



A few photos from
Father Christmas' visit
last December.



Above: Steve Smith and his wife, Beth,
and their sons Zach and Josh.



Above: Donal Cooper and his wife,
Annette, with their daughter Serena.



Above: Clare Chambers and her son
Casper.



Above: Matthew Kuo and his wife, Kirsty,
and their son Peter.



Above: Chris Northfield's grand-daughter,
Tilly.



PORTERS' AWAY DAY

Grahame Appleby reports.

On Friday 17 January the Porters' Lodge held a bespoke training/fun day. The idea was to hold a training session in the morning which involved all regular Porters. This included discussing; the recent changes to the lodge in both manpower and role and understanding why this change was required, understanding the role of the porters to different groups, how to achieve a consistency of service across the lodge, discussing and defining best practises, policies and procedures, understanding each individuals strengths and weaknesses and how to utilise and improve them and defining best practise.



Everyone took an active part in the debate and several ideas and improvements are being discussed and will be implemented in order to improve the service provided by the lodge. The training was provided by Jaqui Kemp who managed to keep a lid on some forthright debates.



Lunch was taken in the bar where some of the debate continued, however the general consensus was that it had been a very productive morning and had been enjoyed by all.

In the afternoon we all took part in a fun treasure hunt around the City organised and run by the Treasure Hunt Company. This involved trawling around the City in two different groups;

1. Answering questions about the City (we think we know our City, we really don't)
2. Collecting different items for a scavenger hunt challenge
3. Taking photographs with different people and items

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HIS PERCH
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ONLY CONNECT
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PANCAKE RACE
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BEYOND
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UNDERNEATH
THE ARCHES
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4. Identifying different locations in the City from photographs
5. Completing a crossword
6. Meeting different characters at certain times and points and solving a riddle

And all of this was carried out whilst all members of the team were holding onto a length of six foot rope. The rope had to be held throughout the challenge and it proved to be very difficult navigating around the local populous and tourists and several lampposts. One of the challenges involved taking a photograph with the whole team and someone in uniform who was smiling. Several Traffic Wardens refused to be photographed and one team decided to ask a porter at a certain college if he would allow them to take a photograph to which he agreed. However getting him to smile was not a success. How many porters can you get into a phone box? Answer is below.

All in all it was a great afternoon walking around the City and actually taking note of what is around you. We really do live in a beautiful City.

The day was rounded off with a meal and a couple of drinks in the Brew House and listening to the stories of the day and the tales of woe from the losing team. (Get over it). The winning team comprised off the Head Porter, John Wright, Geoffrey Howe, Hugh Granger-Brown, Peter Branch and Steve Smith.

I would thoroughly recommend the idea of a training day treasure hunt to all Departmental Managers.

Thanks must go to the Domestic Bursar for coming up with the training day idea and special thanks to the HR Manager for organising such a great day and actually coming up with the idea of a treasure hunt.



Staff Outing

To the city of Kortrijk in Belgium

Kortrijk is an hour and half from Calais and is the largest town in Western Flanders. It is an atmospheric historic town, with plenty of shopping, bars and restaurants, picturesque heritage sites and green spaces. It also has the largest network of traffic free shopping streets in Belgium.

Departing early on Friday 8th August 2014 and returning on 9th August 2014.

The trip includes coach travel, ferry crossing and one night's stay with breakfast at the Hotel Belfort in central Kortrijk. There will be the usual stopover at Cite Europe shopping centre, including the Carrefour Hypermarket on the return leg of the journey.

Please note that you are responsible for arranging your own travel insurance.

Tickets:

£10 for staff

£80 for guests

(If the trip is oversubscribed staff will take priority and there will be a ballot for guest tickets.)

Please Contact any of the Staff Social Committee to book your place before 31st March 2014:

Dominic Humphrey (Housing, East House)

Susan Webb (IT Dept.)

Nikki Williams (Development)

Haidee Carpenter (Porters' Lodge)

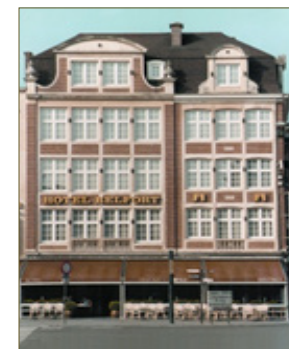
Steve Smith (Porters' Lodge)

Emma Burnett (Tutorial)

Charlotte Fuller (Conference Office)

Useful links:

City - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kortrijk> | Hotel - <http://www.belforthotel.be>



Masters Garden - 'Underneath the Arches'!

Paul Stearn reports.

A new and exciting project is coming together very nicely in the Masters Garden.

The Gardens Team working alongside members of the Maintenance Team have constructed a line of gothic style arches in two sections interspersed with formal topiary tree planting. The idea is to bring some formality into the garden whilst creating a 'green screen' of climbing roses and clematis and re-creating the herbaceous style planting underneath that will incorporate a succession of pastel colours, form and texture throughout the year.

The Maintenance team managed by Liz Megson and supervised by Chris Brown have helped enormously to source the materials and ensure all were delivered and erected within what was a very short time frame. Thanks must also go to Simon Knight and in particular Chris Northfield who constructed the arches themselves and helped in the final setting out. His expertise has ensured that the construction is as good as one would see anywhere.

The Gardens team of Mike Morris, Mark Rimmington and Gareth Curtis have contributed so much in a short time and worked in the most appalling weather to get as far as we have in order to make it the success it will undoubtedly become.

The border itself some 35m long by 4-7m wide was planted in the 1930s and topped up in the 70's with Shrub Roses amongst trees. Little had changed until 1999-2000 when Johanna Crighton wife of the then Master David Crighton called me to the lodge to discuss changing the two borders either side of the drive with a 'dutch' style planting. This was the start of a transformation that has continued to this day.

We have recently re-introduced a turf line along the larger of the two borders, again to introduce some formality. This was first created in the 1920's and can be clearly seen in a copy of Country Life from 24th November 1928.

We also have some further plans for re-development within the garden in the years to come so it will be constantly changing and evolving exactly as a garden should be.

My very last thank you is reserved for Mrs White whose ideas and vision have allowed us to utilise new skills and also resurrect old ones. A challenge everyone has risen to!



The Cockrell is back on his perch

By: **Nikki Williams**, Development Office

You might have noticed the scaffolding in Second Court being removed over Lent Term. The extensive repairs to the Hall roof have now been completed and the work undertaken should ensure the roof is now weather proof for at least another 100 years.

I was lucky enough to have the chance to get up there and see the work being carried out. Having seen the lift on the outer north wall in operation, I had presumed that that would be the mode of transport to the top - how wrong I was! Five ladders later I had a bird's-eye view of the College. I was accompanied there by Stephen Drury from Bidwells, who was in charge of the operation, along with Peter Day, the site-maintenance manager.

One thousand seven hundred and forty-six Queen Ragg hand-split Welsh slates were used during the refurbishment- that's about 26 tonnes! Before they could be laid, the roof boarding first had to be carefully lifted for inspection purposes and then re-laid. Then a new sarking felt went down before the slates could be positioned. Each slate was hand-picked to ensure that length and width, as well as thickness, matched the one below and next to it. I observed the care and attention that went into this highly skilled job.

As well as replacing all the slates, the lead flashings and gutters were renewed with lead sheeting made in the traditional way. Sand cast lead is made by pouring molten lead onto a level sand bed and then it is spread out to an even thickness. It would have been used on the original St Radegund buildings and continues to be used on high status heritage buildings like the Hall even today.

Finally, the bell-tower was given a new lease of life, with parts of the weather-beaten timber replaced with new, hand-carved oak sections (oak being the most weather-resistant wood that could be used), then coated in linseed oil. The cockerel weather vane, newly refreshed in 24-carot gold leaf, is now back in its rightful place at the top of the bell tower (gold leaf may seem extreme but it is far more weather-tolerant than ordinary gold paint).



Copyright: Bidwells



by **Rob Spragg & Rhona Watson.**

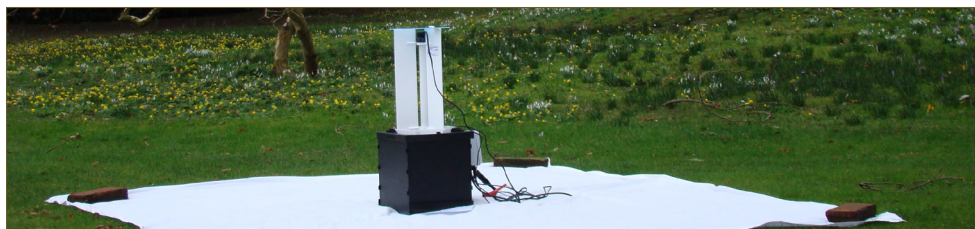
A few of us in the College are interested in wildlife and we decided that it would be interesting to see what kinds of moths there are around the grounds of Jesus College. We have bought a Heath Moth Trap and we have started a project to try to identify the moths, post our results on this blog and also post interesting news about other wildlife. Jesus is very lucky to have a nature trail in its grounds – it runs from the Victoria Avenue gates around the back of the college grounds along Jesus Ditch. The trail runs behind the cricket pavilion, the hard tennis courts and the maintenance compound and it comes out by the Park Street gates. There are a variety of habitats along this path and we hope to identify many different species. We should find plenty of different types if the few that have managed to make their way into the library are any indication. Last year we found various types of colourful moths from a Light Emerald and Canary-shouldered Thorn to a Broad-Bordered Yellow and a large Red Underwing.

We bought a Heath Trap from Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies and it was duly unpacked and assembled. We decided to buy a trap with a lithium battery so that we could move it around the College without having to worry about a mains lead. We charged the battery and decided to have a dry-run. It was far too cold and bright with the moon almost full but we couldn't resist trying the trap out. We also acquired a sheet from Housekeeping and some egg boxes from the College Nurse. You can trap moths all the year round but the best nights are cloudy, moonless ones that are above 5°C.

The trap has been deployed a few times now and we have trapped and released around 20 moths. The variety and colour of these will increase along with warmer weather and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to find such beauties as Elephant Hawkmoth, Garden Tiger Moth and many more, proving that moths are anything but 'ugly butterflies'.

You can follow the moth trappings and all things nature-related here:
<http://mothsjc.wordpress.com/>

Don't forget to keep an eye on the College Nestbox, as nesting season is almost upon us:
<http://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/college-life/news-events/college-webcam/>



One Step Beyond Cambridge Half Marathon

Chris Brown reports.

Sunday 9th March, the best day of the year so far saw 4,000 competitors line up for this year's event - a far cry from last year when cold weather and snow prevailed. The race started in Victoria Avenue and was a two loop course taking in some of the best sights of Cambridge. This was my first half marathon in two years and despite the heat, to which many succumbed, I finished in a respectable 1 hr 38 minutes: 477th.

As some of you will perhaps know I began my running career at the age of 36, completing the Chariots of Fire, not knowing if I could run the required 1.7 miles in my squash shoes! I caught the running bug that day much to my delight and sometimes deep frustration!



I shall be organising the College's teams for the Chariots of Fire race this year (a six leg relay of 1.7 miles each through some of the Colleges and central Cambridge) so if anyone - Fellows or Staff - Runners or Non Runners - would like to give it a go; let me know!

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Diploma Achievement

Grahame Appleby (Head Porter), Tim Hurst (Sous Chef) and Claire Andrews (Housekeeper), have all been working hard towards achieving a management diploma. Grahame and Claire have achieved a Level 5 Diploma in Management and Tim Hurst has achieved a Level 3 qualification and accreditation for two Level 5 units.



Studying for these qualifications is flexible and undertaken whilst at work (although some homework has also been necessary!) and typically take up to 2 years to complete. Maggie Clements, who many of you will recognise from the IPDR training workshops, was the Assessor and worked closely with each of them to achieve the qualification. The portfolio of evidence that is required is ultimately assessed by the Awarding Body, Oxford, Cambridge and RSA (OCR) and the feedback received on each of their portfolios has been excellent.

Congratulations to Grahame, Tim and Claire on their impressive and well-deserved achievements.

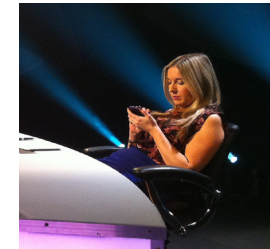
Staff Forum

The Staff Forum exists as an intermediary platform between the staff and the Fellows and senior management of the College. Its aims are to improve communication throughout the College by exchanging views and information between staff and management on issues of importance and mutual interest; to provide a forum for management to share information and discuss issues which would affect staff and to look at how working together could improve any future changes; and to assist staff in being proactive in their employment and challenging decisions that may affect them to help improve their working lives within the College.

Your representative will keep you informed on matters raised at the quarterly meetings. If you have something you would like to have discussed at a meeting please get in touch with your rep so they can arrange for it to be on the next agenda. Please be aware that personal and departmental matters should be brought up with your Department Manager and are not suitable matters for discussion at the Staff Forum meetings.



- 1 Library/Archives/Porters – Emma Burnett**
(Tel: 64923, email: e.burnett@jesus.cam.ac.uk)
- 2 East House/Chapel/Development/Boatman/Nurse – Jenny Jenyon**
(Tel: 39455, email: j.jenyon@jesus.cam.ac.uk)
- 3 Housekeeping – Simon Knight** (with support from **Nikki Williams**)
(Tel: 66714, email: s.knight@jesus.cam.ac.uk)
- 4 Conference & Catering – Rob Spragg**
(Tel: 39945, email: r.spragg@jesus.cam.ac.uk)
- 5 Buildings & Maintenance/Tutorial/Master's Office – Susan Webb**
(Tel: 39831, email: s.webb@jesus.cam.ac.uk)
- 6 IT/Gardens – Nikki Williams**
(Tel: 39947, email: n.williams@jesus.cam.ac.uk)



Stephen McIntosh tells all.

Ever wondered why everyone on a TV quiz show looks like they've spent the last 3 days staying in a Travelodge? Because they probably have. My own personal Travelodge was in the truly salubrious dock area of Cardiff, where I spent the last weekend of November recording Only Connect. I won't blame you if you've never heard of it, it's a slightly obscure show on BBC4 (though it's moving to BBC2 this year). It has a somewhat cult status - people have either never heard of it or absolutely love it. Two teams of three people compete to be the best at finding connections between seemingly unrelated clues. All moderated by the wry, acerbic hostess, Victoria Coren Mitchell (wife of David Mitchell).

So how did I come to be on it? My friend Chris has been interested in it since it first started in 2008, and he has been keen to get a team together. Truth be told, when I agreed to go to an audition with him I hadn't even seen a single episode. We rounded-up a third member, Anne, and submitted our application. One short quiz via Skype later and we were invited for audition. Finding a location and date that we could all make proved tricky, but we eventually settled on Birmingham one Sunday afternoon in October. I remember thinking afterwards that the audition had gone okay, but not brilliantly. However, to our surprise they called to say they wanted us on the show! Our chosen team name had already been used in the previous series, so we had to change. "Software Engineers" was the first thing that we and the producers could all get behind.

Fast-forward to Cardiff, late November. We weren't required until the second day of filming, so by the time we arrived on Saturday afternoon there were already several other teams hanging round the hotel. It turns-out that groups of three geeky-looking types are quite conspicuous. Chatting to some of our potential opponents, we found most of them had been on other quizzes before. There was a team with two University Challenge champions on it. Somebody I recognised as having won Mastermind. A family team where the two parents had both on 15-to-1 many years ago. With my greatest previous quizzing achievement been winning a local pub quiz I was feeling a bit out-of-place. Though we had the fact that Anne had won The Weakest Link to cling to.

The next few days are a blur of poor sleep, early call times and sitting around for hours in our dressing room waiting for things to happen. I managed to fall-off the set when leaving after the first match, so they had to station a burly guy ready to catch me. Thankfully I didn't ever need to make use of his services. The way the rounds work meant that we knew we'd be in at least two episodes: You need to win two of the first three rounds to progress to the semi-finals, and from then it's regular knockout. Our second round match was the last of the day and when we headed to reception for our taxi, we saw Victoria and her husband David stealing it! The cheek! We didn't even mind, just sat and chilled with the Daleks that inhabit the reception area. The studios are the same ones where they film Doctor Who, although not while we were there - that weekend they were shooting Holby City and Pobol y Cwm, a Welsh-language soap opera.

So how did we do? I'm afraid not allowed to say - you'll have to watch and find-out for yourselves. I'll be on series nine, which is due to be shown in April or thereabouts on BBC4, Mondays at 8:30pm. I said some stupid things, buzzed-in-and-blanked at least once and missed several questions that I should have gotten, but overall it was an amazing experience, and one I'd heartily recommend to any potential quizzers out there.



Zoe Stubbings commentates.

On a sunny afternoon to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Jesus College held its first Pancake Day Race in Chapel Court. Four teams competed in this prestigious race, flipping their pancakes for the honour of winning the 'Golden Frying Pan.'

The tradition of Pancake Day races is said to have originated when a housewife from Buckinghamshire, was so busy making pancakes that she forgot the time until she heard the church bells ringing for the service. She raced out of the house to church while still carrying her frying pan and pancake.

The Graduate Team were first to arrive on the day and began their flipping exercises around Chapel Court. The Staff Team, captained by Brendan Shepherd took a different approach and began their intensive training schedule at altitude (lunch in Caff). The Fellows, appropriately dressed in cap and gown were the next to arrive, followed by the Undergraduates dressed in all manner of costume from full cricket kit (including the cricket bat which was carried throughout the race), wigs and a pink tutu.

The race adjudicator Simon Hawkey, explained the complex race course which involved team members flipping a pancake in a pan twice, before running a quarter of the length of Chapel Court, flipping the pancake again, then running another quarter length of the Court



before handing over to their team mate, who would repeat the process. The all-important race rules were then explained which included the organisers having a right to send off violent and unruly participants, and the fact that frying pans must not be used as weapons. The gong was sounded and then they were off.

The Staff Team got off to a great start thanks to the great efforts of Dominic in his lycra, but in the end were no match for the Undergraduate Team who went on to win the race, closely followed by the Graduate Team. The Staff came in at a respectable third place and the Fellows won the wooden spoon.

Under the close watch of race officials, we are pleased to confirm that all teams flipped like pros, no pancakes were dropped and there was no foul play.

Crowds cheered as the Undergraduate Team were crowned the race champions winning the ultimate 'Golden Frying Pan' and an official Jesus College 2014 Pancake Day Race apron.

Special thanks go to Charlotte in the Conference Office who organised the event and to the Chefs who provided pancakes and pans. Thanks also to those who took part in the event or who supported the teams on the day.

We hope to make this an annual event so teams get training and batter luck for next year!

