

The Magical Land of Oz

Matt Dyson reports on this year’s May Ball

For the 15th of June Jesus College was transformed into the magical land of Oz for something far from a munchkin sized experience. After the queue twisted through Chapel Court, guests entered the Ball via a replica of Dorothy’s House as they arrived in L staircase arch. From there, stretching out under their slippers was a yellow brick road to take them through the grounds. Indeed, if it’s one thing Oz should be remembered for, it is the design. There were beautiful single pieces but also a pervasive unity to the features spread over the courts. A favourite for many were the flying monkeys in Cloister Court: guests could even be forgiven for attempting to buy their freedom those predatory paws with the cheese, muffin or Fitzbillies’ cake available under the arches. The ball also featured a host of impressive performers, like the mercury award nominated Go! Team, the BBC Sound of 2009 Little Boots and ‘whimsical’ retro pop artist VV Brown.

It’s no secret that a May Ball is an imposing and difficult task for everyone involved with it. Two particular issues spring to mind.

First is the work the student committee have to put into it. Having known this year’s committee from cradle to grave, I have been incredibly impressed. They managed to give the guests a wonderful ball experience while dealing with sometimes abusive performers and agents, contractual minutiae, a tight budget and of course, their academic work. The second problem is how to balance giving the best experience possible to the guests with the security and safety of the College and guests as well as the interests of nearby residents. This

is one area where May Balls, and Jesus is no exception, have made mistakes in the past. Therefore the year’s preparation was spent working even more closely with those who really know how to do this kind of balancing from the Master, Senior Bursar, Manciple, Head Porter, Head Gardener and Buildings Manager through to City Council and Fire Brigade. Just as I have praise for the students on the committee, I have nothing but admiration for both the concrete help the May Ball received and the positive and caring way that it was provided. A direct quote, received from two different College staff members, explained that helpfulness thus: “Well, it’s for the students, isn’t it.” (Thanks to Peter Moore and Paul Stearn for the soundbite.) A huge thank you to everyone in College who made the Ball possible and who helped the committee get it down and the College cleared in under a day.

Even with such hard work and help, a May Ball often has to make difficult choices on the night: co-ordinating over 2000 guests, performers and staff is not always predictable. The committee works to ensure that each year the chances of a repeat of past problems are minimised. However, there is one that hardly ever goes away: the risk of sound disturbing neighbours.

This year, despite the best efforts of the team of sound technicians the entertainers’



enthusiasm to please the crowds could not be restrained to the Council’s 75 decibel limit. The

Ball Committee therefore took the decision, in co-operation with the City Council, to turn off some of the music in the Ball at around 4.45. Of course, the porters lodge received residents’ complaints about noise even when no sound left the buildings it was being played in. It just goes to prove that even the Wizard of Oz cannot make the ball(s) actually making too much noise shut up!

Above all, the committee gained incredibly valuable experience while at the same time giving a great night to 1600 guests.

It will take more than the Scarecrow’s intellectual might to top that for next year (but we’ve got the heart and courage to try!).

Staff Changes & Information

“Congratulations” Long Service Awards

Mrs Debbie Baker	Accounts Department	10 years
Mrs Linda Mangan	Housekeeping	10 years
Miss Jill Hynes	HR Department	10 years
Mr Justin Harborow	Catering Department	10 years
Mrs Andrea Caton	Master’s Office	10 years

“Hello” New Members of Staff

Mrs Lorna Rayner	Housekeeping Administrator
Revd John Hughes	College Chaplain
Mr Paul Rogers	Finance Officer


“Farewell” Staff Leavers

Mr Richard Weaver	Janitor
Miss Sarah Ambrose	Development Officer
Revd Jonathan Collis	College Chaplain

“Well Done” Staff Changes

Mr Simon Hawkey	Domestic Bursar
Mrs Lisa Brown	Catering Manager
Mrs Claire Andrews	College Housekeeper
Miss Jennifer Hawton	P/T Development Officer



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View from the Master’s Lodge: two Royal visits

by Margaret Mair

His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, visited the College on 15 March. The occasion was the 100th anniversary gala evening of the ADC organised by the University Development Office as part of the University’s 800th celebrations. The Master and I were asked if we would have the Earl to stay for the night and host a pre-theatre supper in the Lodge for 24 of the principal guests who included the Vice Chancellor and alumni with drama and literary connections. We then decided to invite 10 undergraduates to join us for breakfast the next day.

Of course all guests are important but there is something about a Royal visit that just puts everyone on their toes, not least because there is so much more planning required beforehand. There are meetings with Graham, Simon and Andrea to run through the timetable and other details, and with the security team who visit about two weeks in advance. They ask questions about things like when the fire extinguishers were last checked and whether the garden fence is secure. They have to see all the rooms and plan escape routes. Then in the last week or so there are seemingly endless bits of paper and emails with minute by minute timing arrangements and guest lists saying who is to be where at what time and so forth. The Earl comes with his private secretary and his protection officer both of whom stay in the Lodge and there also two police officers on duty who stay up all night. Andrea is the linchpin as people want to know about parking, arrangements for the police officers, seating plans, menus, wines, dietary requirements, table lay-out, wet weather provision, who stands where, how the Royal is addressed or referred to, whether they should curtsy, who is going to make a speech and at what point exactly, and so on. The anxiety level just inevitably rises – by which I really mean my anxiety level shoots through the sky!

In the last couple of days there was a sense of everyone pulling together to make the Lodge

look its best. The gardeners, Neil, Mark and Mike were planting and tidying, Chris from maintenance came in to touch up scuffed paintwork, Claire from housekeeping mended a tear in the Bishop’s Room curtain, linen was replaced, soaps put in the cloakrooms, floors polished, carpets hoovered, and flowers arranged. By 5.30 on the day, as the Master met the Earl and his party from the helicopter while I looked after the other guests, we were well and truly ready with the Lodge looking lovely, the wisteria in full bloom and the College flag flying. The evening was a great success. Lisa kept me calm and Shaun, with Danny, Justin and Matt and with a brief to do a simple and quick menu, produced a delicious dinner of Rosette of Smoked Salmon with Sauce Vierge followed by Supreme of Chicken with Porcini Mushrooms and Madeira Wine Sauce.

His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco was visiting the Scott Polar Institute on May 7th as the guest of Professor Julian Dowdeswell, the Director of the Institute and a Fellow of Jesus. His visit to the College was shorter and simpler as he was giving a talk in the Prioress’ room about his visit to the Antarctic followed by lunch for 12 in the Lodge. No worrying about frayed pillowcases this time. Tim, Alex, Nick and Nicola excelled with their Pan Fried Wild Sea Bass followed by Marinated Summer Fruits with Vanilla Sabayon.

There were many staff involved on both occasions who worked so hard and the Master and I are hugely grateful to them all. If I try to mention absolutely everyone by name I fear I will leave someone out, so I am just going to end with a particular thank you to our housekeeper, Maria, for all her hard work for the visits of the two Princes. While I flew about in a stress either fretting about what to wear or making another list because I couldn’t find the one I had made only minutes earlier, she just calmly got on with thing, as always cheerful and smiling.



NVQ SUCCESS!

by **Cheryl Few**
Human Resources Manager

Congratulations to the following members of the Housekeeping Team who have successfully achieved a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Housekeeping:

Maria Jacklin
Sue Lewis
Linda Mangan
Bobby Donoghue

All of whom, put in considerable effort and sailed through the course with flying colours!

The College is keen to expand this opportunity to other members of staff across departments. If you want to get a recognised qualification related to your particular job, an NVQ may well be worth considering further.

NVQ's are a 'competence-based' qualification: this means you learn practical, work-related tasks designed to help you develop the skills and knowledge to do a job effectively. There are many NVQ subjects on offer, at different levels and include topics such as business and administration, IT, supervising and management, customer services, food and catering, housekeeping and gardening.

NVQs can be undertaken at work, during work time and there is no need to attend College. Within reason, there is no maximum time limit to complete an NVQ, it is designed to be taken at a pace to suit your needs. There is also additional support available to those who may not have English as a first language or those who may find written work a daunting possibility. Whatever your ability or experience, an NVQ really is an opportunity open to all.

The government offer considerable funding and support towards NVQs so studying for them will not usually cost you anything (other than your time and effort of course!)

If you would like to consider the possibility of gaining such a qualification then please discuss this with your manager or come and speak directly with me.



Staff Forum

Ali Rolfe feeds back from the Staff Forum

The new Jesus College Staff Forum is now up and running.

The Staff Forum Representatives are:

- Housekeeping Department - **Ali Rolfe** and **Sarah Jackson**
- East House/ Chapel/ Nurse/ Development Office/ Boatman/ Library - **Susan Sneddon**
- Porters/ IT/ Gardens - **Allan Moore**
- Conference and Catering - **Ron Eley**
- Buildings and Maintenance/ Tutorial Secretaries/ Masters Office - **John Gray**

The first meeting was held on Thursday 14 May 2009. From this various topics arose which we would like your views on. They are –

The **College Bonus Scheme** was set up a long time ago and is now due to be revised. We would like to know –

- Whether you would prefer a bonus to continue being issued twice a year, or should it be changed to once a year?
- What are your views on having a future bonus scheme being linked to individual performance, or would you prefer a scheme where everyone gets the same lump sum?
- How else could the scheme be improved?

If you would like to know more about how the current bonus scheme is run please get in touch with the HR Manager or your rep.

The **College Disciplinary Procedure** has been reviewed and updated. If you are interested in the changes that have been made to it, and would like to see a copy of it, please do not hesitate to contact the HR Manager or your rep. The revised procedures will be presented to Council in the summer, after which each member of staff will receive a copy of it, if the changes are approved.

Staff Room Proposal - Returns of the Staff Satisfaction Survey recently carried out have reported a high number of requests for a Staff Common Room. We would like to know –

- How important do you think it is to have a Staff Common Room?
- Would you actually sit and take your breaks in a staff common Room?
- What facilities would you like to see in it (e.g. TV, vending machine, computer with internet access)?

College Car Parking - The demand for car parking spaces in College is increasing, putting pressure on the amount of spaces available to staff. We would like to seek your views on how the situation could be improved. What are your views on –

- Limiting the amount of spaces available to staff?
- Car Share Schemes?
- Parking options outside the College grounds?
- Grants for the purchase and upkeep of bicycles?
- The possibility of new undercover and secure cycle parking?
- Incentives to leave your vehicles at home and using a different mode of transport to get to and from work?

A full version on the minutes can be found on JNet:

<https://jnet.jesus.cam.ac.uk/notices/staff/staffforum/sfminutes/index.html>

We would like to say thank you to all those who have commented or given suggestions so far - it's really encouraging to know you're all behind us and want the Forum to work. If you have suggestions or views on any of the above, or something else, please let us know no later than Tuesday 23 June 2009. You can do this by contacting your rep directly or by post a slip in one of the red Suggestion Boxes which can be found in Housekeeping, Porters' Lodge and the Catering Department.

Our next formal meeting will be held in August at which we look forward to pushing your views forward.

IT Department: Training🌰

Ali Rolfe reports.

I would firstly like to thank everyone very much for their responses to the recent Training Needs Analysis booklet I circulated. I received 100% back - superb! They were very encouraging, showing a high standard of basic user knowledge across the board.

Some returns showed a requirement for training on Word, Excel and general Windows skills and I will be contacting those individuals, as they have requested, about training in these areas soon.

As you will be aware, the Office 2007 roll out has just got underway and will continue throughout the summer. The most noticeable change you will see is a new graphical user interface. A ribbon replaces the menus and toolbars and a central menu button – the 'Office Button' - has been introduced.

Even though the programmes (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.) look different you will, without doubt, find your way around without difficulty – everything you can do now you will still be able to do, and more! I am certain you will be up to speed with the new suite quickly. I will, of course, be on hand to give advice and training as required during your roll out week and thereafter.

In the near future I will be providing training in Microsoft Office 2007. I will also be providing fact sheets, tips, and other training related support documentation, all of which will be published through JNet.

If you are interested in receiving training, or have suggestions for factsheets, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Tel: 39944 | Email: training@jesus.cam.ac.uk

2009 Exhibition

SCULPTURE IN THE CLOSE



Are you mad? I don't even run for a bus!

Ashley Meggitt tempts you into Lycra.

'Coming running?' I asked in a friendly, breezy, it's a normal thing to do sort of way, hoping to catch people in an unguarded moment. You'll perhaps not be surprised to learn that the response to that question has almost exclusively been a 'no, nope, never, are you mad?', I don't even run for the bus', along with several sharp looks and fast exits. Hmmm not making myself popular but why? Why don't people like to go running? I can hear Damian's dulcet tones giving me the answers – it hurts, it's simultaneously cold, hot, wet, and knackered, you get blisters, knee ache, back ache, and your lungs collapse and, most disturbingly of all, you have to wear lycra.

Well, yes some of that is true but only when you start. Once you've put some 'fit points' in the bank it becomes easier and mentally you figure that undoing the hard work up to this point is a bad move so you keep at it and you keep getting fitter - easy.

In this day and age where fast food is really fast, where we take a car to go anywhere further than our front door, and where our home entertainment systems are so good we can find ourselves glued to the sofa, it is important, no actually it's crucial, that we get out and give our bodies a chance to flourish. Yes, our bodies don't mind the exercise, they relish it, it's our minds that think otherwise and keep the poor thing under lock and key. However, our minds also suffer with this type of thinking. I can only speak from personal experience but when I'm fit and active I achieve more, I get more things done in the day, my mind is sharper and I feel confident

in my abilities (I hear some distant shouting from Damian again – 'Abilities! What abilities?'), and I sleep better. It goes without saying that the opposite is true when I ignore my health and fitness and, while I may sound like a health evangelist, I have on occasion let the demons in, locked away the body in a dark place, and partied too hard – oh the shame – so I understand the temptations of the coffee and chocolate easy option.

Well, this is a round about way of getting to the point of the article. The picture above shows Simon Redfern, me, Debbie Baker, Janet Nurse, and Chris Brown just before the inaugural outing of the College running group. We set ourselves up to try and get a regular slot in our week to go for a run, to use each other as encouragement to keep going, and to be sociable. We're not interested in belting around the park trying to break records; we're simply interested in getting fitter. To that end I'd like to encourage anyone, and I mean anyone, to come and join us. It doesn't matter if you've never run before or if you're a seasoned marathon runner, we'll be able to sort out a run or run/walk to suit you. For those of you that want to run in the Chariots of Fire this year this is a great opportunity to get your training started.

We meet on Wednesday lunchtimes (1pm@the pavilion) and run or run/walk for about 40



minutes. The pavilion has good changing facilities (showers and secure lockers) so there's no excuse there. Other notable members of the running group are: Paul Stearn, Rob Shephard, Allan Moore, Ian Wilson, Matt Dyson, Zac Douglas, Ali Rolfe and Rod Mengham.

Please email me – a.meggitt@jesus.cam.ac.uk if you'd like to join us or simply turn up on a Wednesday. If running really isn't your thing then I'd encourage you to use the new gym instead. I know quite a few staff and fellows have signed up to use it so why not find someone who has and arrange to go along with them.

Sport, it is said is character building, but it is also character revealing - so what sort of character do you have? Oh, and yes the lycra bit is true – sorry!

Staff & Fellows' Lunch

Thursday 25 June 2009



If you would like a copy of any of the above photos please get in touch with Ali Rolfe - Email - a.rolfe@jesus.cam.ac.uk | Tel: 39944

Broad Sunlit Uplands

by **Geoffrey Howe**

I like history as a subject, and many different periods of history to boot; but I suppose if I was ever forced to choose a particular historical period over any other it would have to be the time during Winston Churchill's life from the mid 1930s when he was out of favour with the ruling elite in Great Britain and regarded as a political has-been, leading up to his and arguably this country's finest hour in 1940 during the time subsequently known as the Battle of Britain.

Many notable historical events took place during this time particularly in European history and not least the crisis over the abdication of King Edward VIII which Churchill notably got wrong, and I've always been fascinated about how any such supposedly spent politician could manage to so influence public opinion with his writings and speeches so as to ultimately leave the then Prime Minister of the day with no choice other than to invite him into the War Cabinet.

My son George reminded me indirectly of this period in our country's history when he was choosing the new colour that he wanted his bedroom walls painted in when I finally got around to re-decorating. Last autumn as we regularly walked to his school, on part of our journey we passed under some mature trees whose leaves were either just falling or turning, and he would always remark on how the golden yellow shades of these many myriad leaves were so pretty. Of course this would eventually lead him to select an autumnal golden yellow as a favourite colour for the redecoration project.

So it was agreed that his newly decorated room would be a deep golden yellow colour and also that any mounted pictures that he had would be re-hung with a close matching surround so as to blend the picture into the overall appearance of the room. I toyed with the idea of recreating the room of my own childhood, where whatever the eventual selected colour, the ceiling would ultimately be festooned with Airfix model aeroplane kits set in various poses as if to create the gigantic dogfight of my youth.

Some six months after this time and well after those golden leaves had fallen and any notion of ceilings full of model aircraft had been dissipated, I happened to be taking morning coffee with my parents and as I am wont to do, I was perusing the pages of a broadsheet newspaper.

On this occasion I was reading the obituaries of the great and the good and came across one Peter Dunning-White (aged 93), a former pilot in the RAF who had distinguished himself during the early stages of the Battle of Britain and who had passed away the previous December. He being one that interested me I started to read out his details to my parents but even I was not prepared for the information contained in the next paragraph. As I read out to my listeners my eyes scanned ahead of the text as they do when one is reading out aloud, and I noticed the name of Jesus College appear. Suddenly it became apparent to me that this notable man – Peter William Dunning-White – had been a student at Jesus College, at my Jesus College during the 1930s, the period of history that captivates me so much.

I read the obituary avidly ignoring all other death notices so published. The information gave Peter Dunning-White as being a resident student from 1933 until his graduation in 1936, but in fact this information was somewhat inaccurate and I am

deeply indebted to the Archives Office who have provided me with accurate records of Peter White's (the Dunning part was another middle name) time spent at Jesus College during the 1930s.

It appears that Peter White came up at Michaelmas 1934 and indeed were it not for the intervention of the Reverend D. B. Kittermaster, M.C. MA, his housemaster at Harrow; even this might not have happened. He had completed the basic requirements of an education earning his school certificate, and being of somewhat wealthy means had only gone into further education as the then global recession (called a depression at that time) severely limited the opportunities open to graduate and all other employees. He was later withdrawn by his father a mere eighteen months into his course as a "business opportunity" had arisen! One wonders if such an opportunity was produced by the cost of his education rather than the role he might fulfil within his father's business empire. In any event Peter Dunning-White's academic record was not one to be bragged about – as was conceded by his Harrow housemaster; but he was a good chap and popular with it, and was an asset to both the College Rugby Football XV and the Athletics team.

Dunning-White was well known to the University authorities during his time in Cambridge and indeed also to the Proctors. It appears that he managed to accrue nothing more than hefty fines during his time here and even a one pound fine in the 1930s was no derisory amount. In fact one pound just once was a little on the steep side, but to be fined on no less than three occasions for similar offences, and once to cover for your chauffeur suggests that Peter White was affluent as well as impervious to the realities of life.

But of such things men are made – as would be proved a few years later. Peter went off to work for his father after scoring lowly in his second year finals in the History Tripos, and the family business got through and went on to be at the forefront of industry during the 1940s and 1950s.

But of course that is only really half the story. As his obituary detailed, Peter Dunning-White was to have a number of close encounters with the enemy principally in 1940 and also later in the war simply because he was a trained pilot. He had joined Number 601 (County of London) Auxiliary Squadron in 1938, but while at Cambridge aside from spending much of his time playing golf and billiards, he had learnt to fly and owned his own aircraft. The Millionaires Squadron (as 601 was known throughout the RAF) provided much of the early backbone to the under strength frontline squadrons and on the outbreak of war Dunning-White was assigned to 145 Squadron based at Westhampnett near Chichester. He was with 145 for some months and went out on regular patrols along the south coast. However the 8th of August 1940 was to be the outstanding feature of Dunning-White's flying service, and not for any great single-handed act of bravery.

I often think that I – a mere Porter at this beautiful College in the early part of the 21st century might have missed out on so much. I mean I take nothing away from the recent intakes of students at the College; Peter White had a pretty uneventful time here and yet went on to play a small but significant part in one of the early aerial dogfights that was to characterise the early part of the war and in due

course almost totally obliterate my bedroom ceiling with plastic model aircraft.

At a time when there was still a considerable body of opinion in this country that 'we really ought to make peace with the Germans,' and 'wasn't it rather foolish to go to war,' Dunning-White was finding himself as one of "the few" as Churchill chronicled them, facing daily danger as he fought against immensely superior odds along the south coast of England in a series of battles where the safety of vital food and munitions convoys was in jeopardy.

On the 8th of August 1940, Dunning-White's squadron was scrambled on several occasions to assist in the aid of a slow moving convoy that was being mercilessly attacked by an array of German aircraft including at least 57 dive-bombers, as it journeyed along the English Channel. His part of the Battle of Britain became known (in RAF circles at least) as the battle for Convoy CW9 and he was serving with one of the most heavily hit squadrons as it turned out even though he personally accounted for two enemy aircraft on that day.

In a few sorties on that day alone, 145 Squadron lost five front-line pilots – killed in action. Losses such as this were always expected as odd exceptions, but when it happened to you and in such a short time frame the greater was the likelihood of comrades being unable to muster themselves onward to the next fight – or even the next day. Something that would have been chronicled during World War One as LMF – Lack of Moral Fibre, and would almost certainly have led to an untimely appointment with the firing squad the next morning, such was the speed of military justice.

But Peter, the reluctant student who might have trod the same weary path around the Cloister that I occasionally find myself taking some seventy years later would have none of that. He would never speak of such black days to anyone thereafter preferring to keep his counsel and indeed his memories of fleeting friendships made upon formation of a squadron, only to be dashed, in some respects a few days afterwards.

Of course I'm sure it was not any different for the Luftwaffe aircrew either. Their indoctrination into the Nazi cause did not shield them from the full horrors of war and they would undoubtedly have had black days also.

Perhaps years earlier when Peter White was being withdrawn from his course at Jesus he might not have been thought of that highly. Certainly in one letter in his file that I have seen, a Tutor of his castigates him to the then Senior Tutor of Jesus College for not attending a planned lecture on account of a cut lip – yet as the account goes on "he was observed in the town the day before showing no such sign of any ailment."

How odd then that when the chips were actually down and Dunning-White was called to account, he did not flinch or flee, but simply did his duty. For as the line goes from Gilbert (of G&S fame) in Ruddigore, 'for duty, duty must be done, the rule applies to everyone.' And indeed it does, my duty is of course not so onerous at that faced by White and his many brave colleagues, for I only have to paint my son's room in the chosen yellow colour and perhaps string up a Hurricane here or a Spitfire there, but the freedom to do that or in fact anything else is mine and is so because of the heroic examples that one reads of on almost a daily basis as the generation of Dunning-White's time gradually die off.