



## The new Plodge

**Stuart Websdale, Domestic Bursar and Grahame Appleby, Head Porter**

*How is the project going?*

The building work is progressing well. The main contractor is Cocksedge, which also led the West Court development, so the team is familiar with the site.

*When is it due to be finished?*

It is scheduled for early May, with a phased occupation to allow for the installation and testing of vital services such as telephones and alarms. Some external Fellows' garden repairs may be carried out after the handover.

*How are the Porters finding life in the Marshall Room?*

'Compact' is the common term! Everyone is embracing the short term pain, knowing that the end result will be fantastic.

*What can we expect to see in the new Plodge?*

Externally, the extension is very sympathetic with the heritage of the site. Internally, it will look and feel very warm, with oak timber used throughout and discreet skylights bringing some daylight inside.

The natural flow of College members will largely remain the same. On occasions, such as late in the evening, we may choose to lock the wicket gate so that all arrivals will walk through the Porters' Lodge. The large main gate will continue to be used as it is now.

The Porters will have a much bigger luggage storage space (shown in the top photo) and a significantly improved post room capable of dealing with traditional post plus the ever-increasing number of online shopping parcels.

The Porters' work environment will be vastly improved and visitors to the College will receive a more professional and accessible welcome, with a comfortable waiting area.



Main reception area where a new window is going to be cut

## Admissions round

**Cei Whitehouse, Tutorial Manager**



One of my favourite times in Cambridge is at the end of Michaelmas Term, when bright young applicants arrive for interviews, excited at the prospect of studying at one of the world's finest institutions.

Jesus played host to our greatest ever number of candidates this year, with over 1200 hopeful youngsters applying. I was particularly pleased to see such a diverse range of applicants, a testament to the success of our outreach work in highlighting that we want students brimming with ability and potential, regardless of their background.

Our busiest day saw over 200 candidates arriving for 400 interviews. This is one of the greatest logistical exercises in the College calendar, carefully curated by our indefatigable Admissions Office - some of whom are pictured above. Credit goes to everyone involved in making the process as smooth as possible: from Porters greeting nervous applicants on arrival and our student ambassadors on hand with helpful advice, to the probing interviewing of Fellows, and not least the catering staff who kept us all going throughout the operation!

We now wish the best of luck to all of those who have been made offers to study here at Jesus.



## Staff Forum

**Susan Webb, Information Compliance Officer**

This was the first meeting for new rep Blanca Torres-Diaz, Finance Officer, and Stuart Websdale, Domestic Bursar. The lively session featured updates on everything from car parking to compost bins via Christmas hampers and maternity coaching. Your rep will be in touch soon to share what was discussed and to ask you for feedback.

Staff Forum concerns College-wide matters, rather than issues concerning any particular department. Reps are always keen to hear what you think and to discuss how best to raise any issues.

Your reps are: Elaine McNab (Housekeeping), Nikki Williams (Housekeeping, Development, Gardens and Master's Office), Susan Webb (Maintenance, Tutorial and Library), Gio del Orto (Catering), John Morris (Porters), Blanca Torres-Diaz (East House and IT). See all of the Minutes on JNet.

## Wellness Weekend

**Jennifer Adams-Massmann, Assistant Chaplain**

In the bleak mid-winter...who doesn't need a break? Just in time, this year's Wellness Weekend runs from 15-18 February for Jesus College students, Fellows and staff.

The programme is packed with fun, informative and relaxing activities to promote wellbeing. New offerings this year include a student vs Fellows and staff football match, an improvisational theatre show and workshop, archery led by the Head Porter and an Open Words workshop on mental health. Staff can also sign up for sessions on mindfulness, resilience and stress management.

We will also offer the ever-popular Dr Bike's free repair café, healthy cooking workshops, non-alcoholic mixology, yoga, as well as colouring, messy art and gratitude journalling in the Chapel. A full programme will be posted on JNet and on the Wellness Facebook group.



## A day in the life

**Damian Kramer, IT Manager**

*What is a typical day for you?*

I usually start the day by reading the tech news. Keeping up to date with security incidents is



important, and it's good to know what new software releases are on the horizon so that we can plan projects in good time.

After that it's projects and meetings. As well as the traditional IT projects, at the moment I'm working with a cross-College team to write a business case for making further improvements to our cutting edge AV offering in West Court. I'm on the working group for the new kitchen development and I'm helping the Conference and HR teams to source and test new systems to make their departments even more efficient. Nearly all College projects involve IT at some point!

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

It's a typical manager's role, with a bit of technical knowhow thrown in. My fantastic team do the heavy technical work, though I try and keep my skills up to date.

*What do you do in your spare time?*

I'm the Chair of my local tennis club and I play as often as I can, although recently injuries have kept me off the court. I also like to go snowboarding and I'm looking forward to my next trip to Andorra in early March.

