



Pancake Day Race

Paul Dominiak, Dean of Chapel

This year's Pancake Day Race saw competitive levels matched by charitable action as teams from the undergraduate, graduate, staff, and Fellowship communities gathered for the epic relay race around Chapel Court.

Brandishing frying pans, competitors tossed pancakes with varying degrees of panache, and vied to outrun each other with the theme tune to *Chariots of Fire* filling their minds. The undergraduates stormed to a convincing win and secured the golden frying pan, while the Fellows fulfilled all expectations by soaring to fourth place.

As the crowds roared their approval at this gladiatorial clash they also stuffed their faces with pancakes, raising around £40 for the homeless charity Wintercomfort. Well done to all!



Carved in stone

Robert Athol, Archivist



Starting in February, I began a survey to record graffiti around the College. The marks I am interested in consist mainly of names, symbols, and drawings carved into stone, wood, plaster, and occasionally glass.

When completed, I hope the results of the survey will illustrate how past members of the College interacted with their surroundings and how superstitious they were, and may possibly provide clues as to which rooms they inhabited.

The most common graffiti found so far are apotropaic marks drawn by inhabitants of rooms to protect them from evil spirits, including the 'daisy wheel' above.

Names and initials are also common; the most significant so far discovered being that of Sir John Bramston, a Lord Chief Justice in the mid-17th century.

The survey will take in the oldest parts of the College. If I have not already done so, I will soon be in touch with those of you who have offices and rooms in those areas.

In the meantime, if you see me staring at walls, doors, and windows, you now know what I am up to!



Staff Forum update

Susan Webb, Records and Information Manager

The latest Staff Forum meeting took place in February. At the time of writing the reps are busy briefing their groups about the content of the meeting, which ranged from car parking to staff volunteering efforts and also encompassed news of events arranged by our hard-working staff social committee. In fact, the meeting resulted in another task for them by raising the suggestion that staff would like to experience a Formal Hall for themselves. With a flick of their wands, Harry Potter Formal Halls for staff were arranged for the end of March.

The Staff Forum works because everyone engages with it and understands that it is a forum for views and suggestions. It's also an important support to College management in keeping you informed about and involved in life at College. You can help by attending briefings and putting in suggestions and even volunteering to serve as a rep yourself. Speak to your rep, who will always be delighted to hear from you:

Hugo Brown (Catering), Nikki Williams (Housekeeping and Gardens), Susan Webb (Master's Office, Maintenance, and Tutorial), Jenny Jenyon (East House, Development, and Boatman) and Emma Burnett (Porters, Library, Archives, and IT).

West Court recruitment drive

Cheryl Few, HR Manager

With the opening of West Court around the corner, we need to expand our exceptional team of staff. The building is going to be something very special but it will only operate successfully with the right team in place. We are seeking to recruit up to 20 new staff members, including Receptionists, Cleaners, and Catering staff.



We are holding a Recruitment Open Event on Wednesday 15 March between 4-7pm in the Roost Café and we hope that we will have plenty of visitors who want to find out more about working for the College. Please do spread the word!

A day in the life

Professor Peter Williamson, Fellow



What is a typical day for you?

One thing that makes my job exciting is that no two days are the same. I could be leading a discussion with senior business executives about how to make a takeover successful (hard!), reviewing College investments, planning a Rustat Conference, advising graduate students on theses or undergrads deciding whether to study management as part of their tripos.

How would you explain your work to a stranger on a bus?

I try to work out what makes some companies successful while others fail. How much is good strategy, good management, or just good luck? I am especially intrigued by how you run an organisation that spans tens or even hundreds of different countries. That led me to begin studying western companies going into China more than 30 years ago and now Chinese companies coming out.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love exploring remote places – everywhere from Mongolia and Myanmar to Antarctica – it's a good reminder that what we worry about at home probably isn't that important. I also enjoy walking in the British countryside, sailing, opera, art, and reading history.

