

NEWS LINK

October 2006



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Reflections on a year in Link House

A knock at the door. "Hello!" I jump up from my studying to respond. "Could I please have a new lightbulb? – the main one in my room has just broken." "Yep, I'll get one for you. As we go up the stairs we talk about his day – he's nearly finished the third chapter of his PhD and is on the crucial final stages. His (and her) room is so neat and tidy – it puts us to shame! "There. Please tell us if it's not bright enough." "Thank you." A little later Laura returns from her teaching and we go into the kitchen together. Already another house member is there chopping up a wonderful selection of curry ingredients; he then blends them, and soon the smells begin to pour out of the frying pan. I turn to my wife. "How was your day, Laura?" "Good, thank you. I'm feeling very hungry now, though!" Twenty minutes later we're sitting down to dinner in the shared dining/lounge area. No-one else is there for the moment so we can

catch up easily. Then two others come in and we gauge whether they feel like talking. I wonder what we'll discuss or laugh about this evening? ".....oh yes, and have you decided what you're going to bring tomorrow?"



East Hertford Street residents

"Yes, a mushroom korma." "Mmm, we look forward to that!" says Laura. Tomorrow night we're having an 'international meal', as we do about once a month. Each couple or individual prepares a dish, usually traditional to their country, and we put all the tables together and enjoy an evening of food, conversation, and recently singing too! It is a privilege for us to be Assistant Wardens here in Link House, East Hertford Street. The house is lovely – it is well-

designed, bright, comfortable and clean, and it is well-equipped and well-maintained. Above all, though, it is a privilege because of the special people we're living with and have the chance to serve. Yes, sometimes living with fourteen other people can be a bit of a challenge (!), but we've deeply enjoyed it and are continuing to learn a great deal. It's great to see the residents grow in confidence and friendship during their time here, learning a lot from each other. We look forward to seeing what this coming year brings!

Jonathan Beatham – Assistant Warden, East Hertford Street

Garden Party/Open Day



Opening by Sir Fred Catherwood

A new innovation this year was the 'in house' (or I should say 'in garden') annual Garden Party held in the garden between the Chesterton Road and East Hertford Street houses – instead of one of the College gardens. Although we

didn't raise quite so much money as usual and space was more limited, we were pleased to welcome new faces, particularly a number of our neighbours. Tours of the houses were very popular and kept the wardens busy all the afternoon.

New Trustee

We welcome Mrs Shirley Scott as a new Trustee. Shirley is an experienced teacher and worked in India for many years with her husband with Interserve UK.

Movements in the houses

21 residents moved out in the last two weeks of September. We have had a couple of farewell occasions and as is our custom have given each one (or couple) a Bible in their own language. At the time of writing we do have some vacancies but new residents have started to move in to fill the vacated rooms.

"It is wonderful to meet people from so many cultures under the same roof and to realise how similar we are"

Recent resident

We have been receiving many applications for rooms over the last few weeks but are keeping to a strict criteria for acceptance in accordance with the Trust's aims

and objectives i.e. overseas post graduate students coming to this country for the first time.

Baby business

At one stage recently there were six pregnant ‘mothers-to-be’ in the three houses. We thought you might like to see the latest arrival to his Armenian parents (now ex-residents). He has been given the good old English name of Albert!



Newborn baby Albert

Administrative Assistant

After four years of efficient and cheerful service in the office Ruth Proffitt has resigned to take on more hours at Addenbrookes. We thank her for all that she has done for the Trust over these years.

This means that we are now seeking her replacement. If you know of anyone capable and willing to take on this role please get in touch with the office. This is a paid part-time position, requiring computing skills. The hours are flexible but typically 8-10 hours per week on 2 mornings.

New Wardens sought

Paul & Hilary Drinkwater have given notice to the Trustees of their intention to retire by May of next year. Advertisements for their replacements will shortly be appearing in the Christian press. If you know of any couple who may be interested in applying for the post please contact the Trust Chairman, Dr Chris Gaston (Tel: 01223 837554)

Funding News

* *Bursary Fund* - We have recently made a loan but are now allowing the fund to grow before publicising its availability.

* *Building Fund* – Recently a property close to the Chesterton Road and East Hertford St houses has come onto the market. The Trustees are presently looking at the feasibility of purchasing this as a replacement for the Gilbert Road house. If this is possible we will have to step up our fund raising activities once more.

Paul Drinkwater - Warden

A couple recently returning to Iran appreciated their time in Link House so much that they are thinking of starting their own Iranian version of Link House !

Fundraising activities for your diary

Saturday 18th November 2006
8pm

Cambridge Concert Orchestra

(programme to be announced – see posters)
St Lukes Church, Victoria Avenue, Cambridge

*Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)
from Link House Office or on the door*

Saturday 2nd December 2006

Christmas Exhibition and Sale

Paintings, Christmas Cards. Notelets and Calligraphy

Henry Martyn Hall, Market Street 10am-5.30pm

Link Houses: 17/19 Chesterton Road, Cambridge CB4 3AL (Main Office)
Wardens: Paul & Hilary Drinkwater.
95 Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NZ Tel: 363387
Assistant Wardens: Karina and Deon Van Garderen
7 East Hertford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AJ Tel: 311366
Assistant Wardens: Jonathan and Laura Beatham

Trustees: - Dr Chris Gaston - Chairman, Lady Catherwood, Jenifer Cooper, David Jones OBE, Prof Colin Humphreys CBE, Jannie Lawn, Shirley Scott

Patrons: Lord Anderson, Sir Fred Catherwood, Prof Sir Brian Heap CBE FRS, The Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, The Rt Revd John Taylor KCVO, Prof Hugh Williamson DD FBA