

@jesus

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To your chariots!

A place in history awaits...

Ashley Meggitt - IT Manager

I asked my colleagues in the IT department if they had ever heard of Herb Elliot. Apart from Rob (an athletics aficionado) the question generated some interesting answers such as 'wasn't that a character from the Sage Garden' and 'Yes thanks I'll have a cup of that if it's going'. Herb Elliot, as everyone outside the IT department knows, was the world record holder and Olympic Gold medallist at the 1500m. He is regarded as one of the finest 1500m and milers the world has ever seen and, believe it or not, he was a Jesus College student. OK, so he is an Australian as well but we shouldn't let that blemish spoil things - he was brilliant. Amateurism at that time (1960) was so strict that he found it increasingly difficult to both train and hold down a full time job, which he needed to sustain himself and his young fam-

"it is... the taking part that counts."

ily. So at the age of 22 he hung up his running shoes. It was at this point that he arrived at Jesus College to read Natural Sciences (sponsored by Shell, his employers at the time). Herb was an obvious choice to represent Cambridge University in the Varsity Match mile in

1961. Although he hadn't trained for over a year he came through to win and thus maintained his record of having never lost a 1500m or mile race - fantastic.

Ah yes, this is all very interesting but where is it leading us. Well, the enthusiastic trip through this little traveled byway of College history, is an attempt to catch you in the act of wondering if you too might join Herb Elliot in the College archives as someone who ran for Jesus - so to speak. This isn't as far fetched as you might think - already there are a number of the College staff and Fellows who have achieved this, and they've done it through the annual Chariots of Fire relay race.

In September 1998 the College entered 5 teams, spurred on by the Master at the time, Professor David Crighton, who competed in the race himself. To our surprise the College 'A' team won the Collegiate Cup and received the trophy from a delighted Sir Arthur Marshall, who founded the race. Since then the College has entered a least one team every year, although we have never regained the cup (came a close second in 1999).

This year will be Sir Arthur Marshall's 100th and we would like to mark this



1998 Chariots of Fire Team

occasion with a big show of support by entering as many teams as possible. Although it would be great to win the collegiate cup again in this special year, it is - as many of those who have run in the Chariots of Fire know - the taking part that counts.

So why not contact either Paul Stearn (p.stearn@jesus.cam.ac.uk) or Phil Shepard (p.shepard@jesus.cam.ac.uk) and run, stagger, or crawl your way into history.

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

IN BRIEF

◆ Pilkington Teaching Prize

Dr Geoff Parks has been awarded one of this year's Pilkington Teaching Prizes. These are awarded by the Trustees of the Cambridge Foundation in recognition of excellence in teaching. The prize will be presented to Geoff by the Vice-Chancellor at a special awards ceremony in July. We offer our congratulations to Geoff on the award of this prestigious prize.

◆ mPulse.NET

Sending an SMS via mPulse.NET saves you money and supports the College.

The College has recently signed up with mPulse.NET. For each SMS sent the College receives a small referral fee. Register online and you can send low cost text messages from any PC!

www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/
internal

Spring has sprung

Rob Spragg

This edition provides news of wildlife in and around the College this springtime.

One exciting recent development was the appearance of a Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), in an area of the Woodland Walk between the cricket-outfield and the stream that borders Jesus Green. This is exciting not



Water Rail

because rails are uncommon, but because they are very secretive birds spending most of their time feeding amongst the reeds, hardly ever breaking cover. Water Rails have a very distinctive and unusual call, often described as a pig-like squeal.

The Head Gardener reports that many of the nest boxes dotted around College are in use, not always by their intended inhabitants – blue tits have invaded a woodpecker box, for instance. Since the last issue, the writer has noticed, amongst other things: a Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), near the hockey pitch; a pair of Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*), near the Victoria Road gate; and a Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*), which paid us a brief visit just



Coal Tit

before Easter. Paul Stearn has also spotted a Coal Tit, which alighted briefly on the peanut feeder attached to the Gardener's new, three-tier bird table. Look out for updates and pictures from the bird table in future editions.

With the arrival of spring come the returning migrants, such as the swifts you may have spotted hawking above the College. Incidentally, did you know that swifts spend around 95% of their lives in the air, even 'roosting' there? Other visitors to look out for are cuckoos, chiffchaffs, house martins, swallows and spotted flycatchers.



Spotted Flycatcher

The Woodland Walk is particularly attractive at the moment, with many bluebells appearing amongst the cow parsley (hay fever sufferers beware during May when the cow parsley will flower). Also, you don't have to be very keen-eyed to notice the Wisteria flowering nicely in First and Chapel Courts.

Porters, porters everywhere...

Frances Willmoth

Historically speaking, that is – the holders of this ancient office seem to be cropping up increasingly often in enquiries addressed to the College Archives. Some of these enquiries will be easy to answer in the future, as Mrs Rachel Wroth has recently carried out a major study of nineteenth-century college servants and has just presented us with a digest of the information she has collected about Jesus employees. Here are a few extracts:

William Harvey, Porter in 1815, was paid more than three pounds extra each year for looking after the College's lamps and three shillings extra for providing evergreens to decorate the Hall at Christmas.

John Catley was taken on as resident under-porter in 1823, with such duties as cleaning

grates and cleaning knives. He eventually became Porter, with more general responsibility for the knives: those belonging to the students' table had to be displayed to the Steward once a quarter, and if students used them in their own rooms the Porter could charge 2d a dozen for cleaning them. Catley retired to Great Chesterford in 1841 as rather a prosperous man.

Benjamin Diver was one of six brothers (and another half dozen other relatives) who all worked in various colleges. One, John Diver, was Cook at Jesus, and helped clear Benjamin's name when he was unjustly accused of stealing silver from the Buttery in 1839. Benjamin was Porter here by 1841; he was still alive in 1851 but had died by 1854. Meanwhile, he was involved in running the University Servants' Sports Club, and was interested in fishing: his copy of *The fly fisher's entomology* has recently come up for

Rhona Watson : IN PROFILE

QUINCENTENARY LIBRARIAN



history

I came to Jesus College just over 10 years ago from the Marshall Library of Economics. Coming from a busy departmental library to a relatively quiet college environment was quite a change. At that time the War Memorial Library (on A & B staircases) was nearing the end of its life and did not have space to accommodate me or my computer. An office was fitted up for me and the old two-pin plug was replaced so that our first ever computer could be installed. Jill Richardson continued to run the library for six months while I started to prepare the library's first automated catalogue.

Plans for building the Quincentenary Library were already well underway though construction hadn't yet started. I was a member of the sub-committee planning the facilities so was able to supply some advice from a professional perspective. I have a graduate qualification in Library and Information Studies and completed my chartership just before I arrived in Jesus. As my first degree was in Town & Country Planning (Glasgow University) and included a building design option, I enjoyed this opportunity to make use of the whole range of my skills.

The library was completed in November 1995 and officially opened in March 1996. By this time the computer cataloguing of the working collection had been completed so I was able to introduce the users to a transformed working environment, with a beautiful building and extensive automa-

tion. Soon afterwards we started a complete re-classification of the books and making major improvements to the bookstock.

present and future

More recently I have been involved in the introduction of the University Library's Newton catalogue based on Voyager software and MARC21 coding. This has meant a two-year planning and development process and the systems are still being adjusted and refined. MARC21 is the new international standard coding language which provides a means of describing anything from a webpage to an old sock! I use this to add the new books, videos & DVDs to the computer catalogue. I have a varied working day but my favourite parts of the job are spending the College's money in buying new stock for the library, answering readers' queries and receiving items donated for the new Light Fiction collection.

time off

Much of my leisure time is spent reading books and dancing. When time allows, I enjoy going home to Scotland to walk in the hills (East Anglia is not my ideal landscape). In Cambridge I teach a rueda class once a week and also help out at a ballroom class. Rueda de Casino is a form of salsa performed by several couples dancing in a group – all taught in Spanish, which I hope to learn properly some day. I have also been known to teach the graduates Scottish dancing for their annual ceilidh at the Burns Night Supper.

Porters, porters everywhere... (cont...)

sale (beyond our budget, of course). An inscription shows the book was presented to him by Samuel Prince, a Fellow-Commoner here, and someone – probably Diver himself – has ornamented it extravagantly with sample fishing flies, feathers and silk thread.

Edmund Adson – “an austere man of few words and those comminatory” – was in charge during the 1860s. This period saw major changes in the Porter's situation: he was given a fixed salary instead of levying a multitude of separate charges and fines, and no longer had to pay the under porter out of his own profits. The overall effect seems to have been to make the job con-

siderably less lucrative and Adson less than happy. He was dismissed in 1871, after a confrontation with a Fellow in which he did not mince his words.

To end on a more cheerful note, I have recently received two separate enquiries from military historians about our most long-serving twentieth-century Head Porter, **Captain Arthur Austin**. He worked here from 1928 to 1956, with a break during the Second World War, when he served with particular distinction in the Royal Marines. In 1937 *Chanticleer* printed his photograph (right). We have no portraits of earlier Porters, to my knowledge, but this is some compensation.

Disability Discrimination Act

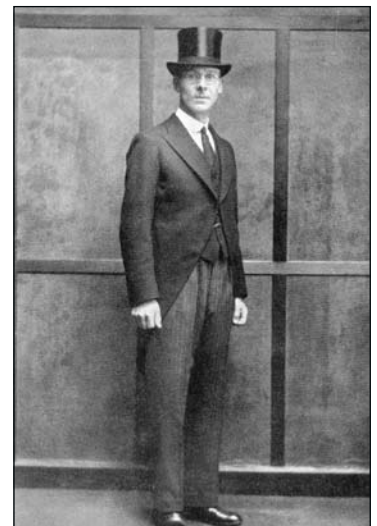
The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) comes into effect in 2004. The law concerns staff, Fellows, students and members of the public. We are required to make reasonable efforts to ensure that people with disabilities can visit, work and live in the College and have access to the facilities that able bodied people enjoy.

In the case of the College this includes

- Access to and into the College grounds
- Access and parking for wheelchairs and cars driven by disabled Members and visitors
- Mobility from points of entry/parking to College buildings and areas
- Access to key College buildings – Bar, Hall and Upper Hall, Tutorial Office, Accounts and Bursars' offices, Chapel.
- Access to Student accommodation
- Signage, directions, lighting

Members of the College's Health and Safety Committee have recently conducted a review of all key areas of College. The next stage is to start implementing the recommendations made in the surveys.

If you have any observations or concerns about access relating to any form of disability, whether physical, visual or aural, please contact the Domestic Bursar (domestic-bursar@jesus.cam.ac.uk).



Tying the Knot @ Jesus

The popularity of Jesus College as a wedding venue is growing, with the sight of wedding parties becoming a regular feature of the Easter and Long vacations. Although religious ceremonies have always been conducted in the College Chapel, the College has only been licensed since November last year for civil ceremonies.

Areas that have been licensed include Hall, Upper Hall and the Prioress' Room, which have been vetted by registry officials to ascertain that they preserve the "solemnity and dignity" of the wedding ceremony, as well as complying with fire and safety regulations. As ceremonies in the Chapel require an Archbishop's Special Licence and are restricted to undergraduates or graduates within two years of graduation, current employees, Fellows or children of Fellows, this has provided an opportunity for other Jesuans and members of the community to use the beautiful College grounds and public rooms

for their celebrations.

Couples were first allowed to marry outside the confines of register offices and religious venues after the Marriage Act 1994 but current regulations prevent marriages from taking place in the open air or in any form of temporary structure. Ceremonies must be also be held between the hours of 8am and 6pm – a rule drawn up in 1837 when civil marriages were first introduced and designed to stop people marrying the wrong partner in the dark! Future plans to modernise the regulations, which should come into force next year, centre on licensing the register officials themselves so that they can conduct weddings at any hour and in any place that provides safe access to the public. This will pave the way for outdoor ceremonies, another area in which the College can provide the perfect setting.

One of the key factors for many couples in their

decision to use Jesus College, barring personal ties, is the variety of options provided in settings for the ceremony, reception drinks, wedding breakfast and party afterwards and the fact that the entire event can be held from beginning to end in the same location, cutting down on logistical problems. The provision of parking in a central Cambridge location has also been a deciding factor for some, as has the possibility for wedding guests to utilise some of the College accommodation. The increasing popularity of the College as a unique and beautiful setting for wedding ceremonies and receptions has meant that many dates in 2004 are already booked and availability for next year is slim. If you have any further queries on holding wedding ceremonies, civil or religious, within the college, please contact Simon Hawkey or Francesca Moyles at the Manciple's office (manciple@jesus.cam.ac.uk).

Francesca Moyles - Conference & Events Manager

A day in the life of...

PETER MOORE - College Engineer

I start the day by sorting through the many Job Requests (anything to do with College services, water, electricity, gas, etc.), which students hand in at the Porters' Lodge. These jobs can be as varied as lights not working, blocked sinks, dripping taps, fire alarms, air conditioning units, no heating/hot water, telephones, or a door bell not working in one of houses in New Square. The College Maintenance Staff can deal with most of these requests. Some days we can receive around 50 job requests; however, on an average day there will be around 15-20. I start by arranging the jobs in order of importance, also making sure we have the requisite materials and that the students are aware when we will be coming.

By this time, it's getting on for 8.30am. This is when my mobile phone starts ringing because contractors have arrived on site. The Porters let Maintenance know when contractors are here so that they can be taken to where they are working, as we don't let contractors on site without being supervised. This can be anything from reading gas or electricity meters in our HMOS to planned maintenance by the gas board etc.

Normally, by 9am I manage to turn on my pc and check my emails. We are increasingly receiving quite a few requests and problems by email from students, College staff and contractors. Also I tend to order materials over the internet, since this makes life easier for me, that is when I order correctly! Some of the company's Radio spares are ordered via an 8-digit code, so if I have a bit of finger trouble anything could arrive! They are very good with returns...

Another of my duties is to check the main College boiler rooms, of which we have nine. This should take about an hour or so. On

the whole, they are pretty well behaved, with just the occasional slight problem. If there is anything major to be done, we can call on Munros, with whom we have a maintenance agreement. They will look after the Corgi side (gas) and the oil burners, checking the fuel oil in the tanks, as we use both oil and gas in our larger boilers.

We also are trying to save electricity by installing low wattage, energy efficient bulbs throughout the main College site and we are hoping to see real energy saving in the next few years. In addition, we have a green policy for lamp disposal and recycling of refrigerators and cookers. You may be interested to know that it costs more to dispose of a fluorescent tube than purchase new one, which is £1 at the moment.

You may say what happens when requests come in for work after hours? We have been running an on call system for the past year, which has worked very well. This way we can provide 24/7 cover for any problems. From March 2002 to March 2003, we received 150 out-of-hours calls, mostly electrical and plumbing emergencies..



Pete Moore - College Engineer

THE SURGERY

Jacky Poskitt - College Nurse

A member of staff recently brought to my attention that not everyone is aware we are here, or indeed of the services we provide to Students, Staff, and Fellows.

We run a twice-weekly physiotherapy clinic for anything from a sporting injury, to chronic back pain, or RSI (repetitive strain injury). We have our own ultra sound equipment and wobble board, splints, and a variety of other physio equipment which we can lend out with an agreed date set for an item's return. It is my aim that no one should wait for more than a week before being seen. All appointments are made by either a GP or the College Nurse.

I am usually kept busy by GP registrations, which requires a short medical, depending upon the chosen GP Practice.

I run a daily 'drop in' surgery, for which no appointment is necessary. See <http://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/internal/nurse> for times.

I spend most of my time in the surgery, but I also do a growing amount of room visits. One thing that I really dislike is when I am called out to a sick student, who fails to be in their room at the agreed time, as they have forgotten to cancel the appointment upon a very sudden recovery! Such a student usually lives the furthest away from College.

I can do procedures such as removing sutures and debriding a wound, which often prevents a long wait elsewhere. For diabetics I can take and read blood glucose levels, and give general advice regarding diet and medications.

I also monitor blood pressure on a regular basis. When did you last have your blood pressure checked? For asthmatics I can record daily peak flow measurements as instructed, by your GP. Unfortunately I do not have the facilities to take blood for investigative purposes, or to give 'live' vaccines/immunisations owing to medical legislation.

I am married to an engineer who works on the Science Park, at a company who specialise in the manufacturing of lasers. I have three young boys Michael 9, David 7, and Thomas, 6. Even our hamster and cat are male!