

@jesus

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PLUS Development. An insight ...

'Take The Air'

Jesus College chosen as the 2003 Cambridge City Biodiversity Challenge Winners

Paul Stearn -Head Gardener

On Wednesday 12th February, Jesus College was chosen as the 2003 Cambs City Bio Diversity Challenge Winner. The competition is open to businesses and other concerns throughout the Cambs area. In fact, over 3000 businesses were invited to participate. In basic terms, Bio Diversity is understanding and implementing conservation, whether it be protecting what you already have or encouraging something you don't yet have.

In 1998, the Gardens Department decided to embark on an ambitious project to re-create the path through the woodland belt (commonly known as The Grove) that had been such a popular walk in past centuries, inspiring people such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who penned 'A Wish Written in Jesus Wood' on 10th February 1792.

"A Wish" written in Jesus Wood

Indeed, it wasn't just the path we had in mind but a transformation of the whole grove, totally setting it aside for the protection and encouragement of wildlife. First we planted hundreds of trees, aided by tree packs from Cambs County Council. These were put in to beef up the area of existing mature plantings, which were thinning naturally because of old age.

2000 saw the planting of many hundred understorey trees and shrubs to encourage more species of birds and insects and



The Mayor with Paul Stearn & team

to provide better nesting and feeding sites. Field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, cherry, hazel and privet were extensively used.

The re-creation of the pathway itself came in 2001 when we we tilled the ground and sowed grass and wildflower mix throughout.

2002 heralded the ditch side planting of 1500 hawthorn along the bank from Lower Park Street to the Sluice Gate near Victoria Avenue. This was mainly to create a thicket and hides for birds, insects and small mammals, as well as valuable nesting sites. In addition, we constructed and erected many different types of nest boxes along the walk; Blue Tit, Woodpecker and Tree Creeper to name but a few and these were complemented by several bat boxes.

This year, hedgehog habitats were formed by way of constructing 3 purpose-built hibernation homes along the walk. Also, we have made several woodpiles, which have already encouraged many types of Beetles and Newts thought to be dramatically reducing in numbers.

There are plans to extend the walk, which would see it stretch along the edge of the football pitch and along the perimeter close to the Jesus Lane vehicular exit. On top of this we are also aware that we must continue to survey and manage the existing walk and waterway.

Please feel free to walk this route at any time and once again, 'Take The Air' that so many have done before.

Bird Life - the feathered variety

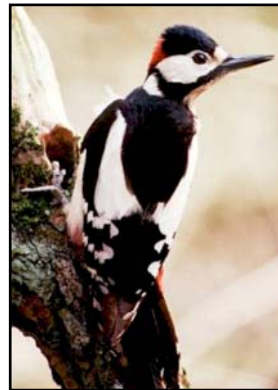
Rob Spragg

We would welcome feedback about @ Jesus - what you like or don't like about it, topics you would like covered in future issues, ideas for future articles.

If you want to write an article yourself, either as a one-off or as a regular contribution, please let us know.

Email:

newsletter@
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a spotted woodpecker

CHANCES are you may not hear the melody or constant chatter of birds in College as you go about your business. If so, next time, keep an ear or two open, it makes those treks all the more enjoyable. You will soon notice quite a variety of songs and calls, from the fast, noisy chirruping of the blackbirds, to more melodious tunes such as that of the songthrush or the wren.

Indeed, there are well over twenty (probably nearer thirty or forty) species of birds in College to keep an eye and ear out for, and most of these are actively encouraged by the diligent work of the Gardens Department. Some of the birds are fairly uncommon too and it's well worth taking a walk out of your way in order to observe them.

For instance, the woodland path that runs from Park Street Gate to Morgan Avenue, is a haven for wildlife. The walkway, part of an award winning biodiversity project led by Head Gardener, Paul Stearn and his team, is home to nest boxes for many varieties of birds. If you're

careful and quiet enough, you're likely to spot treecreepers, gold and fire-crests, great-spotted, lesser-spotted and green woodpeckers, jays, kestrels, sparrowhawks moorhens, long-tailed tits, wrens, mistlethrushes, finches galore and tawny owls, not to mention a host of other animals, such as squirrels, hedgehogs and bats. There are fifteen birdboxes of varying sizes and six bat boxes too. These are rotated every two years in order to encourage roosting on a regular basis. One idea is to incorporate a webcam in one or more of these boxes so that they can be studied and enjoyed from a safe distance.

If you're already interested in birds, or a newcomer to the joys of our little friends, you can do a lot worse than take a tour of the College grounds – you'll be surprised just what you might find. **Happy birding!**



a firecrest

A ROYAL MEDAL

READERS will be pleased to learn that Professor Ray Freeman has recently been awarded a Royal Medal of the Royal Society.

This is one of the most prestigious awards made by the Royal Society. Three Royal Medals, known also as The Queen's Medals, are awarded annually by the Sovereign upon the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society.

Professor Freeman's award was in recognition of his seminal contribution to the development and understanding of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) methods.

We offer our warmest congratulations to him.

'Papers ... relating to the duties of scullion'

Frances Willmoth

WELL, no, sadly (for Porterhouse devotees) we never had a porter of that name, but it seems like a good phrase for advertising the fact that the College Archives contain a few documents recording the presence and activities of staff. Of course, the Fellows and students have always needed feeding, cleaning up after and generally keeping in good order, but evidence of how this essential work was done survives relatively rarely.

For the earliest centuries, all we have are occasional entries referring to servants in the College accounts and Conclusion Books. It's only in the nineteenth that the record becomes a little fuller, with the help of a box of loose papers. The contents mostly concern changes and crises of one kind or another. Thus in 1813 a new butler

agrees to pay an allowance from his profits to the previous butler's family; in 1830 it is suggested that Mrs Willis is capable of succeeding her husband as cook, though she might still need his help when it comes to extracting money from the students; in 1839 Benjamin Diver (probably a porter, certainly a member of a numerous family making their living in College service) is defended against wrongful arrest on a false charge of stealing plate from the College buttery.

In May 1849, Mrs Langton, the scullion, died and to aid the search for her successor the cook John Diver set down a description of her responsibilities: "The duty of the scullion is as follows to light the fires and get the kitchen clean by eight o'clock in the morning – to keep all plates dishes stewpans kettles &c clean, and take them to their proper places, to attend to all fires,

[cont. page 3]

[papers... relating to the duties of scullion cont...]

to pluck all wild fowl game &c for which they receive the feathers, to dress the vegetables and dish them up peel potatoes which I allow eight pounds per year – to attend Hall, clean water plates for Dinner, fill and empty them likewise tin and copper ware – the pay from the steward yearly is about sixty or seventy pounds”. Another note indicates that the pay was made up of one fixed quarterly payment (£2.17.0), a levy of 5s. a head for every B.A. and pensioner (ordinary student), and sum paid through the butler “on account of hot-water plates” (for keeping the diners’ meals warm in a chilly Hall), averaging £5 a term. A total of seventy pounds (plus feathers) was thought to be rather a high wage at

that time, but it sounds as though it was very well earned.

As far as modern times are concerned, a fair amount of information about staff and their work can be retrieved from the main series of College records. But the Archivist also seeks to collect more personal material – photographs, reminiscences, and any odd bits and pieces that may help convey to our successors something of the distinctive character of a College working life.



servants sports club cash box

Martin Collins : IN PROFILE The Domestic Bursar



IN the last edition of @Jesus Stephen Barton explained how he became Senior Bursar by accident. Martin Collins now tells us that his appointment as Domestic Bursar was just as unintended.

early history

Martin went to the same school as William Shakespeare. He hastens to say that Shakespeare was already in the 6th form when he started. Most of his school career was spent avoiding getting into the newly donated open air swimming pool and ensuring that he was absent on each 23 April (Shakespeare’s birthday) to avoid walking through the streets carrying a bunch of daffodils.

He joined the family business as a trainee manager but due to differences of opinion amongst the directors regarding the direction the business was going he was looking for his next challenge. This came through the deregulation of the betting and gaming, the introduction of licensed betting shops and the subsequent need for trainee managers. Within 5 years he held a senior management role looking after 250 shops and a staff of over 1,000. There followed a move to head office where he took on a business development role. He worked with various technologies, specifying and developing business applications. He was also a leading member of a joint venture set up to introduce direct satellite communications to UK betting shops. In addition to its successful launch the new company, SIS, carried the first pictures of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

modern history

Following his career with Ladbrokes, by now called Hilton, Martin went to work in Milan advising a Swiss gaming company on how they could best influence the wording of regulations being set before the Italian government to deregulate their closely controlled gaming industry. A few years later he was back in Italy, this time in Ivrea, to launch a College of Design. This was a development by Telecom Italia and Olivetti and was established to train 25 graduates a year in design. During these two spells in Italy he managed to acquire a reasonable understanding of Italian but still refuses to speak it.

More recently Martin has worked as an interim manager, working for clients who have a short-term requirement for management skills. This was how he came to be asked to meet Stephen Barton and be offered the role of Domestic Bursar. None of this seemed to be suitable qualifications or experience, but he has found that they are exactly what he needed to help him meet the challenges of his new role and of College life.

time off

Martin is married to Hilary, a leading human resources specialist. They share a love of skiing and also own a small mountain house in southern Spain. Recently they acquired a disused farm only a few kilometres from their Spanish house and are grappling with its three crops – olives, almonds and vines – and their subsequent products – olive oil, almonds(?), raisins and wine. One day he will learn Spanish and begin to understand what is going on.

IN BRIEF

◆ NO SMOKING

As part of the College’s response to the firefighters’ strikes a complete ban on smoking in all College Buildings was introduced. Following the positive response that this action received it has been decided to introduce a permanent No Smoking policy for all offices and public rooms in College.

The following rooms are included in the No Smoking policy:

- Hall & Upper Hall
- Combination Room
- Old Library
- Quincentenary Library
- Meeting Rooms – Prioress’s, Alcock, Cranmer, Seminar Rooms
- Kwok Room
- Marshall Room
- Party Room (but not the main bar area)
- All Offices

This policy will be reviewed every year under the College’s Health and Safety policy.

◆ AMAZON.CO.UK

Purchase books online and support the College.

The College has recently signed up with the Amazon Associates scheme. This means that everytime a purchase is made at Amazon.co.uk via the special link on the website, the College receives a referral fee.

www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/internal

Why not bookmark the page now!

A Lawyer's Dinner

JESUANS connected to the Law were invited to a dinner in College on Friday 10th January in honour of Peter Glazebrook, who retires at the end of this academic year. Peter has been the Director of Studies in Law at Jesus since 1967 and is regarded by present and past students alike with very real affection and admiration.

To thank Peter for so ably launching many

generations of lawyers on their careers some 117 of his former pupils across the decades, together with the College's current Law Fellows and students, attended the Dinner in his honour in Hall.

Richard Dennis, the College Development Director said: "It was, needless to say, a tremendously enjoyable evening and judicious speeches by The Hon Mr Justice Jackson

and Peter Glazebrook himself rounded off the evening on a suitably appealing note."



Mr & Mrs Glazebrook with the Master

A day in the life of...

ROB SPRAGG - Technical Support Officer

I start the day by checking the computer-help emails, which usually contain requests for support that have come in overnight. I then add any new calls to the Support Desk, a piece of database software, which logs all requests and progress updates and collates statistics and knowledge (from resolving queries), all of which will help us to improve the User Support service. In the not too distant future, the Support Desk will have a web interface where users can go to log a support request and track the progress of ongoing requests.

Once I have checked and added any new support requests, I can prioritise my workload and embark on resolving outstanding issues. Often there are student computers to be repaired or configured for the College network, and although these are a lower priority than helping College staff, there are usually plenty to be done. I have an area adjacent to my desk, referred to as the maintenance or hardware section, which allows me to work on computers that have come in to the Office to be repaired. This facility is particularly useful, since it means I have access to all the tools and software I might require as well as both College networks, that is to say the academic network and the administration one.

Though my work may be organised to begin the day, the influx of ad hoc requests for help means that I am constantly having to re-prioritise and this helps make being the User Support Officer a challenging role. While I am able to remotely operate staff desktops, with the permission of the user, and therefore resolve many problems from the comfort (and safety!) of my desk, it is often the case that I have to leave the sanctuary of the IT Department (a secret, murky lair, filled with coffee swilling tech nerds) and head out to directly

support a 'user'. Contrary to belief, exposure to sunlight is not fatal to all IT staff, however, this is a very vulnerable period for me, as I am exposed to a potential barrage of queries and tend to pick up the odd job or two whilst attempting unsuccessfully to traverse College incognito (a technique I've learned with partial success from Dr Heath). Having returned from a job, I will fill in the details of any activity on the Support Desk and close the call if necessary.

On most afternoons whilst continuing my usual duties, I check the Kwok Room to ensure that there is enough toner and paper in the printers, that all the machines are up and running and have a quick tidy up.

When I'm not directly helping users, I do development work, including writing documentation such as Factsheets, information for the College website and trawling for useful information, advice, updates and security warnings from sources such as the University, Microsoft and the internet. I can then communicate this to the relevant parties via the College Website, the JCSU site, the Digiboard and email. I am also striving constantly to improve the service the IT Department provides to all users, from College Fellows and Staff to students and visitors.

Other duties I carry out from time to time include auditing hardware and organising its repair and maintenance, carrying out inductions for new students and creating new accounts.



Rob Spragg - Technical Support Officer

TIME TO GET FIT

Martin Collins - Domestic Bursar

ONE of the best kept secrets in College has been the gym. Until recently it was located in the basement of North Court – unvisited and unloved. The gym – a multi-gym to give it its real name – consisted of a frame that supported a number of different pieces of equipment. Its use was limited to the student population, but was not a very popular facility.

Over the long vacation a number of changes were made in the provision of sports facilities. The snooker table moved out of the bursary to allow the Buildings Department to move into the snooker room and one of the squash courts was converted into a gym.

This has seen an improvement to the facilities offered and a broadening of the potential users. The gym still retains the multi-gym but has now been complemented with a range of free standing pieces of equipment. These include free weights, rowing and bicycles. In addition the gym is now available to all Members of College – staff, Fellows and students – subject to completion of an induction programme.

The use of any gym equipment carries a risk. This increases significantly if the person using the machine has only a vague understanding of how it works or does not know what weight load or effort should be used to exercise safely. The induction programme helps to reduce this risk and ensure that anyone who uses the gym understands what they should do.

The induction programme is being conducted by members of the JCSU and anyone wishing to use the gym must register for an induction session, which only takes 15 to 20 minutes, by adding their name and contact details to the list posted on the noticeboard at the bottom of the stairs to Hall.