



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Michaelmas Term
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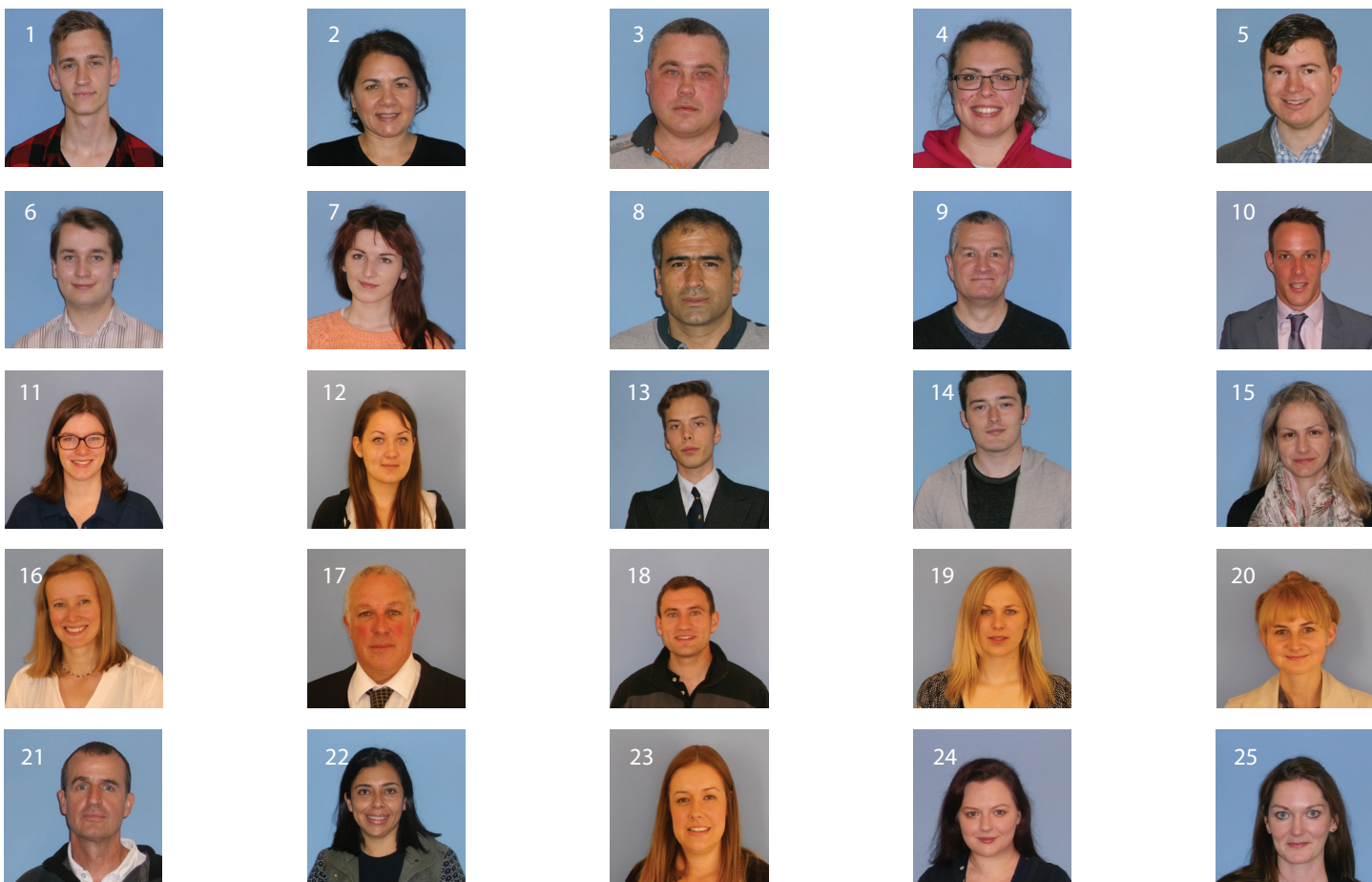
**What we did on our Holidays:
Making the Most of the Long Vacation**

A Year in the Life of a Library Graduate Trainee

**First Among Equals:
What does the President's job actually entail?**

Food for Thought: Inside College Catering

Welcome to our recent new starters!



► All photos St John's College: **1 Patryk Borkowski** – Deputy Supervisor Forecourt **2 Pastora Borrego Moreno** – Combination Room Cleaner **3 Adam Buzniak** – Old Divinity School and Fisher Building Gyp **4 Esperanza Cubero** – Bedmaker Forecourt **5 Malcolm Davis** – Academic Administrator (MVST) **6 Glen Dempsey** – Associate Organ Student **7 Klaudia Dera** – Bedmaker New Court **8 Mehmet Feysel Durgut** – Kitchen Assistant **9 Nigel Faulkner** – Plumbing and Heating Engineer **10 Damien Fontaine** – Deputy Superintendent of Housekeeping **11 Felicity French** – Library Graduate Trainee **12 Anita Hajzer** – Bedmaker Forecourt **13 Xavier Hetherington** – Lay Clerk **14 Peter Lidbetter** – Lay Clerk and Choir Librarian **15 Katerina Marmara** – Scholarship Administrator **16 Fay Page** – Student Services Officer **17 Keith Pearson** – Porter **18 Sam Rivers** – Skilled Gardener **19 Raimonda Rupleniene** – Supervisor Cripps **20 Eleanor Swire** – Information Services Graduate Trainee **21 Mark Thomas** – Multi-discipline Building Trade Operative **22 Nathy Villalobos Martinez** – Bedmaker Cripps **23 Stacey Ward** – Master's Assistant **24 Charlie Whitaker** – Admissions Office Assistant **25 Suzie Wood** – Investment Property Manager

And congratulations to...

Rosalyn Deverell, Bedmaker; Blanka Pelcova, Bar Manager; Sandra Rodgers, Deputy Supervisor of Housekeeping; Kathryn McKee, Special Collections Librarian; and Leigh Hawes, Section Chef, who have all reached 25 years of service at St John's!

► Kathryn McKee pictured; image credit: St John's College



Welcome to *Eagle Eye*,
the newsletter for
Fellows, staff & students
of St John's College

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Eagle Eye

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Cover image: Looking out over La Paz, Bolivia - Hannah Mills.

News

Round-up

What's been happening around St John's

St John's joins Sustainable Fish Cities Campaign

St John's has joined forces with Cambridge Sustainable Food to help to make Cambridge a Sustainable Fish City, signing a pledge to only serve sustainable fish on its menus, such as fish from the Marine Conservation's 'fish to eat' list, and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fish. The



campaign, coordinated by Sustain, aims to make Cambridge a leading city in serving sustainable fish and transform Cambridge's impact on dwindling fish stocks.

St John's alumnus returns to Alaska to finish epic journey

More than 50 years after setting out on an epic journey across both American continents, three University of Cambridge graduates, Martin Hugh-Jones and Ben Mackworth-Praed, and Johnian Mike Andrews, have successfully completed the final leg of their daring road trip – in the same Land Rover they used decades ago. In 1960 the undergraduates drove up the Pan American Highway from Argentina to Alaska on a scientific road trip, but were not able to reach their final destination of the Arctic Circle due to their Land Rover breaking down in Alaska. The men, now in their late 70s, have completed their journey, driving 500 miles in their original Land Rover from Fairbanks, Alaska to Prudhoe Bay, on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. This journey, like the original, was filmed by Andrews, a retired TV producer, and will be broadcast by the BBC later this year.



► Images: Sustainable Fish Cities – Sustain (<http://www.sustainweb.org>) and St John's Alumnus in Alaska – Mike Andrews.



St John's Chaplain announced as new Archdeacon of Hackney

The Reverend Elizabeth Adekunle, Chaplain of St John's College, is to take up a new post as the Archdeacon of Hackney from April 2016. Liz is one of the youngest people to take on the role, which involves a range of responsibilities supporting the churches in the Stepney area of the Diocese of London. She has been appointed to the post by the Bishop of London. Liz will serve two more terms at St John's, covering for the Dean of Chapel's sabbatical during the 2015/16 academic year. She will also retain a close connection with the College through postgraduate study in tandem with her new, London-based role.

African universities reap fruits of fly research

The humble fruit fly, or *Drosophila melanogaster*, is proving the unlikely source of a new initiative to help improve postgraduate research opportunities in Africa, with the support of St John's Fellow Dr Isabel Palacios and other leading academics in the UK, Spain, Portugal and Uganda. In a new project called 'DrosAfrica', fruit fly research labs are being established at institutions in Uganda, Nigeria, and Kenya. The hope is that the training and research that these centres undertake will nurture a community of biomedical research scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa, and inspire other universities to follow suit.



List of Mr John Broomfield's Negroes with their Age & Valuation

No	Names	Age	Valuation	Occupation
1	Men Davy	47	£130	Head Carver & Carpenter
	Sallon	50	100	Carpenter
	Jack		60	Fisherman
	Tommy	30	130	Sawyer & Carpenter also Fisherman
5	Tom	25	140	Sawyer, Shoemaker, Carpenter & Negro
	Dick	25	140	Woods Field Negro
	Will	25	100	80
	Duke	21	120	80
	Henrich	27	120	80
10	Johnston	22	100	80

Price of Britain's Slave Trade revealed

Letters and papers revealing in detail how human beings were priced for sale during the 18th century Transatlantic Slave Trade have been made available to researchers and the public, providing a distressing reminder of the powerful business interests that sustained one of the darkest chapters in British history. The papers were recently acquired by St John's College, and they provide first-hand evidence of the sale of slaves to British plantation owners. The documents are available to view on the College website.

St John's 'Access Bus' visits schools in Shropshire

Young people from across Shropshire were invited to discover more about university life through a first-of-its-kind roadshow, organised by St John's. The 'Access Bus' visited 15 schools around the county where pupils, teachers and parents were able to meet current Cambridge undergraduates and academics. The aim was to inspire and inform bright young people who are considering their next step after school by showing them a little more about what living and studying at a world-class university is like.



► Images: The Revd Elizabeth Adekunle – St John's College; Fruit Fly Research - André Karwath, Wikimedia Commons; Slave Trade – St John's College and Access Bus – St John's College.

A Year in the Life of a Library Graduate Trainee

Cataloguing books, playing detective, and even dealing with pests (the non-human kind) are all part of being a Library Graduate Trainee at St John's. Departing trainee Richard Sellens tells us what the scheme involves.

The Library Graduate Traineeship doesn't really sound like the most natural career progression in the world for a Music graduate – but departing trainee Richard Sellens has always loved libraries, as was highlighted during his time at university. The traineeship helped his career to move in a different direction.

"I worked part-time in my college library when studying Music at Durham University, and I realised that had actually become the most fun part of my week!" Richard tells us. "I came across the Graduate Traineeships website and decided that was the direction I wanted to go in. I was interested in the administration involved in running a Cambridge University College library, and in information services

in general – it's a vibrant and ever-growing sector."

Graduate trainee schemes are run all over the country by CILIP – the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. The scheme for Library Graduate Trainees based in Cambridge University Colleges and Faculties is organised by CaTaLOG – the Cambridge Trainee Librarians



Online Group – and is run by Cambridge librarians. The competitive traineeship is regarded as one of the best that future librarians can get.

St John's has offered the Library Graduate Traineeship for more than 20 years. The scheme offers one graduate a year's experience of working in a library to prepare them for their Masters in Librarianship, and to help them to decide if this is the career they want. Seven Cambridge Colleges and Faculties are involved in the scheme each year, including Queens', Newnham, and the Classics Faculty, with the libraries offering similar daily tasks but with their own unique atmosphere and projects.

Richard had never visited Cambridge before his interview for the position, and he had to learn quickly how the College and the University works. "It was a steep learning curve, but I was given lots of support. When I first saw St John's Library the first thing that struck me was how big it was. I didn't realise there were six floors – you could fit my old college library into its lobby!"

The daily tasks of a Library Graduate Trainee at St John's vary. One day the trainee can be classifying and cataloguing books, checking books in and out on the issue desk and deactivating tags, or working with the Library's Special Collections. The next day they could be working in the Biographical Office, showing visitors around the Old Library, or helping with book deliveries. The trainee might also invigilate in the Archive Centre, work in the Rare Books Reading Room, put up a display in the Working Library, and "even deal with printer problems," smiles Richard. "Trainees have to be flexible, willing to learn, and available"

The traineeship at St John's allows the graduate to focus on their own interests. "I spent much of my time in the Biographical Office." Richard says. "I enjoyed the detective work involved when dealing with enquiries from families who wanted to find out about their relatives at St John's; it's satisfying when you find



“When I first saw St John's Library the first thing that struck me was how big it was. I didn't realise there were six floors – you could fit my old college library into its lobby!”

the information for them. St John's is the only College on the scheme with its own Biographical Office. I enjoyed the customer service aspect of the role, dealing with students, staff and the public."

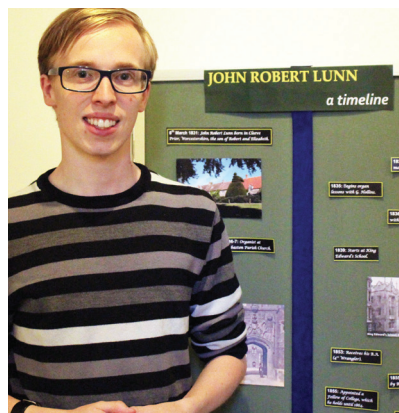
Trainees attend events organised by CaTaLOG including visits to different libraries and conferences, and they are encouraged to attend free training courses. "The pest management course was interesting," Richard tells us. "Afterwards, I set and maintained traps in the Archive Centre and kept notes of the 'visitors' – luckily nothing too dangerous turned up!"

Richard's highlights during his traineeship were developing the 'curate-a-shelf' mini-exhibition scheme, producing a students' comments board "which really encouraged us to listen to our

users," and creating the end-of-year Special Collections Exhibition in the Library Exhibition Area. Richard's exhibition focused on 19th century Mathematics student John Robert Lunn, known for his musical compositions. "It was interesting to learn how to present material and make it interesting to others. The exhibition even made it into the *Cambridge News* and *Classical Music* magazine."

So what does the future hold for Richard now his traineeship is over? "I've just started work as Graduate Admissions Senior Clerk for the University of Cambridge. Although it's not in a library, the role combines features that I enjoyed during my traineeship such as customer service and administration. It's been a wonderful year, and I feel so lucky to have experienced it – I was glad to have found something I enjoyed outside of music!"

The new Library Graduate Trainee for this academic year is Felicity French, who can be found working at the Library Issue Desk, in the Archive Centre, in the RBR, in the Biographical Office, or anywhere else where books can be found.



► Images: St John's College

Making the Most of the Long Vacation

Teaching children in Nepal in Kathmandu after the earthquake and a Bolivian journalism internship in the midst of political unrest – these were the projects undertaken by two St John’s undergraduates, Harriet Baldwin and Hannah Mills, during their Long Vacation, partly funded by the College’s Travel Grants scheme.

Every year St John’s offers a range of Exhibitions and Grants for the promotion of travel during the Long Vacation. This year, from across 16 available funds, 65 students received awards of between £80 and £1,200 to support their summer projects. Different grants are on offer for different types of projects, ranging from visits to archaeological sites in Europe and adventurous travel in remote parts of the world, to working in Africa or carrying out field work in Earth Sciences. We spoke to Harriet and Hannah about their experiences, and the opportunities a travel grant can provide.

Third-year Historian Harriet Baldwin spent seven weeks teaching English to 9-13 year-olds at the Hindu-Vidyapeeth School in Kathmandu. She decided to apply for the opportunity after attending a talk by Cambridge Volunteers in Nepal, a student-run group that maintains a direct link with the school, and hearing from the students who had taught there in 2014.

A £300 Christopher Vincent Travel Grant covered Harriet’s injections





and the cost of living in Nepal, which was relatively low as the school provided accommodation and meals as well as opportunities to travel beyond Kathmandu. Harriet used money she'd saved from a scholarship last year to cover the flights, which she booked well in advance to get a good deal.

Harriet wasn't sure what to expect before she went. "I had been to Malaysia on a school World Challenge, but Nepal is much less developed, and because of the earthquake in April I thought there might be a lot of devastation." She was pleased to discover that life in Kathmandu had regained a semblance of normality. "Nothing

really runs smoothly there," she admitted, "but I don't think it did before the earthquake!"

The biggest challenge Harriet faced was the job itself. Having only tutored individuals, facing a class of 20 children with limited English was a nerve-wracking experience, and it took Harriet and the four other Cambridge volunteers a few days to get into the swing of things and find their way around the school syllabus. They were also tasked with writing an exam for the children to sit in their final week, which presented another kind of challenge.

Despite the steep learning curve, Harriet said she would definitely

recommend the experience. "The amazing thing about this scheme is how much it benefits the children. They really need English people to go and teach, so they learn the right things and not just what the Nepalese think English is like."

For Harriet, the most enjoyable experience was a visit one weekend to Namobuddha monastery, which nestles among the hills in a valley about two hours' bus ride from Kathmandu. "The children hadn't been on a school trip before – there aren't usually enough adults to take them – and it was so nice to see them out of the city enjoying the fresh air," Harriet said. "For most of them it was the first time since the



earthquake that they'd been able just to have fun, and they looked so happy – it was great.”

Third-year English student Hannah Mills completed a journalism internship at *Bolivian Express*, a magazine for English speakers living in Bolivia. As part of a structured programme, interns receive Spanish tuition as well as training in journalism and photography. Hannah decided to apply after seeing the opportunity listed on the JCR website and thinking it “too good to be true”.

The downside was the cost – £800 for the placement and £1000 for flights – but a £600 Johnian Society



► Images: Children and prayer flags (Harriet is second from left): Harriet Baldwin; Nepalese countryside: Harriet Baldwin; Cycling the Death Road, Bolivia: Hannah Mills; Bolivian Festival in La Paz and The Plaza, La Paz: Hannah Mills; Political Unrest: Hannah Mills.



Travel Exhibition enabled Hannah to cover the rest using money she has saved from working in the holidays at a financial services company in London. Hannah said that having the College's endorsement in the form of a travel grant also helped allay her parents' worries about her travelling so far away on her own.

During the four week placement Hannah wrote two articles – one on the Bolivian concrete poet Paola Senseve and another on the Plaza as a symbolic space. The biggest challenge was the language. "I did GCSE Spanish and have kept it up, but it's a big jump from that to interviewing poets," she explained. "I had to work hard to get up to speed with the vocabulary I needed." She also found herself in the midst of political unrest, after unknowingly walking into a riot in the course of researching her article on the Plaza de La Paz. "It was supposed to be about the Plaza as a symbol of freedom, but we arrived in the middle of a protest by Potosi miners, about a new hospital the

government has opened in La Paz, and there was tear gas and explosions going off everywhere. At the time it was difficult to work out what was going on. Afterwards I had to change my plan. The article ended up being about the politics of the place."

For Hannah, interviewing and meeting so many new people was the best aspect of the internship. She added that cycling the so-called 'Death Road', a 56-kilometre stretch between La Paz and Coroico known as world's most dangerous road, was "the most amazing thing I've ever done".

Although she'd spent nine months abroad during her gap year, teaching in a boarding school in South Korea, the experience hadn't prepared Hannah for Bolivia. "This was completely different," she said. "In South Korea everything was easy and comfortable, and the job was paid. Here it was bunk beds

and cooking for yourself. And it was cold! People had told me it would be winter in Bolivia, but I hadn't really processed that fact. Luckily, alpaca wool is everywhere – I had to buy so many jumpers!"

Hannah said the internship has helped her to see what kind of journalism she really wants to do. "Actually, it's probably not this type. This was social commentary, written for a limited audience. I'm interested in writing to change something."

A full list of the travel awards offered to current members is available on the website at <http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/travel-grants>.

► **Image: Hannah and The Death Road: Hannah Mills**

First among Equals

As Dr Frank Salmon takes over from the Revd Duncan Dormor as President of St John's, we talk to them both to find out what the job actually entails.



Four years have passed since The Revd Duncan Dormor took on the office of President of St John's, but on 1 October the responsibility was passed to Dr Frank Salmon, along with the 'President's Box', an antique wooden chest containing early copies of the College Statutes.

The role of President is set out in the 1524 Statutes of Bishop John Fisher, which provide that "The President shall attend, under the Master, to the good government of the Fellows, Scholars, Students, Officers and Servants of the College."

The College President, like his or her political counterpart, is elected and serves a fixed term of four years. Any College Fellow under 66 may stand for election and be voted in by the Fellows. As part of the election process, Presidential candidates usually set out aims for what they would do with the role, but in Dr Salmon's case there were no opposing candidates – allowing him greater flexibility. "Because I didn't have to set out an agenda, I'm in a better position to be able to be responsive to the needs of the College as they arise naturally over the next four years," he says.

Departing President, the Revd Duncan Dormor describes the role as being first among equals. "I feel very privileged to have held this position and been able to work with such intelligent and engaged people as the Fellows, students and staff of St John's every day," he tells us. "Being in the President's role takes you to a point where you have a different view of things. I definitely feel that I got a greater sense of the complexity of the life of the College and the interactions between its diverse communities."

For the Revd Dormor, combining being President with his roles as Dean of Chapel, Director of Studies

in Theology, Chair of Governors for St John's College School and (among other commitments with the Church of England) a member of its decision-making body, the General Synod, actually proved to be surprisingly useful.

"The more you're involved in different things, the more you learn and can bring back to the role of President as a result," he said. "The position is one that is very open to cross-pollination of ideas from different sources."

The President's job ranges from welcoming new Fellows to St John's to chairing or sitting on up to 14 different College committees

being a supermarket trolley: you get wheeled around and filled up with food!"

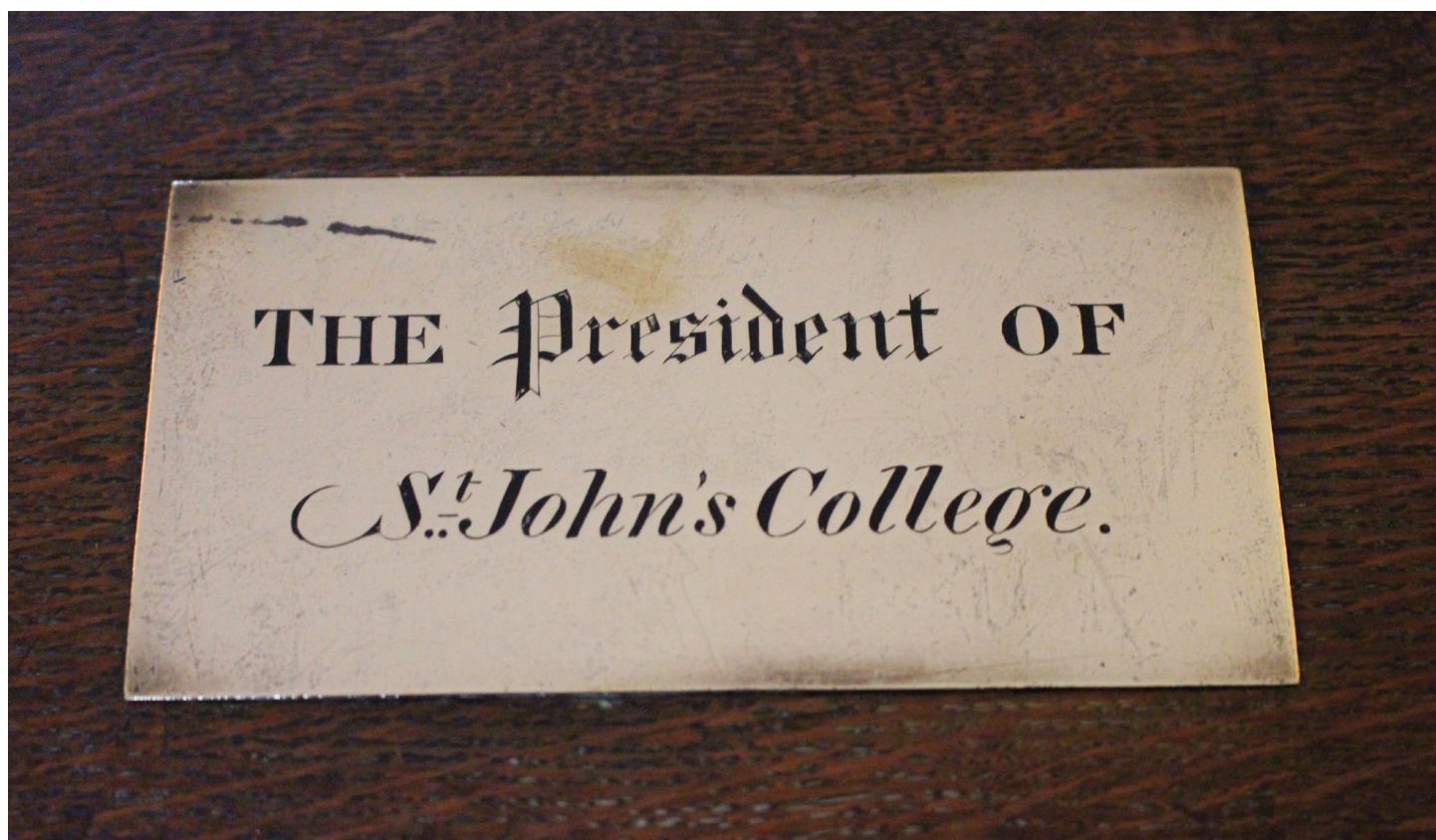
Dr Frank Salmon is Director of Studies in the History of Art and also a University Senior Lecturer in History of Art, as well as being a member of Historic England's national Advisory Committee. So how does he feel about taking on this demanding role and having to balance the job of being President with his other commitments?

"The simple answer is that you have to work harder," he says. "I'm confident I can do it all - as I hope I did when I combined being Head of my Department with continuing

and to consolidate."

"It's an interesting position. St John's doesn't have a Vice-Master, and while the President does act as a deputy to the Master at times, that is not the primary role. As Head of the Fellowship, the President has a strangely nebulous representative job, to present the interests of College members to the Master."

While the President is responsible for the smooth running of the Fellowship, the role also extends to supporting students and staff of the college. "Even before I've actually started, staff members have come to me to talk about issues and concerns they have," Dr



on matters as diverse as catering, external communications and estates strategy. There is no such thing as a 'typical day', although the President can generally expect to have several meetings, dinners, committees and ceremonial functions to attend each week; this is on top of their existing careers and duties for the College and the University. "The President literally 'presides' in a traditional sense, and encourages a spirit of fellowship, friendship and conviviality," Revd Dormor says. College Fellow Professor John Toland has joked that the role of President is "like

as a Tutor in College - but ask me again in four years' time!"

While the President's role in some ways remains the same now as it did in the sixteenth century, in many other respects the life of the College has changed, and continues to change rapidly. "One of the key things the President and the wider College community need to think about now is just what being a Fellow and a member of a College means in the 21st century - it isn't as obvious as it used to be," Dr Salmon says. "My job as President isn't to tell people that, but to listen

Salmon says. "I think that is part of what being President is about. The President should be approachable and be a willing ear for staff and students, as well as Fellows, to talk to."

"The College is a community, and the President has a part to play in helping it to function."

► Images: St John's College

Food for Thought

With 10,000 meals served every week during term time, catering at St John's is no mean feat. To find out how they manage it, we joined the catering department for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Cambridge is a city full of experts, but food – like the weather or the reasons your computer isn't working properly – is something on which everyone feels qualified to have an opinion. Luckily, here at St John's the food is reputed to be among the best anywhere in the University. If you work or study here, the likelihood is that you will encounter a member of the College's Catering department every day.

Those encounters are, however, also pretty limited. They usually amount to being served at a table or over a counter for about 30 seconds, belying the long hours and hard work that are being put in behind the scenes. So for this issue of *Eagle Eye*, we decided to find out more about what it takes to feed the College, what life is like for the people who do it, and most importantly of all, exactly how many different potato recipes St John's offers and why.

On 22 October, 2015, Catering Manager Bill Brogan will ultimately walk 14,900 steps and 10.6 kilometres in the course of doing his job. Whether or not that distance is more alarming in itself than the fact he felt the need to measure it, the causes are clear: On any given day, his team has to serve three meals in the Buttery, one in Hall, and two separate menus for the Fellows. In addition, they handle private functions, weddings, garden parties, buffets, events in the Master's Lodge, light refreshments, drinks parties, and more.

Together, this means that during term the College consumes approximately 10,000 meals a week. Cooking and serving on this scale, combined with managing orders, deliveries, dietary requirements, allergies and food safety, is a daunting logistical problem. Fortunately, it's something that Bill, who used to manage catering for 16 ships at P&O, is experienced enough to take in his precisely-measured stride. "You had to be



► Image: Staff from the service team taking food to Hall.



fantastic on logistics, because ships would change port in bad weather," he recalls. "Suddenly your staff and supplies would be in Cherbourg and the boat would be going somewhere else."

About 20 vehicles start delivering goods to St John's at 6.45am, overseen by provisions manager Jim Wocha and his deputy, David Stroud. Trolleys are wheeled down Kitchen Lane and taken to the stores – an Aladdin's cave of comestibles ranging from the industrially-sized mundane (Jim estimates the College uses 36.2kg tins of beans a week), to the more exotic (pomegranate molasses, bonito flakes, wasabi paste).

Much of St John's reputation for serving good food stems from the fact that so much of it is fresh. Meals are prepared in advance by the kitchen staff, under Head Chef Mark Newman, and stored in a large, walk-in refrigeration area that has entire shelves dedicated to potatoes alone.

“It’s hard, long hours, but the privilege we’ve got is a tight-knit team who know the expectations.”

At 8am, as breakfast is wheeled into the Buttery, Mark is already preparing meat for other meals. Menus for Hall and the Senior Combination Room (SCR) change every week, while the Buttery operates on a four-week rotation. For Mark, this affords the opportunity to create new dishes using seasonal produce. He and Bill devise menus with input from the Fellows’ Steward, whose help, he says, has been “a breath of fresh air”, as it has given other Fellows a channel through which to comment and even submit recipe ideas.

Catering is co-ordinated from an office in Second Court, where Sarah Hardy, assistant manager for hospitality, takes and processes bookings and enquiries, and also handles summer schools, conferences, and the relatively new B&B offering. Across the room, Bridget Woodley types up and formats menus, and organises information about dietary requirements.

Each dish is carefully checked for allergy risks and the department makes a point of catering for any need, no matter how obscure. “We once had somebody who was scared of mustard,” Bridget recalls. Actually scared? What kind of mustard? “Just mustard as a whole.”

Information from the office is distributed to the department’s various teams. Service, for example, is overseen by Franco Elia, who today has to staff a VIP lunch in Hall, dinner in Hall later on, another dinner in the Wilberforce Room,



► Clockwise from top left: Blanka Pelcova at work in the bar; Herbs and spices in the stores; Mark Newman prepares meat in the kitchens and Staff put bread rolls into baskets ahead of a VIP lunch; This page: Preparations for a student wine tasting event in the Old Music Room.

“You’d spend an entire term doing different styles of potato. There’s hundreds of different styles. I’m pretty sure you could do a potato dish for every day of the year.”

a buffet for a school group and a wine tasting for students. He and the chefs know exactly what to expect for each, and Franco spends his afternoons lining up arrangements (and agency support) for the next day. As his team flit in and out of the kitchens, information is relayed between Franco and the kitchen staff while he simultaneously directs the dispatch of bread rolls, wines and plates of food.

Upstairs in the SCR, a small team serves six lunches and seven dinners a week to the Fellowship, under the supervision of John O’Sullivan, the rather anachronistically-titled Fellows’ Butler. “It’s more like being a restaurant manager, though,” he says. “Last Thursday, when Prince William was here – that was like being a butler.”

In the evenings, John’s team serves a separate menu at High Table. In the absence of a seating plan, he has to know the Fellows and their preferences personally. The SCR is in use every night and cleaned each morning. There is no central heating, and in a few weeks his team will light two large coal fires to warm the room.

By contrast, the College Bar is a shared space for staff, students and Fellows alike. Manager Blanka Pelcova is today operating a one-woman show, simultaneously serving customers, doing paperwork, and fixing a



malfunctioning coffee machine. Though overstretched, she would love to see more people making use of the bar, and has been involved in devising a programme of events (last week they ran speed-dating) to raise its profile.

The pleasure of the job – which she has done for 25 years – is meeting students, she says, but more staff would also be welcome: “We are trying to move from a situation where people’s attitude is ‘I never go to the bar’, to one where it’s, ‘Yeah, I know the bar, let’s go there while we’re in town because it’s cheaper than the pub.’”

Most new catering staff start in the Buttery, which serves 800 people a day and is the department’s busiest single outlet. There’s a certain embattled pride among those who run it about this being the entry-level, and least glamorous, part of the operation. “Looking after Fellows is slower-paced,” Buttery manager Ray Stevenson observes. “Down here, it’s rapid-fire, you have to work really hard to keep people moving through.”

With its cheaper, but more cheerful feel, the Buttery is one of the most envied canteens in Cambridge and



its offerings vary to reflect students' changing tastes. Last year, they ran a pasta stand, the year before a self-service pancake machine. "First term they flew out the door, then they died a death," Ray says. "That's why we keep changing things." Ray and Assistant Catering Manager, Ean Hogg, regularly check up on which meals are selling, and which new "impulse buys" they can tempt staff and students with at the till. Unfortunately, staff, who get a free lunch every day, calculate "like darts players," according to Ean: "They've worked out exactly what combination of food they can get out of their £5.17 down to the

penny." Ean also has an answer to the all-important question of why John's famously serves so many variants on the humble potato. "When you went to catering College, that's all you used to do," he explains. "You'd spend an entire term doing different styles of potato. There's hundreds of different styles. I'm pretty sure you could do a potato dish for every day of the year." With all these options, what has been the College's most successful potato offering? "Chips," says Ray.

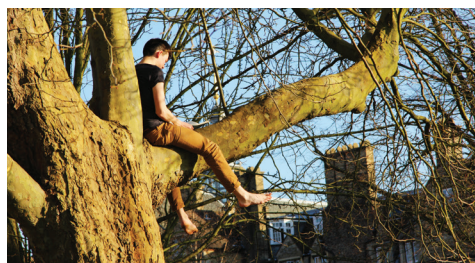
Whether or not St John's really does serve the best food in Cambridge,

its reputation remains a matter of pride for those in catering. "It's hard, it's long hours, but the privilege we've got is that St John's has a tight-knit team who have been here year after year and who know the standards and expectations," Mark Newman says.

That professional commitment also appears to override the discomfort some staff feel about the fact that catering is one area of College life in which hierarchical divisions between staff, students and Fellows remain apparent. "There's an aspect of the Fellows say jump, and I jump, but it's my job to look after them," John O'Sullivan reflects. "I've always enjoyed looking after people."

As manager, Bill Brogan worries less about the College's hierarchy itself than whether his staff, many of whom work late or come in on days off to guarantee that jobs get done, receive the recognition they deserve. "The key, though, is that we have a positive approach – all of us," he adds. "We could all come in and do 9 to 5 but we don't, because we're proud to do the job. When I'm no longer proud, I'll call it a day, because there won't be any point."

► **Clockwise from top left: Candles are lit in hall for dinner; Sous chef Kevin Ground prepares chickens for dinner; Farida Hadu at work in the SCR; Tim Robinson checks progress in one of the ovens.**



10-Minute Interview

with Ed Picton-Turbervill



Music Graduate Ed Picton-Turbervill tells us about his shift from Organ Scholar to Environmentalist

So Ed, you came to St John's as an Organ Scholar – why did you choose to study Music?

I was a Chorister at Winchester Cathedral and I was captivated by the power and complexity of the organ. Both my Directors of Music at Winchester (David Hill and Andrew Lumsden) had been Organ Scholars at St John's, so it seemed to me to be the only place worth studying! Despite being a scientist at heart, Music was the obvious choice of subject, and the Organ Scholarship and my degree fed into each other in surprising and compelling ways.

What were the highlights?

Going on tour was good fun and there were some extraordinary performance opportunities; I still can't believe that I've played a solo at the Verbier Festival! I once gave the live premiere on BBC Radio 3 of a great piece of organ music we commissioned from composer Francis Pott, and left out one of the pages without realising, having left it in a holiday cottage in Devon. I still laugh when I think about it. I don't know if anyone else does...

What does an Organ Scholar do every day?

During term time I'd work about four or five hours a day – I'd teach the Choristers in the mornings (my favourite bit), accompany the Choir at Evensong, and play music before and after the service. One of the skills you develop is the ability to play accurately with little preparation, to put it politely! I used to try and fit everything in around that: my degree, a little bit of piano playing here and there, and a pinch of socialising.

You were President of the Music Society and organised the first St John's Music Festival – tell us about that.

Our Music Society needed to be reinvigorated, so I applied to be President. I planned a Music Festival using money from the Annual Fund. It took quite a lot out of me, but I'm pleased to say that it was very successful. That was the flagship project of a year that was all about consolidation and reorientation.

What was the key to balancing all these extra-curricular activities and still getting a First Class degree in Music?

I was like a swan: effortless grace above the water, webbed mayhem beneath! The best advice I was ever given was to get enough sleep. I kept my essays short and concise; I tried to conceal shallow knowledge with weird and wacky thinking. I wrote an essay in my finals comparing Bach to one of my favourite sea slugs, *Elysia crispata*.

You are starting an MPhil in Environmental Policy, a world away from Music – when did you become interested in environmentalism?

I've been an environik for a long time, but it dropped off my radar whilst I was an undergraduate. I remember a conversation with Andrew Nethsingha as the real turning point; I decided this wasn't something I could ignore any longer. Last year, with the help of Jane Heal, Duncan Dormor and Partha Dasgupta, I submitted a paper to Council about the possibility of carbon offsetting on College-sponsored travel. I started to consider the possibility of an

MPhil, and was astonished when I got a place, despite my dubious credentials. My dream is for St John's to decide that it is going to be an environmental trailblazer, and do what is right before everyone else. The environmental crisis is terrifying to confront, but it is the defining issue of our generation, and I'm so excited to be a part of the battle.

What do you hope to get out of the MPhil?

I'm not sure where it will lead, but I'm thrilled that St John's has given me the opportunity to pursue environmentalism. I'm at a fork in the road – music or professional environmentalism – and I'm not sure what I will end up doing.



What will you do in your spare time?

I'm looking forward to having my weekends free – the first time since I became a Chorister at eight years old! I'll still play the piano daily, compose music and put on musical events, but I also plan to go on adventures, do some wild swimming and discover the country. I'm also writing a tiny book about the trees of the Backs. It's going to be my minute contribution to the rich tapestry of life at St John's. You'll have to climb a tree to find a copy though!

► **Images Credits: Top Left - Sophia Cruwell; Top Right - Eric Lee Photographer; Mid Right - Ed Picton-Turbervill.**

Awards



Arya Thampi awarded the Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarship 2015

Arya Thampi has been awarded a Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarship for 2015, enabling her to study for her PhD in Physics at St John's College from September. Arya, from Kerala in India, will be the 20th Manmohan Singh Scholar at St John's and will study for a PhD in Optoelectronics at St John's under the supervision of Dr Akshay Rao. She will be researching how to improve the efficiency of solar cells by using ultrafast Spectroscopy to study 'singlet exciton fission', a cutting-edge means of harvesting energy in materials that are partly organic and partly inorganic.



Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta receives Blue Planet Prize for work on sustainable development

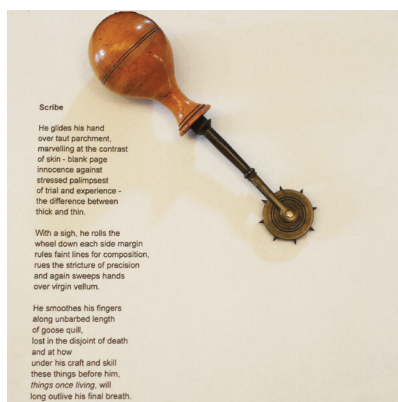
Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, an economist and Fellow of St John's whose research focuses on questions of global poverty and the sustainable use of natural resources, has been awarded the 2015 Blue Planet Prize. The prize, in two categories, is given annually to individuals or organisations for scientific work that has also helped to address global environmental problems. Over the course of several decades of research, Professor Dasgupta has introduced questions about our use of natural resources into broader economic reasoning, leading to the re-evaluation of

how governments and global organisations deal with poverty and measure wealth, challenging the use of standard tools of analysis such as GDP.



Outstanding students receive Larmor Awards

Four graduating students who have excelled academically and contributed to the life of the College while at St John's have been honoured with prestigious Larmor Awards. This year's recipients of the awards were Kweku Abraham, Lizzie Bamber, Ed Picton-Turbervill, and Chris Snowden. Each year, students who excel academically and contribute to the life of the College can be nominated for the awards, which are presented on the morning of General Admissions, or 'Degree Day'. Winners receive a unique handcrafted piece of silverware engraved with the College crest and their name, as well as a financial prize.

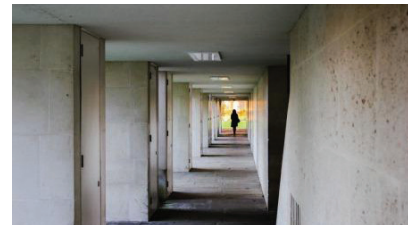


Winner of the 'Poetry in the Archives' competition announced

Paul Everest, Biographical Assistant in the Library, was the winner of 'Poetry in the Archives', a poetry

► Images: Arya Thampi – Arya Thampi; Partha Dasgupta Blue Planet - St John's College / Jake Dyer; Larmor Awards – St John's College; Poetry in the Archives - St John's College; Art and Photography Competition – Brett Wilson and Professor Ben Simons – Professor Ben Simons

competition open to staff and students. "Scribe" was written about the prick wheel, one of the hand-picked items on display in the Archive Centre especially for this competition. Poetry in the Archives was set up by College Archivist Tracy Deakin to mark the opening of the new Archive Centre in the School of Pythagoras.



Art and Photography Competition winners

The winners have been announced for the Art and Photography competition, an annual contest that gives students the opportunity to showcase their artistic skills. Ian Ostericher won the Black and White photography category for his Mongolian cattle-rancher image and the Colour category for his photograph of star trails over the ring of Brodgar; Brett Wilson won the College Life category for his image of Cripps; Ed Kendall was the winner of the Paintings and Drawings category for his picture of Brighton Pier; Archie Squire-Lindsay won the Sculpture category for his red and white vase, and the Digital Film category award went to by Gabor Tajnafoi for his film The Kitchen. Winning entries receive prizes of up to £200.



Professor Ben Simons awarded Gabor Medal 2015

Professor Ben Simons has been awarded the Royal Society's Gabor Medal for his ground-breaking work on understanding stem cell division and tissue renewal. Named after the Nobel Prize-winning engineer, Dennis Gabor, the award was first made in 1989 and is given biennially in recognition of outstanding work that also represents a collaboration between the Life Sciences and other disciplines.

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