% of Cambridge students identifying as non-heterosexual, this public display is a great next step in celebrating the LGBT+ community in Trinity, and I will work alongside the College during my tenure as LGBT+ Officer to continue this.” Alex Atkin (2017).

Fairbairn Cup victory

The future of rowing at Trinity looks bright as the First and Third had yet another successful novice term. The first novice women’s crew won the Novice Fairbairn Cup (a 2700m head race on the Cam) for the second year in a row, beating the next three fastest crews on the river by over nine seconds.

The first and second novice men’s crews had a successful term too, finishing within 12 seconds of one another in the Novice Fairbairn Cup, illustrating the depth and quality of the squad. Many have continued rowing this Lent term, and the Club is optimistic about its performance in the Bumps at the end of term!

**Megan Crane (2016), Women’s and Overall Captain 2018–2019**
Forty two years ago, the first female Fellow of Trinity, Professor Marian Hobson, arrived at the College. To honour her, and to mark the 40th anniversary of women’s admission, the College commissioned a portrait by the artist David Cobley, which now hangs in Hall.

Professor Hobson was Trinity Fellow in French from 1977 until 1992, when she moved to Queen Mary University of London. In 1999, she was elected to a Fellowship of the British Academy. In the 2002 Queen’s Birthday Honours she was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to French language and literature. On her retirement from Queen Mary in 2005 she continued to work and research, while teaching in the USA and China. She focuses on the French philosophers Diderot (1713–1784) and Jacques Derrida (1930–2004).

We talked to Professor Hobson about her experience as Trinity’s pioneering female Fellow, being captured in oil, and the visibility of women.

Q How did it feel to be elected first female Fellow?
I remember thinking ‘at last.’ Women were AT LAST being integrated explicitly, and obviously, into great intellectual tradition. There have been brilliant women since records began (Diotima, Aspasia in ancient Greece, philosophy, Hypatia in Alexandria, mathematics) but they were not fully part of mainstream intellectual tradition.

Q How was your arrival received?
I should like to emphasise how unfussy was my reception at Trinity. Although I knew that there had been opposition to the admission of women at Cambridge (as you know, the first graduate students didn’t arrive at the College until 1976, then me as a Fellow in 1977, then in 1978 women undergraduates) I, in fact, was made to feel very welcome.

Q What were the highlights of your early Trinity days?
I very much enjoyed meeting some of those with rights to eat lunch – one in particular had been on the Great March with Mao. I now think I was remiss in not trying to organise a recording of his recollections. By his shy glances left and right as he talked to me it was clear he was worried about remarks being made along the lines of ‘there’s old X reminiscing again.’ This is an attitude that the presence of more women might have softened and made more rational. A similar high point in my linking back to a largely masculine past was the occasion when the geologist and former Senior Bursar Tressilian Nicholas (1907) told my twelve-year old son about meeting Colonel Lawrence in Cairo. Others talked to me of some of the great scholars and scientists they had known (once again, all this when they thought no-one else was listening, it has to be said). Getting the sometimes rather unorthodox accounts of the past great and good was frankly inspiring, and sometimes amusing. I realise that here I am making a case for a more thorough attempt to catch Trinity’s past through oral memory.

Q What would you say was your defining moment at Trinity?
I am not sure there was only one. Watching sometimes unconfident students discover that they could think, that they disagreed with their teachers on good grounds, was truly memorable (I could supply some names, even now). Observing how a past Head Porter dealt with a worrying event taught me a great deal (a former policeman, he was generous, unflappable in my experience, and totally and pragmatically sensible). Inviting the French philosopher Jacques Derrida to lunch and later hearing some Fellows’ reactions – he was not the flavour of the month with many in the University at that time – made me think that sometimes people do change their minds (shades of Brexit here). Living through the hilarious moment when, for the procedure in the Chapel to make me a Fellow, after due discussion, it was decided not to translate the Latin formulæ into the feminine, a Trinity classicist having opined that ‘socius’ undoubtedly included both sexes in the most reliable sources.
How was the artist who painted your portrait selected, and how did the creative process work – was it collaborative?

The Keeper of the Pictures of the College, Paul Simm, lent me a publication of the Royal College of Portrait Painters. I picked out David Cobley without at that time realising he had painted the portrait of the current master, Sir Greg Winter.

I am not sure how collaborative it truly was: I showed David different possible sites, taking account of Paul Simm’s suggestions. David spent some time talking to me to discover what I worked on. I ought to emphasise here how patient and sensible Paul was.

Tell us about the symbolism in the painting.

Newton lingers over everything in Trinity, and rightly so. Hence the shadowy face, derived so David said, from the death mask in the Wren Library. The figure we see from behind is a reduction of a bronze statue, one of a pair known as the Riace bronzes. I am working on the development of the practice of measurement of statues to show, I hope, how this particular strand of concern for proportion finally affected mathematics in the nineteenth century. There are other references in the portrait to measurement – bar-like lines at the side, and possibly the Wren Library tiled floor. I grow blue roses, and told David about this.

When the finished portrait was first revealed to you what were your thoughts?

That he had produced a likeness which had been fun to get right, and a set of symbols which are both thought-provoking and perhaps slightly satirical. The difference in proportion between the small statuette, which as a real statue stands nearly two metres tall, and the woman behind it, especially her hands, holds meaning in a hall of portraits. He raised the hands after I related to him the ribald comment of my daughter-in-law when she saw a photo of one of the sketches.

In your Midsummer Dinner speech of July 2018 you raised the issue of the visibility of women. Would you agree that simple actions such as portraits of women beside the men are a step in the right direction?

There are women in the history of this College, it is just that they haven’t been all that visible before. Besides the addition of my portrait in Hall last year. The visibility of women Fellows has been addressed thanks to the talent of the late Eugenio Polgovksy, Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts, and his concern for women. His carefully deliberate photos of female Fellows were exhibited on the North Wall of Hall, but only for a limited time.

What positions women are daring to try for in a career have immeasurably widened during my lifetime, and it’s happened quite suddenly. There is a noticeable move in global public life. The acknowledgement of women’s work, especially in science, is coming more readily now. Current and slightly earlier generations of women in Trinity have immeasurably altered the subjects which women can hope to be good at. They are changing the horizons within which women can learn and work, changing horizons of expectation. I know now that I made my own path rather through accident, and that the signals the accidents gave out might have become clearer earlier. Working out what it is worth spending time on in a career is pretty difficult.

What would you like to say now to the little girl you mentioned in your Midsummer speech who, after looking carefully around the walls of Hall, enquired ‘Where are all the ladies?’

‘They are on their way.’ Like a dam bursting, this kind of profound change starts slowly, then pressure builds and everything is different from the past, though still connected to it. The big step forward is the nomination, at long last, of a woman Master.

The exhibition ‘David Cobley All By Himself’ is showing at Mall Galleries, London from 10–15 September: www.mallgalleries.org.uk. An accompanying book will be published in September and can be ordered from the website www.davidcobley.com
Six years after graduating from Trinity I was delighted to be back, albeit in a very different context. Last summer, Professor Adrian Poole (1967) contacted me to make a film celebrating 40 years of women at the College. Given my own positive experience studying languages at Trinity, surrounded by so many inspiring women, I’d given very little thought to the fact that only four decades ago Trinity was an all-male college. I was keen to explore, through the experiences of the very first female graduates of Trinity as well as the present day students, the changing identity of the College over this short period of time.

Interestingly for me, Trinity was the place I first discovered my passion for filmmaking. Right from my very first term as an undergraduate through to my final year, I experimented with various genres – documentaries, fiction, art films, music videos and news pieces. I was lucky enough to be in a place that inspired me, and surrounded by dear friends who agreed to take part in these wacky projects, be it marching in fake protests on Trinity Street, performing Bollywood dances in the snow, or helping to create a surrealist world of artists in the middle of Cambridge.

Encouraged by my then supervisor, Erica Segre (e1998), I decided to combine my growing interest in filmmaking with my degree (Spanish and Russian) during my year abroad when I studied filmmaking at EICTV, an international film school in Cuba. I had an amazing experience living and breathing film amongst such a diverse group of students, and I realised the potential power documentary films have to influence, challenge and change people’s perceptions of the world we live in.

After graduating from Cambridge, my sister and I set up our own independent film production company, Guerrera Films. The first project we made together was Even The Crows: A Divided Gujarat, a feature documentary about the rise of Hindu nationalism in India, the UK and US, which we screened in Cambridge in 2014. I then completed a Masters at MET Film School in London, and have made a number of independent and commissioned films in the UK, Russia, and India on issues such as xenophobia, police corruption, identity and belonging. I’m currently working on an independent documentary Under The Open Sky, about one of the last remaining nomadic camel-herding families in Kutch (India), as they struggle to hold on to their ancestral way of life.

I have really enjoyed making the documentary It felt like a revolution about women at Trinity – re-connecting with former supervisors and getting to know current students, Fellows, staff and alumni, and discussing their different experiences in College as well as their hopes for Trinity’s future. I also appreciated coming back in the capacity of a filmmaker, which meant that I had access to parts of the college that weren’t available to me as a student, such as the rooftop in Great Court!

While researching for It felt like a revolution, I was struck by how much Trinity had changed since I matriculated in 2008. The College definitely seems more diverse in terms of social background, and the students more political and independent. I was delighted to meet so many progressive Fellows who genuinely care about making Trinity a more welcoming and inclusive space for all, and who are taking active steps to make that happen.

In India for Under The Open Sky about one of the last remaining nomadic camel-herding families in Kutch.
Having spent my student life unaware of the inner mechanisms that run Trinity, learning about how the College works as an institution was really insightful, and has certainly helped me to recognise that defining it as any one thing is very difficult. Trinity is made up of so many different pockets of people (both within the student body and Fellowship) that it can ultimately be whatever you want it to be.

While my positive memories of Trinity no doubt shaped how I approached making this film, I was conscious of the fact that my own experience was very subjective and perhaps not representative of many other female students. I studied languages and was surrounded by inspiring women – my supervisors, my friendship group and fellow linguists. I had plenty of women I could talk to if I needed advice or support. However, I know that this is not always the case for many female students studying Maths, Engineering or the Sciences, for example. So during the early phases of this project, I was aware that I needed to speak to a wide range of women to get a more holistic overview of female experiences in College, and I’ve tried to reflect these realities and concerns, as well as my own, in the film.

*It felt like a revolution* explores the College’s changing identity through the prism of female experiences, while reflecting on what role feminism has in today’s world. It includes the voices of Trinity’s first female undergraduates to present-day students, and seeks to capture Trinity’s evolving reputation.

The film premiered on 28 April in College as part of the 40 years of undergraduate women at Trinity celebrations, and is also available to watch online at [www.guerrerafilms.com](http://www.guerrerafilms.com).

*Shooting Sheena Sumaria’s documentary* Beyond the Shallow Blue: Set in the Gulf of Kutch, India and Washington, DC, the film observes a historic battle between a group of courageous fishermen and one of the world’s most powerful institutions, the World Bank.
A day in the life of Dr Tom Coult, Composer and Trinity Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts

I am the 25th Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts, and I joined Trinity in October 2017. My Fellowship asks that I devote myself to ‘the production of original work in the Creative Arts and to enter as much as possible into the life of the College’ but there aren’t any expectations of me more defined than that. I have the very fortunate luxury of spending my two years at Trinity as I wish, which gives me the time, space and freedom in which to compose.

I’m required to be mainly in Cambridge in term-time so I move a good deal between my home in London and rooms in College. Today I am writing, so I am in my rooms in Bishop’s Hostel, where I have the three things I most need: a desk, a keyboard, and relative quiet. Composing for me requires a lot of time, and a lot of solitude.

I’m currently working on a chamber opera called Violet, which will premiere at the Aldeburgh Festival and tour the UK in 2020. It’s a big project, the largest I’ve ever done. It focuses on the inhabitants of a village in which hours disappear from the day – day one is 23 hours long, day two 22 hours, and so on. There is a collapsing of time and space. It’s an insular, patriarchal town, where things run like clockwork, so it is very distressing for the inhabitants. All except for Violet, who is exhilarated because she has been bored and unfulfilled but suddenly things are happening, and old orders are being upended. It is a challenging process for me because writing new notes is like pulling teeth. I find it exhausting and difficult. It comes slowly, but it eventually comes.

I wanted to be a composer from age nineteen, relatively late compared to some. I started playing the violin when I was six because I had an accident with my left hand, and my fingers needed exercise, but I didn’t know that I wanted to ‘do’ music until I was a teenager. I played in bands, wrote songs and listened to a lot of blues, jazz and country music. I also got really excited about Bach, and I developed enough of an itch about classical music to study at Manchester University, which is where I discovered 20th century classical music. I suddenly wanted to write things down.

Mid-morning, I set about making a reduction of the ensemble’s music down to the two hands of a piano player because we’re casting for singers for Violet, and they need extracts for the auditions. We’ve also recently had confirmation of our director for Violet – it’s such a privilege to collaborate with exciting artists – forming this team is so exciting.

Lunchtime is one of my favourite College moments because everyone seems to take time out of their day to head to Hall and have a bit of a natter. Composing is solipsistic and can sometimes be lonely – we need to grab whatever social activities we can. Trinity Fellows are fascinating – it is so rare to be around people of wildly different disciplines but here you sit down to lunch next to cosmologists and lawyers and experts in Thomas Hardy. I’ve had incredible conversations, sometimes hanging on the coat tails of understanding, but it’s exhilarating listening to someone speak passionately about something you don’t quite understand – there’s a mad poetry to it. I am also constantly amazed by the level of classical music knowledge here – there seems to be a real hunger.

Back at my desk, I move to the second mammoth project I am currently working on, which is writing a violin concerto for Daniel Pioro. In April he performed at the second of the concerts I curated for the College as part of my Fellowship. He performed music by me, Giuseppe Tartini, Heinrich Bieber, Linda Catlin Smith, and Bach in the setting of the Master’s Lodge. At the first of the concerts, the astonishing Fidelio Trio played Piano Trio Two by previous Fellow

With writer Alice Birch and the Britten Sinfonia at a workshop of Violet, Snape Maltings, April 2018.
Commoner Judith Weir, and Ravel’s Piano Trio – one of my ‘desert island’ pieces. They also performed my own piano trio The Chronophage, which I wrote when I was 21. It was inspired by the Corpus Christi clock and the giant insect that grinds the clock around. In common with Ravel, Ligeti and other composers, I have a real interest in clocks, specifically those that are slightly wrong or eccentric. I also love bells – I hear the Trinity Clock Tower bells from my room and there are also plenty of bell sounds featured in Violet.

Yesterday I was at Girton College teaching undergraduate composers. Teaching composition is all about identifying what someone has inside their head, and helping them to nurture it. It’s a bit closer to being a midwife than dictating that they must write in a certain way. You embolden students to make their work as strong as is can be but to stay true to their ideas. The Music Faculty hosts talks by composers on Tuesday afternoons and I try to attend those whenever I can too, to meet fellow musicians and to talk shop, either in the Faculty or a pub.

By late afternoon I am, as usual, finding writing heavy-going, so I take a walk around the College and its gardens, which is my favourite thing to do when I am stuck. Sometimes I watch the Choir in the Chapel – I am not a native speaker of choral music, and it’s not a world I’ve previously been particularly involved with, so I’ve used my time here as an education in choral music and voices in liturgy. When I leave Trinity next year, this is the sound I will keep with me. The quality of the choral world here, and of student music-making, is extremely high.

I need to head to the station to get a train to London, where I live with my partner. It’s quite a quiet life in Cambridge in some respects but that’s exactly what’s needed to get the notes out of my head, and onto the page.

For forthcoming events and to listen to extracts from Tom Coult’s works visit his website: http://www.tomcoult.com/
The TCSU: Supporting Women

We asked three Trinity College Students’ Union (TCSU) committee members about their work supporting the student body, what they hope to achieve, and how to strengthen the community of Trinity women.

Q Why did you want to get involved with the TCSU, and what do you hope to achieve?

Eliza Harry (2017), Women’s Officer (EH):
My role is both pastoral and political. I liaise with CUSU Women’s Campaign, Trinity’s Feminist Society and Senior Members of the College to combat gender-based discrimination, harassment and assault.

Reading feminist texts inspired me to apply to study Human Social and Political Sciences (HSPS) at Trinity, so it seems fitting to now hold this position.

Jennifer Ocran (2018), Female Welfare Officer (JO):
I am available for any students who may be encountering difficulties, whether related to mental health, stress or relationships. I hold weekly events such as the ‘Welfare Tea’ where students are encouraged to take a break from their studies or problems, and relax with people who are willing to listen. Through our events I hope to encourage students who feel they have no one to talk with to talk to one another. I want everyone to know that if they should encounter problems they can always come to me.

Emily Song (2017), President (ES):
I manage the Committee to help everyone achieve as much as they can in their individual roles, as well as together as a team. I also represent Trinity undergraduates on a University level, to make sure our students’ opinions are heard.

Having been on Committee last year, I saw how much of a difference TCSU could make, and I wanted to continue contributing!

Q What are the key initiatives you are working on, and why are they so important?

EH: One of my main aims is to work with the Dean and the Senior Tutor to compose a formal outline of procedures for TCSU Committee members for how we could deal with incidences of sexual assault and harassment to make it easier for us to support victims.

I am keen to implement gender neutral bathrooms around Trinity, hold a Women’s Formal, and also ensure that there are free sanitary supplies — a project that is already under way (there are now free sanitary products in the Bar and the Library).

JO: I am working on strengthening the relationship between the College and students who are on their year abroad, to ensure their welfare. We don’t want students to feel that because they aren’t here we have forgotten them. We would also like to start weekly drop-in sessions to encourage opening up, to lighten any burden by confiding in the welfare team.

ES: I am aiming to increase communication between the College staff, TCSU and the student body, so that everyone feels integrated and it is a closer community. I would love to see more engagement, reaching out to students who may not yet be as involved. I think it’s important that Trinity feels like a home for everyone, and that students engage in College life when they can. We’re lucky to have so many opportunities.
What do you think should change for women at Trinity?

EH: Put simply, there need to be more women in senior positions, and in the student body. It is not unusual to be one of the only women eating in Hall, surrounded by portraits of men. However, the women I have met are formidable; studying and living at Trinity, a College that only admitted female undergraduate students 40 years ago, breeds a certain resilience. I hope that the arrival of a female Master will go some way to improving gender parity.

JO: I think it’s important to emphasise inclusion at Trinity, in order to show that we accept and support all self-identifying women, not only the cisgender ones. I also want to work towards a greater feeling of community between the women in different year groups, for mutual support and encouragement.

ES: Although I have had a very positive experience, I feel that the gender ratio could definitely be improved. An imbalance is often because the courses with most undergraduates are those that have been traditionally thought of as more ‘masculine’. We should continue to encourage more female students to apply to Trinity, with successful schemes such as Women in STEM.

How could alumnae get involved with your work?

EH: In a recent survey commissioned by the TCSU, women and non-binary students wished to have greater interaction with alumnae and female Fellows. I am planning to hold a Women’s Formal in Easter Term to coincide with the celebration of co-education at Trinity, to which I would like to invite students, Fellows and alumnae. I am also very keen to hold careers events with alumnae, so that current students can gain a sense of where their degree could take them.

JO: I believe many students would really benefit from hearing about the experiences of our women Fellows, and alumnae, perhaps in informal group/panel discussions. I am lucky to have a wonderful woman as a supervisor, Professor Emma Widdis (e1998), and I would love to hear more from her and other Trinity women.

ES: It would be great to see as many alumnae as possible at Trinity events. Being a part of the College does not end with graduation, and more involvement and interaction between alumnae and students would strengthen the community, and is something we would all like to see.

To get involved with the TCSU please contact Emily at president@tcsu.net.

The Trinity Women’s Network (TWN) is open to all alumni and members of the College, male and female. Visit the website for full details: www.trin.cam.ac.uk/alumni/associations/
Trinity Ambassadors

We asked three alumni to reflect on life as an ambassador. Catherine Arnold (1997), Laurie Bristow (1983) and Alastair Morgan (1976) share their challenges, achievements and surprising moments.

Q What qualities does one need to be an ambassador, and did Trinity help to foster these?

Catherine Arnold OBE, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to Mongolia May 2015 to 2018, currently Head of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Unit, FCO (CA):
I found three linked qualities key: being interested in almost anything; an ability to engage people from a wide range of backgrounds; and the mental flexibility to jump between topics with ease. An ambassador represents the full range of what the UK is, the breadth is extraordinary. A day could move from global peacekeeping to climate change, via mental health reform. It’s a cliché but the Cambridge supervision system does foster an early comfort with engaging experts credibly on changing topics.

Sir Laurie Bristow KCMG, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the Russian Federation, January 2016 to present (LB):
This role is all about clear thinking and effective communication. Key to that is the ability to find the heart of the matter in very complex and ambiguous situations, and decide on a course of action, with common sense and humanity. Reading English at Trinity taught me how to think and write clearly, and how to argue effectively, including how to accept that the other side has a valid position – or at least one that has to be taken into account.

Alastair Morgan CMG, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) December 2015 to 2018, currently Senior Adviser DPRK Department, FCO (AM):
All civil servants are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, impartiality and objectivity. There are particular qualities required of the Ambassador in Pyongyang – resilience, patience and tolerance. At the British Embassy we had only five diplomats focused on a small number of difficult issues, under pressure and with restricted movement, so it was like being in a submarine. You all need to be sensitive and self-aware to keep working well together in these conditions.

Q What are the main challenges you have faced?

CA: Working for the Foreign Commonwealth Office is fascinating. It’s the personal side of being an ambassador that can sometimes be more challenging. It is a job that never ends. You can’t go home from it, or leave it in the office for the weekend. That isn’t a problem because it’s part of the role, and can be a very powerful way to engage a country and its people. I loved the three years in Mongolia, but when I nosed out of my flat that first weekend back in London it was with a frisson of excitement. I realised I could walk all day and sit in cafes and not a single person would recognise me.

LB: Working in Russia is a challenge and a privilege at any time. The 2018 attack in Salisbury using a chemical weapon meant that we spent the last year working at the heart of a major crisis, with enormous pressure on all my staff and colleagues in London to make the right judgement calls under pressure. The longer term challenge is how to build the kind of relationship with Russia that we want, where we are able to work with Russia as a major international partner. That requires keeping our lines open to Russians who might one day make this happen. So a key part of my job is developing links with the next generation of decision makers, thinkers and entrepreneurs.

AM: For my first two years in post, it was the accelerating programme of North Korean nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. The main challenge was the need to persuade North Korea to change tack. A second, linked challenge was planning for contingencies, as the risks were high and mounting. A third was to maintain staff morale as we closed down areas of engagement with North Korea and restricted travel into and within the country. The serial summits of 2018 brought relief from immediate tensions, though underlying risks remain, but also new diplomatic challenge.
What is the one thing you wish you had been aware of before you took up the post?

CA: It was a surprise to realise that just meeting me could be something special, and even on non-work issues my opinion could carry weight – I was regularly asked for career advice or leadership tips, even for marriage advice! The challenge was to retain the authenticity of these brief encounters. I had to be attentive even to the most casual observation, as the person might weigh my words far more seriously than anyone had before. That responsibility was very humbling and touching.

LB: The offside rule. I can’t claim to know much about football. Meeting people like Gary Lineker and Rio Ferdinand was a bit like that old advert when Henry Kissinger sits next to you on the plane. Strapline: ‘Don’t you wish you’d read the Economist?’

AM: I had almost a year to prepare while studying Korean in London. I was well briefed, and knew what to expect. I was still surprised that the restrictions I faced on engaging with North Korean citizens were so comprehensive. Had I fully appreciated the limitations I might have opted to have immersion language training before my posting, to achieve greater fluency, but I stayed in London to be close to my elderly parents before going abroad again. A major challenge of a diplomatic career is family separation.

What was the most unexpected or entertaining moment?

CA: It’s hard to choose just one but watching an entire roasted cow, seated like a suckling pig and complete with lettuce-in-mouth, being borne into a hall by ten men dressed as Genghis Khan’s soldiers has to rank up there.

LB: Russia is always full of surprises, usually positive ones, and things you just could not do elsewhere. For example, I’ve met Mikhail Gorbachev several times, to discuss how we got from the height of the Cold War to where we are now. He is fascinating on the subject, and for anyone who remembers his role in ending the Cold War peacefully, that is quite special. Last year’s World Cup provided a few moments too. Hence my answer to the previous question!

AM: When I was first posted to Pyongyang I didn’t expect I would wake up one morning to the roar of a ballistic missile being launched within earshot of my bedroom window. By 2017 we had come to anticipate regular missile launches, though thankfully they were usually further afield.

Being under almost constant surveillance was not very entertaining but it did have its moments. I went for a meal with two of my team one Sunday lunchtime. The waitress encouraged us to move to a different table, ostensibly because it was closer to the heater. Halfway through the meal, a listening device concealed under an artificial floral display near the table suddenly switched to transmit. The waitress swiftly came to make adjustments as if nothing untoward had happened.
Q What do you consider your greatest achievement?

CA: I think the greatest achievement for a leader is to help shape a motivated and productive team. A leader is only one person in a much bigger team, all of whom are key to success. I was incredibly proud of the Embassy’s UK and Mongolian staff when they won two global FCO/Department of International Trade awards.

LB: Diplomacy is very rarely a solo performance. Sometimes, the achievement lies in preventing something bad from happening. What makes me proud is when my team works together to deal with a really difficult or stressful situation professionally and with integrity. Particularly when you know that your work has made a real difference to people’s lives.

AM: An explicit element of the role in Pyongyang is to brief leaders and officials in allied and friendly countries, as well as in London. I believe I helped the British Government have some influence on US policy. I may also have had some limited influence in convincing the DPRK that they could not achieve their objectives without ending nuclear testing and missile launches, committing themselves to work towards denuclearisation, and engaging with the US and others.

Q Do you have any advice for anyone wishing to follow in your footsteps?

CA: Be interested and courteous. Listen in order to understand; only then can you influence.

LB: I get asked this question a lot. When I am recruiting people for jobs, including at ambassador level, the first question I always ask is ‘Why do you want this job?’ Most other things can be taught, but only you can answer that question.

AM: To misapply US Army General Harrison’s advice on negotiating with communists, ‘don’t’. I wouldn’t recommend that anyone start out with the specific objective of taking on this particular role but I would happily recommend public service, or a broader career focused on north-east Asia. After long experience in Japan, I found moving to China and learning Mandarin in my late forties exciting and rewarding. From that came the opportunity to work in the Korean peninsula. It made sense to me to keep building on experience as opportunities arose, although I suppose it might have been wiser to plan it all from the start.
When I came up to Trinity in the autumn of 1980 there were women undergraduates in the First, Second and Third Years for the very first time. At least thirty of their names feature in this puzzle (including my New Court, A staircase, neighbour at 21 down).

ACROSS
1  She is at the break of day (5)
4  She’s been taken to the heart of system-makers (4)
7  Plainsman, ignoring the odds, gets the girl (4)
10 Guys maybe returning if and only if siege collapses all around (8)
11 Kind of preservation society protecting a Wensleydale flower (6)
12 Labour victory regularly involves her (4)
13 Great for one to go out with (5)
14 Elspeth’s number one in NATO, it’s said (4)
15 She’s riding around (6)
17 Starts for incredibly cold edifice holding our ultimate snow-making equipment? (8)
19 Summer in Guernsey includes a small light cake (8)
21 King George before travelling to the West’s place of elopement (6)
22 We objectively admit of spinning flying saucers? (4)
24 She and U.S. colony leader William meeting Mary at last (5)
25 Jean embraces love for European woman (4)
26 She blends oil with Sue (5)
27 There’s nothing in girl and nun together playing Radiohead’s My _______ (4,4)
28 She’s capitally described by Jo, Anne, Naomi and Esther (4)
29 In essence Harriet’s generation in Vogue (4)
30 Hilary’s opening Muslim festival with one novel Swiss young girl (5)

DOWN
2  Wealth can be strangely ineffectual when it badly goes missing (9)
3  Sally changes everything for image – it’s risqué (5)
5  At the end of the line I’ll be stressed, after confusing me with cunning ladies (9,6)
6  She’s clear about payment? Quite the reverse! (7)
7  Graceful Elin’s endlessly sitting on these to accept honour (9)
8  She’s in Royal Albert Hall briefly supporting Sadé’s first half (5)
9  Margaret’s introduction in church to 500 is pronounced affectedly (6)
16  Stop, shoot and breathe again (9)
18  At first Suzanne’s pale ... and then this (9)
20  Gear boxes pay badly in student’s time abroad? (3,4)
21  She’s arranging an orgy (6)
23  Lady Nilufer’s fifth to visit Scottish isle (5)
25  Month that’s defining her (5)

Please send entries by 31 July to: The Editor, Alumni Relations & Development Office, Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ

The first correct entry drawn will win a copy of Trinity Poets, and the winner will be included in the next issue of The Fountain. For the solution to Cryptic Crossword No.3 email us at alumni-comms@trin.cam.ac.uk or visit The Fountain web page www.trin.cam.ac.uk/alumni/publications/the-fountain

Winning entry: Congratulations to Julian Forbes (2001), who successfully completed Trinity Cryptic Crossword No.3, winning a copy of Trinity Poets.

The Student Trinity Cryptic Crossword Competition will run in parallel with the alumni competition in The Fountain. In memory of John Grenfell-Shaw (2011), an avid Trinity crossword fan who died in the Lake District last year, the winner will receive a generous catering credit for a get-together with friends at Trinity, and will also have their name published in The Fountain. This is kindly supported by John’s parents, Jenny and Mark.

Tim King (1980), is the Ipswich-based professional crossword compiler Encota. As well as setting puzzles for national newspapers and for magazines, Tim also sets personalised puzzles as unique and thoughtful gifts. If you’d like to know more, contact him at encota@btinternet.com and his website at www.specialisedcrosswords.co.uk
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Forthcoming Events

June 2019

Thursday 20 June
Trinity Golf Day (Huntercombe, Henley-on-Thames)

July 2019

Sunday 7 July
Family Day (Trinity)

Saturday 13 July
Annual Gathering 1987–1989 (Trinity)

Wednesday 17 July
Annual Gathering 1962–1964 (Trinity)

September 2019

Saturday 28 September
Literary Day (Trinity)

Sunday 29 September
Trinity Talk (Trinity)

November 2019

Sunday 10 November
Remembrance Sunday Service (Trinity)

For a full events listing and to book, please visit: www.trin.cam.ac.uk/events

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Please make sure that the Alumni Office has your up-to-date contact details and let us know your communication preferences. We take the protection of your data very seriously. We use it to keep in touch with you, and to keep you informed of College news and activities.

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