

# @jesus

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## Once upon a time (in a faraway place) [cont.]

window. The wheel was braked so that your descent was reasonably gradual. This was demonstrated on our first full day in Cambridge by the Head Porter, a stern and dignified figure named Captain Austin, formerly of the Marines. We all stood in the court and the Head Porter removed his top hat and gave it to an under Porter. He then ascended the stairs and was next seen emerging from a second-floor window from where he descended to the ground in an stately manner. It was great pantomime.

In the first few days in Cambridge, we had interviews with our Directors of Studies, Tutors and the Dean (of Chapel – there weren't any other Deans in College at that time). There were two sets of Fellows' rooms where Upper Hall is now and one of these sets was occupied by the Dean, Percy Gardner-Smith. When I went to see him he asked me what sport I did. I was pretty bad at sport, much to my father's disappointment – to him, leisure time was synonymous with sport – so I said I didn't do anything. "You should row" he said. I was told that Percy once told a freshman to row and he eventually rowed for the first boat and got a blue. So I rowed all that year and got as far as the fourth

May boat. But I grew a beard over the summer vacation and this seemed to unsettle the Boat Club, who were very strict about appearance. So I went off to play football instead. But I certainly enjoyed my year of rowing and was glad of Percy's helpful advice. The Boat Club did have one or two strange rituals; one of these was cold baths in the morning in the run-up to racing. It went like this – someone would run a bath in one of the cubicles below Chapel Court full of cold water and we queued up at the door. So you stepped in the bath, sat down, lay down, jumped up and out of the bath, all in the space of about ten seconds. Water went everywhere, over the floor and up the walls. There was one rowing hearty who just lay in the bath and enjoyed it. I put it down as one of the less attractive effects of a public school education. The showers in the boathouse produced what seemed to be a solid vertical cylinder of cold water from a very large shower head. They certainly cooled a person down. A pint of shandy in the garden of the Fort St. George was a much better prospect. In the Fairbairns we (the fifth boat) were coached by a rather dissolute character from the second boat. After the race, as we rowed the boat slowly back up to

the boathouse, he coached us in the etiquette of the Fairbairn dinner – to take on as much liquid refreshment as possible and "if there are sprouts or rolls on the menu, I want to see them moving about". In the middle of the Lent Term, the election of the Secretary of the Junior Combination Room took place. The officers of the Boat Club picked on a second year lawyer to stand for the post and then told all of us to get out and vote for him. He got in. Then there was the practice of burning of a boat if the College came Head of the Lents or Mays. This took place around one of the penalty areas of the soccer pitch. When I took to playing football I regarded this as an act of pointless vandalism. It was also accompanied by a certain amount of violence. If someone appeared on the scene wearing the blazer of another Boat Club, it generally got taken off him and shredded along with his trousers. It was wise, also, to be sure that your bike was nowhere in the region of the fire as, otherwise, it would very likely go on it. In fact, anything moveable would be considered for the bonfire.

**John Hudson**  
Emeritus Fellow

## Introducing ...

... Alison Green, Finance Officer

Having started work here last September, I've settled in by now and am getting the hang of things, though with particular tasks coming round in a yearly pattern it may still take a year or two for it all to become really familiar. While most organisations operate in similar ways, there are plenty of oddities that come up because of the College's unusual character. It can be a bit of a challenge to answer some of the questions I'm asked, but I enjoy investigating details and really understanding how something works. I also enjoy the variety of work, with only a few jobs having to be repeated at regular intervals; and it's a change for me to be dealing with both large and small sums of money. Here the small ones can be as important - for the Fellows and students involved - as large ones might be elsewhere.

There's a lot of useful knowledge I can carry over from my previous job as an

accountant with B.D.O. Stoy-Hayward in Epsom, where I dealt with quite a lot of charities and not-for-profit organisations. I spent five years there, doing my accountancy training, after finishing a degree in Anatomical Science at Bristol University. I'd started reading medicine, but discovered that I liked the scientific side more than the wards; being good at maths then led me to accountancy as a profession, helped by the fact that it doesn't require any particular degree subject as preparation.

I enjoyed my time in Epsom but got tired of commuting, so when my husband got a new job as "Church and Community worker" at Queen Edith's Chapel (Wulfstan Way) I was happy to move to Cambridge. It's great to be able to cycle to work instead of catching trains, and I'm very pleased to have a permanent base (even my own desk!) instead of doing a lot of travelling about to different clients. Some of my spare time is spent

in church youth work, running a weekday-evening club for 11-13 year olds ("Lazers") and helping with a teenage group on Sunday mornings - fun, and they keep me on my toes! My only complaint about Cambridge is that it's so flat - coming originally from Wetherby, Yorkshire, I was used to visiting the Dales and the North York Moors, so I now really appreciate getting back to some rugged scenery for walking holidays. I'm keen on ski-ing, too, but have a husband who isn't, so some compromise is usually necessary.



# Rewiring & Refurbishing

## The Chapel & Cloister Court

### The Chapel

The College Chapel was closed from the end of June to the start of November 2004, so that a major programme of work could be carried out. This was essential, as the wiring had reached a state where most circuits had been disconnected for safety reasons. Replacing it provided a useful opportunity to make improvements in the lighting, with the aim that services, drama and concerts can all be suitably provided for. The system chosen is computer-controlled and offers more than thirty different combinations of lights and levels, from atmospherically minimal to full brightness. The lighting was designed by DPA Lighting, the architects were Donald Insall Associates and the engineers were David Bedwell and Partners.

As scaffolding was needed for the rewiring project, it was also an ideal time to undertake a general redecoration of the Chapel interior - removing old paint from the walls and stonework, repairing water damage, and repainting with traditional lime-based paints. These allow the walls underneath them to breathe properly, reducing the risk of damage by damp in the future. The choice of colour and materials was made after full consultation with the Diocese of Ely,

English Heritage and the Cambridge City Conservation Officer.

An unexpected bonus was that during the paint-removal work some new discoveries were made. The main one is a patch of wall-painting about one metre by two, on the north wall of the nave near the Tower. Specialist conservators were employed to investigate, and uncovered a design of intertwined stems and flowers. With the aid of a dissertation about the 19th-century Jesus College Chapel restorations recently written by a Pembroke student, Clemi Kerr, the patch has been identified with some confidence as a trial piece produced in 1867, when the architect G. F. Bodley tried (and failed) to convince the College that William Morris's firm should move on from working on the ceilings to paint the nave walls. Discarded as unwanted then, it has now been left uncovered so that visitors can view it. A patch about a foot square painted with a lion's head has also been found, high up in the north-west corner of the nave, just below the ceiling. This also appears to be in Morris's style.



Several further tasks were carried out while the scaffolding was still in place. A full photographic and condition survey of the stained glass windows was completed. The (William Morris) decorated ceiling of the tower was cleaned, and the condition of the other painted ceilings was carefully inspected. The results of this and of environmental monitoring will be reported in the autumn. It's already clear that further work will be needed in the future, to remedy the effects of water damage. But, in the meantime, the obvious success of the recent complex project is a cause for congratulation to all the many people involved.



## Cloister Court

Because the ancient electrical wiring in Cloister Court rooms had deteriorated to a very poor condition, creating a high risk of fire, the Marshall Room, Alcock Room, Cranmer Room and Prioress's Room are all currently being rewired. Work on this began in January 2005, and is planned to be completed in March. The task is a very tricky one because these are grade one listed buildings; the refurbishment including the exact location of the cable routes have had to be discussed and agreed with English Heritage and the Cambridge Conservation Officer. As with recent work in the Chapel, we are taking the opportunity to modernise all the services in the rooms e.g. installing a new fire alarm system, IT cabling and induction loops, as well as new lighting and power circuits. In the Prioress's Room, damaged panelling is being repaired, new internal shutters are being installed, and general redecoration carried out. New doors to the servery and a new servery counter and cupboards are being installed.

In the course of the electrical work, archaeological remains - a floor and foundations of a wall - have been uncovered beneath the cloister paving. They are at a low enough level (similar to that of the Chapter House on the opposite side of the cloister) for it to be certain that they were once part of the nunnery. They have been recorded and reported upon by a member of the University's Archaeological Unit before being reburied.

We shall need to carry out a later phase of rewiring work in nearby areas, particularly the Old Library, Upper Hall, and the main staircase. The Old Library floor has already been taken up for the installation of new cables in the floor for the lighting and fire alarms in the rooms below, and the debris of ages has been retrieved from beneath it for archaeological examination. This includes some fragments of early painted plaster, which may come from the top of a (nunnery) wall that was cut off when the room that became the Old Library was first constructed.

**Alan Fosbeary**  
Buildings Manager

# Exhibitions

## Jean Bacon

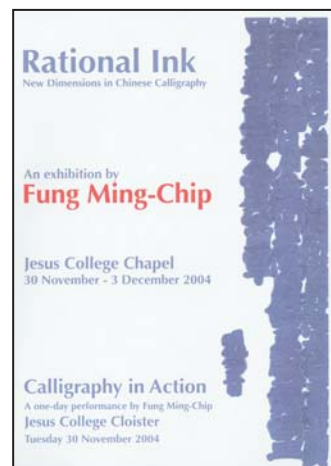
An exhibition of watercolours by Dr Jean Bacon was held at the Art Centre, King's College, from the 5th to the 17th of February, with private views on the Saturdays (5th and 12th).



The paintings shown range from delicate studies of plants and flowers to abstracts, with a recent new departure exploring patterns found in tiles and other architectural details.

## Fung Ming-Chip

The Chinese-American artist Fung Ming-Chip celebrated the end of his term of residence here with an exhibition and the unique indulgence of being allowed to write and draw in charcoal on a wall of the cloister. The effect was striking, and lingering traces of it will be with us for some time.



## Julian Dowdeswell

An exhibition of photographs by Professor Julian Dowdeswell, under the title "Arctic and Antarctic", is currently on show at PandIS, Old Examination Hall, New Museums Site, 9.30-1 and 2-5pm daily.

# Life in the 21st Century

Saturday afternoon in the rain. In the comfort of my 5-seater green VW golf I sit envying the drenched pedestrians as they walk by being soaked by the driving rain. They are exposed to the elements, whipped by the wind, yet they are progressing, moving along, unimpeded, free. My metal box has become a prison. I am stuck in a grid locked area of town. I have been sitting at various stages of this traffic jam on and off for at least 45 minutes. During that time my life has stood still, people walk around me, going into cafes, sipping coffee, shopping, meeting friends. I am imprisoned in my metal box, just me and my 4 empty seats. I cannot go anywhere. All the side streets are one way, the traffic doesn't move. Gridlock. Is this happening all over the world, in England, Paris, Rome, Germany, Italy?. Imprisoned by our box of freedom. I try to be positive. Yes, during my self imposed imprisonment I have listened to just about every track of the Beatles No 1's CD, reliving my childhood as I listened. I have gone through a whole range of emotions from elation, frustration, boredom, angst and despair. The words of the Beatles song break into my thought pattern "I have always thought that theres no t i i i me for fussing and fighting my friend. . . ." Yes, how does man have t i i i me for anything these days when we have locked ourselves into a gridlock. Where are the forward thinking illuminaries who can drive us out of this?

**Hazel Yorke**  
Building Manager's Secretary

## EDITORIAL

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@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:newsletter@jesus.cam.ac.uk)

# Once upon a time (in a faraway place)...

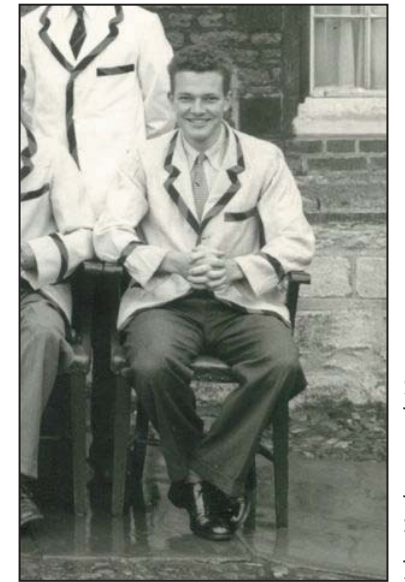
Soon after Christmas 1954 I received a letter from Jesus College saying that I had been awarded a Minor Scholarship of £60 in Mathematics and Physics, and that I was expected to take up residence in the following October. Later on I discovered that there was a typical Cambridge code based on that word "and" which I had completely failed to decrypt. If it had been Mathematics with Physics, it would have meant that the award was for the Mathematics and the Physics result was OK. As it was, I discovered much later that it was my Physics paper that had dragged me up into the Scholarship class and I was rather peeved at this. In the sixth-form culture of my school, pure mathematicians looked down on applied mathematicians who, in turn, looked down on physicists and I wanted to be a mathematician, preferably pure. The school had made me take Physics and Chemistry to go with Mathematics but it was not my preferred choice. However, the Physics teacher, "Bud" Abbott, was amazing and I seemed to learn Physics almost without meaning to, and without any pain whatsoever. The Scholarship didn't make me any richer, but it meant that I would be expected to read the lesson on occasion in Chapel, and the Grace in Hall before dinner. I quite enjoyed reading in Chapel, but the main thing to aim for in the Grace was to get it over as quickly as possible and so it was important to concentrate on speed. You knew you had done well if you were called in for a ticking off from the Senior Tutor.

Basil Jervis, who had come up to Jesus for the exam with me, had asked me to let him know when I heard from the College, so I phoned him full of the joys of Spring at my good news. Basil had heard nothing and didn't seem particularly pleased to get my call. Later he found out that he had got a place in October 1957, allowing him two years to do his National Service, which no doubt made a man of him. My mother was very excited about my success as I think she thought that Cambridge was the key to a rise in the social scale. My dad was also very pleased, although I don't think he had any more idea than I did what it meant. He bought me driving lessons in celebration. The rest of the

family seemed deeply unimpressed. The uncles probably thought I should get a job. When my sister passed Matric. (the precursor to O-levels) in 1952, the uncles got very excited. They had all either left school too early to take it, or had taken it and failed, so they regarded it as a great achievement. I remember that one of them gave her a fiver; in those days it was large and white with loads of stylish calligraphy all over it - very impressive.

I was driven up to Cambridge in October by my Uncle Phil, who had married my mother's sister. I think my mother had asked him to do this as he was the only member of our family who had gone to public school. He had left school at sixteen with minimal academic qualifications and so probably didn't know a lot about Cambridge. But he looked and sounded the part - he wore a toothbrush moustache and a monocle. One of the Porters helped us lug my trunk up the stairs to my rooms O5 and Uncle Phil gave me half a crown (two shillings and sixpence - 12.5p) to tip the Porter. I had never done any tipping before and was too shy and embarrassed to go through with it; so I kept the money.

The staircase did not have a door on it, nor any heating on the stairs. My rooms consisted of a bedroom facing the Close and a keeping room facing Pump Court. The bedroom had no heating, but I was used to that as, like most people, we didn't have central heating at home. But the windows fitted so badly that, when it came on to snow in the winter, I shut them tight and still woke to find unmelted snow on my bed. I went to the Porters Lodge to complain and was told - in tones suitable for a child - that if the carpenter were to make my windows fit now, they would swell up in the Spring and stick. I walked away feeling somewhat frustrated. My keeping room had the one source of heat - a gas fire. This made the best toast ever. The way to do it was to turn the fire up to maximum and, when the elements glowed red hot, get a slice of bread on the longest fork you have and press the bread against the bars. After a few seconds the bread would start to crackle and smoke and then you turn it over to do the other side. The toast was brown and



John Hudson, aged 18

crispy on the outside and soggy in the centre. Outside my room, on the landing, was a small gyp room with a single gas ring and a sink with a cold water tap. There was no hot water anywhere. Each morning the bedmaker would wake me with a kettle of hot water for a wash and shave, which I carried out in a large china bowl on the wash-stand in my bedroom, aided by cold water in an ewer. The toilet was one floor down. Baths were in the ugly building in the corner of Pump Court which is now the College Bar. The baths there were huge and I could submerge the whole of my five feet and eleven inches with just my eyes, nose and forehead out of the water. Which was just as well as the place was unheated and water used to condense on the ceiling and drip onto the bathers. I don't remember the College having any showers at all.

One major feature of the staircase was that the electricity was reduced to fifty volts, presumably because of the poor state of the wiring. I had been warned about this and brought with me a heavy transformer, borrowed from a friend. You could buy fifty-volt light bulbs at Woolworths (where Next is now, opposite Holy Trinity church), but I needed the transformer for my radio, record player and an iron; when I used the iron, all the lights on the staircase went dim. The fire escape was also rather interesting; it consisted of a rope wound onto a wheel with a loop at the free end. The idea was that you put the loop over your head and under your arms and jump out of the



# All change in the Porters' Lodge

For years the Porters' Lodge has seen very little change in its staff. However, Peter Stretton, who had been Deputy Head Porter for 19 years, has now left us. His dedication to duty right up to the last day was a credit to him. A dinner was held for Peter in Upper Hall and was exceptionally well attended with people coming from France and the far reaches of Cornwall to say thank you and goodbye. All members of the Lodge wish him well in his retirement. I especially would like to say a personal thank you to Peter for helping me through the first three years. Without Peter's help it would have been a very difficult baptism.

Then we had to say goodbye to Gordon Guest. Gordon had been at the College for 5 years and was a well respected member of the Lodge. A dinner was held for him at his local bowls club and was a huge success.

The final goodbye was to Michael 'Hank' Wingett. Hank had served the Lodge for 18 years and four Masters. We will certainly miss his wit and sharp one-liners. Hank did not wish to have a dinner in his honour and elected to take us all out to The Cricketers' Arms for a drink. Many of his colleagues from the Lodge and other departments attended and a good night was had by all.

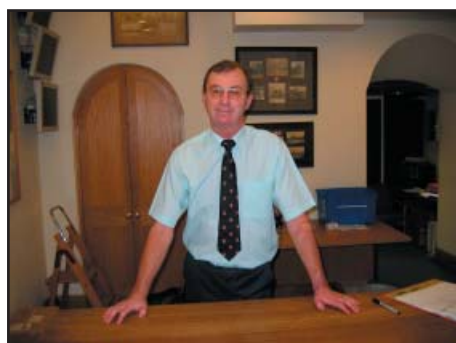
The first new porter is Robert (Rob) Allen. Rob is 38 years of age and is new to the area, being originally from Kent. He is a married man with a 3½ year old daughter. He started his work-



Rob Allen

ing life in stockbroking before moving on to setting up his own landscaping business. Rob has several interests including football (he is an Arsenal fan), fishing and bird watching. His main passion in life other than his family is squash and racketball. Racketball is not yet popular in Cambridge but Rob has plans to change this. Anyone wishing to know more about this sport can contact Rob in the Lodge and he will be more than happy to introduce you to it.

Next to arrive was Robert (Bob) Harrower. I am sure that you have now become aware that we are in the process of phasing out Peters and the new 'in' name is Robert. Bob is a local man who has been married for 34 years and has two children. He was previously employed by the Dutch Pharmaceutical Company AKZO (Organon). He is a very keen Tennis player and represents the Cambridgeshire Veterans' Tennis



Bob Harrower

Team in competitions in the UK and European circuits.

The final change in the Lodge saw history being made when we were delighted that we were joined by our first ever lady porter, Helen Stephens. Helen is a Graduate in English and has spent her working life in Local Government and the NHS as well as enjoying corporate life with Honeywell Avionics. In more recent years Helen re-trained as a massage therapist and found herself amongst the rich and famous at Wentworth Golf Club (at this point I am so green with envy). Helen's passion in life is her two Parson Russell Terriers, Ned and Poppy; she is a keen tennis player and is presently trying to learn Salsa.



Helen Stephens

Finally, sad farewells to those who have left us but very warm welcomes to those who have joined us. You have a hard act to follow in keeping up the tradition of a friendly and helpful Lodge. I hope you all enjoy your stay and hope that there will be long and happy times ahead for all of you.

**Grahame Appleby**  
Head Porter

# THE CRICKET PAVILION

The new extension to the Cricket Pavilion, providing changing rooms and other facilities, was completed in January and an opportunity for staff to view the improvements was provided at lunchtime on 24th.

The Pavilion external re-instatements will be getting underway from the beginning of March. These will include two new 30-metre all weather cricket

wickets for students and Fellows as well as visiting teams to practise on. The rear of the Pavilion will be re-instated with the Bio-Diversity walk and will feature many different wild flowers including an abundance of foxgloves.

This project should time in nicely with the official opening in May.

**Paul Stearn**  
Head Gardener



The St Valentine's Day cake sale in East House raised over £160 for the DEC tsunami appeal.



Thank you to everyone who bought a cake or a raffle ticket, and well done to all involved!

## JNet Set to Evolve

The IT department have started a project to build a new version of JNet in response to the ever increasing demands made on the College intranet. The load and variety of work has increased tremendously since JNet's inception and so its evolution is unavoidable. If you have any requirements, ideas, or comments on JNet please email them to:

[jnet@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jnet@jesus.cam.ac.uk)

JNet has also found infamy outside of the College after talks given by Ashley and Damian at CS liaison and Web meetings on intranet design. A number of Colleges and University departments have come over to Jesus to see how it's done – watch this space!

**Ashley Meggitt**  
IT Manager

# Catering bowls 'em over!

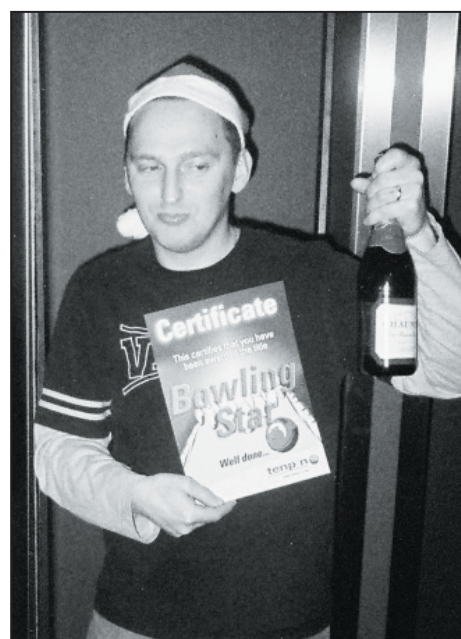
The Christmas period is always a busy time for the college catering department and 2004 was no exception with over 30 Christmas functions and 3 weddings! Additionally a Christmas carvery was hosted in the Hall for small groups from local businesses, advertised through Local Secrets, the Cambridge area dining website. This received rave reviews from guests, including:

*'All in all, a lovely Christmas Lunch and hope that you will do it again next year.'* Open University

*'Excellent food, excellent service. We were very impressed by the whole set up.'* APU

To celebrate a job well done, the Catering staff had an evening out at the Megabowl at Cambridge Leisure Centre on Monday 20th. The competitive spirit had led some members of the department to start intensive training some weeks beforehand, but on the night it was Sean Platt, Senior Sous Chef who took the winner's prize (right).

The catering department would now like to extend a challenge to any other department to bowl them over! All interested parties please contact Sean (Tel: 39470).



**Ann Turner & Francesca Moyles**

Sean Platt