

## **Elaine Kaye and the Adam von Trott Memorial Appeal at Mansfield College**

Elaine's death, while not unexpected, is a great loss to everyone who knew and loved her. I first met Elaine in 1951 when I came up to Mansfield, and Elaine was then an active member of the thriving Congregational Society. She went on to have a distinguished career in teaching, culminating in the Headship of the Oxford High School, whose alumnae remember her with affection and gratitude. Never one to push herself forward, her goal as a teacher was that her pupils should achieve their full potential. And many have excelled in their later lives and careers. Others will remember Elaine as a historian, and have profited from her significant publications, including her magisterial history of Mansfield College (1996) for which she was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of Sheffield, and her skilful and sympathetic biography of Cecil John Cadoux (1988), a former Professor of New Testament Studies at Mansfield during the 1930s and 1940s.

Well into her years of retirement Elaine became drawn to the compelling story of Adam von Trott, his involvement with Oxford, at Mansfield, Balliol and Rhodes House, and his struggle against the horrors of Nazism which cost him his life. Elaine was a member of the small group, including Geoffrey Beck and Kenneth Sears, who sought to gain recognition for Adam, at first by the inscription in Mansfield's Chapel, and later through the living memorial of the Adam von Trott Scholarship, first established in 2010. Neither would have happened without Elaine's persistent and persuasive perseverance. We all rejoiced when Elaine and Geoffrey were awarded the Order of the Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany for their work in Anglo-German reconciliation. The occasion of the conferring of the awards by Dr Rudolf Adam, the then Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy was Elaine's last public appearance. Our best tribute to Elaine, whom we both mourn and honour, is to persevere in this cause which was so close to her heart.

Tony Tucker  
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