

The Goat Post

LENT 2014





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THE GOAT POST

Things are slightly different this year for The Goat Post. As you can see, the magazine has been totally revamped. It hasn't been easy, but thanks to the new team of dedicated illustrators and designers we've pulled it off, and we hope that this pilot magazine will trigger smiles, laughs and debate.

We wanted to change our looks because we've changed fundamentally on the inside, too. The Goat Post wants to get Fitzbillies talking about Fitz. We want Billygoats to read about this college's past, present, and future, and we want the magazine to voice student opinions on college matters and bring attention to issues that concern us. That's why in this edition, Paul Bowman questions what Fitz is investing in on page 8, and why on page 4 James Sutton investigates the debate surrounding P-Block. Both of these articles aren't here to lecture or patronize; they've been written in hope getting Fitz citizens to think about college life and how to improve it. We students make this college what it is, and The Goat Post - a publication for Fitzbillies, by Fitzbillies - is a reflection of that.

But like most Fitz students, we don't want to take ourselves too seriously either. Fitz Fashion on page 12 shows how to pull off burgundy, grey, and stuffed animal goats, and for all of you history buffs, on page 6 Sarah Anne Aarup explores the life of Lee Kuan Yew, arguably Fitzwilliam's most under-recognized alumni and one of the greatest politicians of the previous century.

Even though The Goat Post has changed substantially, we still wanted to keep some of the time-honored sections. This term's sport report, compiled by Ged Norton and Jack Davies, can be found on page 19-21, and Phil Hart (a.k.a. the guy who abolished corkage) writes about what the JCR has achieved, and hopes to do, under his presidency.

Many people have worked hard to produce this relaunch and it could never have been done without them. Special thanks to Sarah Anne Aarup for guiding the creation of this magazine at every stage in its development; Anna Lawrence for the ideas and encouragement when it was still an abstract entity; Hannah Okorafor and Alice Walker for designing the publication entirely from scratch; and Fitzwilliam College, for kindly agreeing to fund this magazine.

Enjoy!

Tom Evans

Fitzwilliam College JCR Publications Officer
Editor-in-Chief of The Goat Post, 2014

CREDITS

The Goat Post

Tom Evans & Sarah Anne Aarup

Editors-in-Chief

Anna Lawrence

Co-Editor

Hannah Okorafor & Alice Walker

Design Editors

Illustrations by Alfie Glover-Short, Hannah Turner and

Florence Lee

Photography by Matteo Mirolo

Writers

Paul Bowman

Eleanor Costello

Jack Davies

Phil Hart

Ged Norton

James Sutton

Zachary Brubert

All views expressed in The Goat Post do not represent those of the JCR, nor of the Fellows and Staff of Fitzwilliam College.

MEET THE JCR



*Phil Hart
JCR President*



*Anna Kaye
Secretary*



*Alex Cicale
Head of Entz*



*Nick Fox
JCR Vice-President*



*Rob Machado
Academic Officer*



*Annie You Yuan
Treasurer*



*Ged Norton
President of Clubs
and Societies*



*Eleana Costello
Welfare Officer*



*Carl Plane
Target and Access
Officer*



*Jack Davis
Vice-President of
Clubs and Societies*



*Kiana Thorpe
Ethical Officer*

WE ARE THE JCR

PHIL HART, JCR PRESIDENT

An ongoing difficulty any JCR faces is its relevance to students. I was delighted to see we have the second-highest voting turnout in Cambridge, but it's vital that this is then reflected in what we do throughout the year. Everyone knows that we're here to provide services and put on events for Fitzbillies, but we're also here to represent students when it comes to important improvements and changes around our College. The new JCR committee has now been in office for two months, and aside from posing for photos for our new JCR website, donning our flash new hoodies, and being warmly welcomed by the Master and Fellows, a lot of work has already gone this term - both in front of and behind the scenes.

“A FAVOURITE SHOT OF MINE IS “THE ROWING”, WITH ITS APT TAGLINE, “WHY WOULD ANYONE DO IT?””

We started off the term with our Refreshers' Week programme of events, wonderfully organised by the Ents Team under the leadership of Alex Cicale. We hope you enjoyed the enormous variety of events we put on, ranging from the calm but popular Sherlock viewing and pub quiz, to the mad three-legged pub-crawl, and who could forget that music night in the bar...? The Ents Team have continued to leave their mark all over Fitz's social calendar with the return of the hugely successful Fitz Up Look Sharp, including a “Best of Cambridge” shot bar (a particular favourite of mine being a potent concoction christened “The Rowing”, with its apt tagline, “Why would anyone do it?”). And if you didn't get the chance this Lent to tie the knot and bop the night away with the love of your Fitz career, or mourn entering the second half of said career, then no worries - there'll be bops and music nights aplenty coming up!

On the Welfare side of things, plenty of action and discussion has already taken place with College and CUSU behind our calm, collected, chlamydia-

“WE'RE PREPARING FOR HOW THE JCR CAN IMPROVE STUDENTS' EXAM TERM EXPERIENCES”

tested exterior. Close bonds with CUSU have been forged, and together we're looking at implementing changes to the tutorial system that benefit students. We're also working with CUSU Welfare to improve how counseling is made available in Fitz. Looking to the future, we're preparing for how the JCR can improve students' exam term experiences, as well as Freshers' week next Michaelmas. It's a huge challenge for the team, but under the direction of Eleanor Costello it's one they've risen to.

A particular highlight of the term so far has been the re-introduction of an Ethnic Minorities' Officer to the JCR, a role fulfilled by Ashwin Aggarwal. Similarly, our Internationals' Officer, Matteo Mirolo, has worked hard to not only help unite the international community by hosting the internationals' party, but he's also worked alongside college to tackle issues such as P-Block, a topic which features later on in this magazine (which you may have noticed has been totally redesigned this year!).

And finally, no article from me would be complete without a plug for our communications team - both Anna's excellent Billy Bulletin, and, of course, our great new website, fitzjcr.com, produced by the hugely helpful Will Marks. Please feel free to use these to not only find out what's happening, but also to tell us what you'd like us to do for you!



THE P-BLOCK PROBLEM

JAMES SUTTON

“Has the segregation of international students created a ghetto?”

It's the day that every fresher has been anticipating and secretly fearing - moving-in day. Imagine then, the stress of finding yourself sat in a college room, alone, in a foreign country. As other freshers settle into their rooms and meet their neighbours, you are faced by a language barrier and the reality that you and your neighbours are physically isolated from the rest of the freshers. As if making friends wasn't difficult enough.

This is the experience of an international student, who, in finding themselves in P-block, faces the “extra burden” of a segregation imposed by the distance between their accommodation and the fresher's community in Tree Court. Sandwiched somewhat awkwardly between the chapel and second and third year accommodation, P-block is home, almost exclusively, to international freshers - whereas ‘home’ freshers, that is, UK students, are typically found in blocks A through F.

“THE PROBLEM WITH P-BLOCK WAS THAT THE PEOPLE INSIDE WERE IN A SORT OF ‘GHETTO’”

Matteo Mirolo, the newly elected JCR's International Officer, identifies this physical distance between P-block and Tree Court as a significant factor in the problem of integration for international students: “P-block is the only fresher's block that is in another area of college [...] and is quite far away from the rest of the fresher's blocks. So the problem with P-block was that the people that lived inside were in a sort of a, we can say, ‘ghetto’.”

Whilst Matteo seems at first to overstate the problem, a cursory glance at his International page on the JCR's website reveals that he does not shy away from the “injustices international students face and against which I will restlessly fight.” Regardless of Matteo's politics, his point stands that international students face an uphill struggle to integrate when faced by separation from the other freshers. He argues, convincingly, that “It is unfair to put a particular community in a block that is far away.”

“WE THINK IF SOMEBODY'S HERE FOR 39 WEEKS, CHANCES ARE, THEY MIGHT WANT TO PUT A PIZZA IN AN OVEN.”

“The problem of P-block,” as he calls it, has simple origins. Last year (2012/13) was the first in which the college offered the option of 39 week room contracts. Speaking to Sandra Welch, the college's Accommodation Officer, P-block was never intended as distinctly ‘international’ accommodation. She claims that the decision to place all the 39 week contract holders in P-block was purely practical, given that “There's ovens [in P-block gyp rooms] and we think if somebody's here for 39 weeks, over the vacations, chances are, they might want to put a pizza in an oven.”

However, herein lies the problem. As Sandra points out, “It is just that mostly international students want a 39 week contract because they can't get home as easily as a UK student.” And so, the problem of P-block was born.

A SOLUTION?

Communication and co-operation between college officials and the International Officer has resulted in a change of policy to be enacted for the next intake of freshers. Matteo recalls discovering that progress has been made: “things have changed in less than 3 weeks. I was surprised [when] talking to the Bursar who said, at the end of our meeting, in a normal tone, ‘Oh, by

the way, P-block has been cancelled for next year’.

P-block, of course has not been cancelled entirely, or even “blown up” as a concept, as Matteo is fond of claiming. It will remain, in Sandra’s words, a fresher’s block “at least for the next few years.” However, under new plans, international students taking up 39 week contracts will be found spread out amongst all of the fresher’s corridors. As discussions between Matteo, the JCR and college continue, it is not yet possible to identify how many international students will be on each

“IF WE DECIDE TO SCATTER PEOPLE AROUND COLLEGE, IT MAY MAKE INTEGRATION MORE DIFFICULT.”

corridor. Matteo, however, sees this as a “good start”.

He claims that these changes will make the international community much more “visible” in that “These people will be able to interact with British students in the fresher’s week and blocks.” That is not to say that this new policy is not without problems. Matteo

himself recognises that whilst “We know that in P-block there are people that are happy because they have formed groups, they are very friendly, united groups, if we decide [...] to scatter people around college, it may make integration more difficult for [them] because they cannot rely on each other anymore.”

To tackle this potential issue, greater focus is needed on creating a social scene for international students. Matteo envisages “a great international fresher’s week” which will both integrate overseas students with their peers and forge a strong international community. More frequent events which will bring together international and home students are at the heart of this approach.

Even by scattering international students around college, the P-block problem remains. According to the plans for next year’s freshers, the mixture of home and international students which will live in P-block will still face the problem of a physical separation from the fresher’s community in Tree Court. This is something which concerns Sandra, who identifies this problem as being just as likely to spark complaints and issues as the current arrangement: “Next year, if

“WE ARE REALLY LUCKY BECAUSE IT’S A COLLEGE THAT WANTS TO LISTEN TO ITS STUDENTS.”

for instance we started putting anyone anywhere, we would have a mixture on P. People on P-block would still be saying ‘I don’t like living here because I feel isolated from my peer group’.” Matteo, on the other hand, insists that home students would be more able to surmount this issue than international students under the current arrangement, whilst also being ‘fairer’.

When pushed on why it has taken a year and a half for the P-block problem to be addressed, Sandra said that “we do take on board that there’s rumblings. I didn’t have any complaints [...] last year. This year, I had

a couple. It’s not that we ignore what anybody says, it’s until we get [...] a representative that’s saying ‘Why is this happening?’ that we can look into it and change things.”

Matteo Mirolo, considering this same point, argues that “maybe we have to work on a better system of communication between college officials and students, or between college officials and the JCR.” However, he praises the college for their “understanding and kind” attitude in discussing the matter and stresses that “We are really lucky because it’s a college that wants to listen to its students.”

Whether, and how, the ‘P-block problem’ will be solved next year, and over the coming years, remains to be seen as talks continue. What we can be sure of, however, is that an international “ghetto” will not remain a feature of college life.



LEE KUAN WHO?

SARAH ANNE AARUP



Unlike most other colleges, Fitz's reputation within Cambridge is not solely based on the prestige of its most notable alumni. That is not because we have nothing worth boasting about: need I name the likes of Joseph Stiglitz, David Starkey, Vince Cable, and - of course - Nick Drake? The reason we're not famous for our alumni is because Fitz isn't a college that likes to boast; hubris is far too unattractive for people like us. But the sad downside of our modesty is that we all too often forget the startling influence that previous inhabitants of our unloved concrete walls have had on the world at large. And undoubtedly, one of our most important alumni is a man named Lee Kuan Yew. One of the greatest politicians of the 20th century, he practically single-handedly created an entire country from scratch. Today that country - not much bigger than the Isle of Man - has an economy to rival Denmark, Nigeria and even Hong Kong. Lee Kuan Yew, affectionately abbreviated to LKY, was - and still is - the father of Singapore. LKY is to Singapore what FDR is to the United States: not just an acronym, but also a metonym for one man's vision of a better and bolder nation.

Lee Kuan Yew was the first and longest serving Prime Minister of Singapore, from 1959 to 1990. He revolutionised the fledgling nation, which was tentatively granted full political autonomy in 1959, tottering between nationalist and communist sentiments. The People's Action Party (PAP), co-founded by Lee, won a landslide victory and has ruled the city-state ever since then. Lee's legendary stature in Singapore comes from the extraordinary national success story, often called "an economic miracle." Singapore was

one of Britain's key ports in Asia at the time, and yet it was a mere fraction of the global empire. Now, it ranks second in global competitiveness and freest economy and is fifth in millionaire density rate. Those rankings are the legacy of LKY's political vision.

According to Dr Helen Bettinson, Fitzwilliam's Development Director who travelled to Singapore with our Master Nicky Padfield this January, Singapore really is as wonderful as it sounds. "Their standards of education are amazing, it's a really nice place. The people are fantastic, really well educated, and very outward looking." And as Dr Bettinson acknowledges, "that success story was so much bound up with him [LKY] as an individual."

The life LKY would go on to lead was starkly



different to his time at Fitz in the 40s, but his experience here was not unlike our own. He found the food in hall “wholesome, although very British and very pallid.” He was also subjected to the slightly humiliating “tubbing” experience before being granted the honour to row on the Cam. Where Lee Kuan Yew’s Fitz experience truly differs from yours and mine is in after his time here. One thing he took away from his time in England was that, in his own words, “I had seen the British in their

A Challenge to Western precepts

own country and I questioned their ability to govern [Malaya and Singapore] for the good of the locals.”

Lee openly stated in a filmed interview: “Democracy does not necessarily lead to better governance and stability and prosperity.” And this political ideology sometimes translated into a fear to criticise him openly. However, this is slowly changing with the new generation of Singaporeans. One student here told me that her mother does not tolerate any criticism of Lee, since he is the one who brought the nation to where it stands today; however, the student sees some of his policies as retrograde. Another student pointed out family planning policies that bear striking parallels to eugenics.

In a talk given at the National University of Singapore in 1986, Lee said: “Three years ago, I was talking to a group of journalists [...] and one of the women journalists said to me: ‘But, Prime Minister, if a man wants to marry me for my genes, I do not want to marry him.’ And I thought to myself: This is plainly silly.” He then went on to explain how, “The way the old society did it was through polygamy. If you were a successful man, [...] you had more than one wife.”

In this light, his 1984 Graduate Mothers’ Scheme comes as no surprise. It was a series of economic incentives for graduate mothers to bear children, which can be seen as encouragement for women’s education. The other side of the coin is the disincentive for less educated Singaporean women, which caused public outcry. The Graduates Mothers’ Scheme was rapidly repealed, but it represented the desire for success that propelled the nation to prosperity.

All Singaporeans seem to have tasted the fruit of prosperity: according to the dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, “There are no homeless, destitute or starving people in Singapore.” Yes, officially there are none: Singapore has no “official measure of poverty.” Au Waipang, a Singaporean blogger, has calculated that in 2013, 25.5% of Singaporeans live under what he estimated to be the poverty line. Pressure is indeed building up for the government to recognise



Meritocracy is key

and address the problem, since Hong Kong published its first official poverty line last year. In 2013, after Al Jazeera aired a documentary on Singapore’s poverty, the channel was removed from Sing Tel—a company that provides digital television—and “you can now enjoy Al Jazeera English, exclusively on mio TV’s Channel 43.” Click on the “Channel 43” link: it redirects the users to Bloomberg Television. Lagging behind is not an official option for Singaporeans.

This mentality is reminiscent of trickle-down economics and of the American “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” mentality. If you want to succeed, then you are given the means to do so, but you’ve got to help yourself before others can help you. It is striking to see how Lee’s own story coincides with his nation’s dogma. Despite stemming from a middle-class family devoid of political links, he managed to become the first Singaporean prime minister at only 35 years old.

Dr Bettinson told me that, “you do get a sense in Singapore that they have an extremely good, robust, meritocratic legal structure.” Lee ranked first in high school national exams, so he managed to secure a place at LSE, and then here at Fitz. He later created the legislative structure in his country to provide a similar educational opportunity for young Singaporeans. Now, the best-ranking students are given free education at prestigious American and British institutions. One of my Singaporean friends is here on such a scholarship. “He got where he did because of raging intellect and ambition,” words used by Dr Bettinson to describe Lee Kuan Yew, can just as easily be used to describe my friend.

Photos kindly provided by Fitzwilliam College

DIRTY MONEY

PAUL BOWMAN

Should we be wary of what Fitz is investing in?

Socially responsible investment doesn't exactly trip off the tongue. As social justice campaigns go, its instant appeal rather pales in comparison to 'Free Nelson Mandela' or 'Occupy Wall Street'. Yet although it may not make the title of a Specials song, that doesn't mean it's unimportant. When big money's being thrown around it has a big impact. No matter how unromantic an issue it is, investments matter. Much was

“DO WE ALSO SUPPORT COMPANIES THAT EQUIP OPPRESSIVE REGIMES OR VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS?”

written in Cambridge's student newspapers last term in outcry at the endowment fund investments of various colleges. Trinity's drones provided particularly good headline material. But what's the situation at Fitz? Do we also support companies that equip oppressive regimes or violate human rights? As Fitz's students, there would be no college without us. It may seem an obvious point, but this is an institution in which we are deeply invested (excuse the pun) – both emotionally and financially. How does it represent us to the world?

Well, there's good news and bad news. Good news: we have an ethical investment policy. Bad news: we still directly and deliberately invest in some highly questionable companies (and may be indirectly investing in some even worse ones). But let's take the positive points first. Unlike some colleges, we actually take ethics into account. We get some (tentative) praise from Jonas Knapp, Ethical Investment Officer at CUSU, who says that it's "good to see" that Fitz

"has an investment policy that gives [it] the possibility not to invest directly in certain companies based on moral decisions." The policy itself highlights that Fitz "may from time to time" choose not to invest in tobacco companies, arms companies trading in illegal arms or supplying countries which UK law forbids them to, or companies dependent upon pornography or child labour.

When Murray Edwards, just next door, has a policy explicitly prohibiting ethically-based decisions, we seem practically angelic in comparison. So that's great! Good for us. Back-slaps all round. "What is there to worry about?", I hear you say. Now we can get on with our lives with a warm fuzzy feeling inside, and, dare I suggest, a slight aura of moral superiority.



Unfortunately not. First, whilst having a policy is an important step, it could be a lot stronger. The tentative wording of the policy is an issue, but to be fair to college they don't directly invest in any companies that their policy stipulates they "may from time to time" choose not to. However, you just need to look at the companies Fitz currently invests in to see that the policy could be a lot stronger. Royal Dutch Shell, Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton and Glencore Xstrata immediately

stand out as companies (all engaged in oil extraction, mining or both) who have a history of human rights controversies and, at least in the case of the first three, environmental degradation.

Let's take the example of Royal Dutch Shell. In the Niger Delta, Nigeria, Shell has been repeatedly shown to severely under-report the oil spills it causes, which result in destruction of the delta environment



and the livelihoods of the farmers and fishermen that depend on it. Health problems have also resulted from pollution of water supplies. Shell refuses to take responsibility for anything like the number of spills it causes, so the people so devastatingly affected going uncompensated. This has been the subject of an Amnesty International campaign. There are parallel allegations with Glencore Xstrata in Bolivia and Rio Tinto in Indonesia; with water and air pollution decimating indigenous communities. Human rights violations are also alleged, including child labour in the case of a BBC Panorama documentary about Glencore Xstrata in Bolivia and Rio Tinto in Indonesia; with water and air pollution decimating

“CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES INVEST A COMBINED TOTAL OF £1 BILLION IN FOSSIL FUEL AND MINING COMPANIES”

indigenous communities. Human rights violations are also alleged, including child labour in the case of a BBC Panorama documentary about Glencore Xstrata.

The argument against investing in these companies goes beyond just specific examples. Many of the university’s researchers contributed to the IPCC’s fifth assessment report, which stated



that it is “extremely likely” (95% confidence) that human emissions caused the majority of twentieth century climatic warming. It seems hypocritical that

Cambridge colleges, Fitz included, invest a combined total of £1 billion in fossil fuel and mining companies; perpetuating potentially dangerous climate change as colleges seemingly reject their own researchers’ advice.

I understand why Fitz invests in such companies. Lots of people and organisations do. They get good financial returns, as you might expect exploitative practices to. However, a multitude of studies have shown that the evidence for unethical investments getting superior returns simply doesn’t add up. MSCI, a leading investment analysis firm, has an index showing the performance of socially responsible companies. From 1998-2013, it grew by 93%. MSCI’s index for the top American companies grew by 94.9%, a negligible difference, over the same period.

Even aside from that, there’s the question of what we consider more important – getting a little more money for Fitz, or ceasing to support practices that destroy lives. Norway’s government stopped investing in Rio Tinto on ethical grounds. Why can’t we?

I’m not proclaiming to be some kind of omniscient moral judge, possessing the absolute truth of right and wrong and the ability to make the world a better place IF ONLY people would listen to me. But I think that as Fitz students we should realise that we are the college – and where the college puts its money reflects our interests and ethics, whatever they may be.



OMG GMO!

TOM EVANS

You are what you eat. Like the clothes you wear or the tunes you pump out from your speakers, your three square meals a day influence how people perceive you. It might not be as overt as fashion or music, but it's still true. Think Guardian readers grazing on quinoa, or LA moms slurping superfood smoothies, or Supersize-me kids wolfing down some KFC in the back of a Hummer. OK, so these are ignorant stereotypes, but there's still a message here: food is so intricately tied up with what people think of us.

But in fact, it works the other way too - what we eat is a reflection of how we see ourselves. And you might not think about it much, but Fitz food is a huge part of our lives here. For some, the Buttery's daily dishes and the café's snacks constitute the entirety of their recommended daily allowances. And that means we should care about what food they serve us here in Fitz. We're lucky, because we get the chances to have our say. Earlier this term the JCR held a Food and Drink Open Meeting, and interestingly, one topic raised was about Fitz's attitude towards GM foods.

Fitz doesn't cater genetically modified food. Rob Clarke, Catering Manager at Fitz, was more than happy to talk about college food, and explained that this stance "was decided some years ago, when less was known about GM foods". Actually, Fitz itself didn't make the decision, but the Catering Manager's Committee, an intercollegiate committee that organizes kitchens across the university, made it instead. The rationale behind their anti-GM stance was that it was safer not to use them. In an email to me, Mr. Clarke described how "there was a lot of public concern around at the time with people needing assurances

that their food did not contain any GM foods".

GM foods were, for a long while, considered risky simply because we knew so little about their effects on human health. But since their introduction in the 1980s, there has been no trustworthy scientific evidence that GM foods cause illnesses. Today, genetically modified crops are cultivated on about one-tenth of the world's agricultural land. Indeed, GM seems like the future of food in a world where climate change makes drought, disease, and crop failure more likely to become a regular occurrence.

So given that GM is widely regarded as safe, why does Fitz still not serve it? Mr. Clarke says it's simple: "The issue regarding GM foods have generally been forgotten about". But he also went on to indicate that change might be on the cards: "I [...] imagine that now the topic has been raised we will debate it at the next committee meeting."

Peter Singer, in a recent article advocating GM foods, wrote, "Caution is reasonable. What needs to be rethought, however, is blanket opposition to the very idea of GMOs." Fitz prides itself on being forward thinking and progressive, "The best of the old and the new". Our current stance is at odds with this motto, but if we remember the old adage "You are what you eat", then it's clear that our college's attitudes towards GM food should change. Thankfully, it looks like change is on the menu.



BUTTERY REVIEW

ZACH BRUBERT



How much is a pint of milk? Many a politician has fallen at this hurdle, and in their defence, as a sixth former, I myself hadn't a clue. But relocating to Cambridge has now made me hyperaware of the answer, not least considering the alarming rate at which it disappears if, by misfortune or common agreement, you have become the chief milkmaid for your corridor. When anarchy has descended to the point of lines drawn on milk bottles and water surreptitiously added to cover your milk thieving crimes, you know things have got out of hand. We pine for the seemingly limitless milk found in the fridge at home. It is on the morning commute to the gyp room fridge that you are reminded of the fact that this is most certainly not home.

The challenge of recreating the food-based comforts of home is one that the Buttery faces on a daily basis. With only a team of seven compared to the team of thirteen found in the kitchens at King's, they manage to feed up to 500 people per day. It was with this in mind that we tried a full selection of the foods on offer at the buttery and café. Going in at lunch, when the Buttery caters for up to 100 diners, we sampled both butternut squash and chicken curry, and duck (something) accompanied by roast potatoes, red cabbage and French beans. First things first, the roast potatoes were excellent; perfectly crispy on the outside, fluffy on the inside. However, the red cabbage failed to meet my high expectations, given its glorious potential when slow cooked. The chicken in the curry, and the duck, although both slightly dry, were tasty enough. And for those of you who haven't experimented, there is a

myriad of teas available in the café, including chocotea, 'matcha' tea (an extra strong green tea), and superfruit tea. So if you think the meat's not rare enough, or think a half a kilo of sweetcorn each is a little excessive, or want excitement with your root vegetables, or even simply love all the buttery food, talk to Rob Clarke, the Catering Manager, because he wants to know.





F
I
T
Z





FASHION







FITZ JCR UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT!

ELEANOR COSTELLO

Have you ever thought of some hard-hitting questions that you'd like to ask the JCR, and watch them squirm?

Well, I have taken it upon myself to grill our so-called representatives on the questions that really matter.

Here are their considered responses:

1. Would you rather email everyone that you know (including your supervisors) a naked selfie or become notorious for having an animal fetish?

Phil Hart, JCR President:
"Definitely option a - the naked selfie. As JCR President, it is my job to give the people what they want... Simple."

Hmm, a cocky response, but then again, he does row.

2. Would you rather have your front teeth fall out, or all of your best friend's teeth fall out?

Nick Fox, Vice President:
"Easy - I would rather all of my best friend's teeth fall out. Why? I like food. I like food, a lot. And not having my front teeth would pose a great difficulty to my eating ability. Steak just isn't the same when consumed through a straw..."

An honest, but surprisingly selfish answer. My condolences to Nick's best friend...

3. Would you rather put on 10 stone, or develop a deathly allergy to alcohol and chocolate?

Anna Kaye, Secretary:

“As someone with a lifelong dedication to chocolate and a pretty strong love of alcohol, I’d have to waver towards gaining 10 stone. However, I’m very lazy and I imagine weighing 20 stone makes doing stuff quite hard. On the plus side, if I weighed that much I could buy all my clothes from those catalogues that come with colour supplement in the newspaper and not worry about being scared of the women that work in Topshop anymore...”

Anna is impressively dedicated to alcohol and chocolate, 10 stone is quite the sacrifice. What she clearly hasn’t considered though is that she’d have to buy a new Fitz JCR hoodie. Nightmare!

5. Would you rather be handcuffed to your college spouse for a term, or spend one passionate night of marital consummation with them?

6. Would you rather throw up on your supervisor or go commando for a year?

Matteo Mirolo:

“My recent achievement “International Officer puts on fish nets and discovers the prostitution market” proves, I am a man of my word and my political courage knows no boundaries. So what I’ll do is that I’m gonna try both, and give you my answer in one term. But to be honest, I have always fancied the idea of having college sex in the UL. It is a bit like an Arab palace in the story of the thousand and one nights; the librarians would be the eunuchs and also, the smell of old books is so aphrodisiacal!”

Erm.. I hadn’t really thought my questions would be taken so seriously - I’m impressed! Although feeling a bit guilty towards Matteo’s college husband.

Ged Norton:

“I am quite sure that I would rather throw up on my supervisor. Most of them are fairly nice and might even find it a change from the usual drab New Testament discussion. One of my supervisors often tells people that they are ‘floating in a soup of mediocrity which tastes almost of nothing’, so he might even find a well-aimed chunder to be quite a refreshing taste! Not to mention the fatal denim rub which would plague your crotch for a long 365 days...”

Ged speaks like a man who is experienced in matters of commando-ness. Plus it sounds to me that one of Ged’s supervisor needs to be vomited on because of his harsh comments! So there we have it, an insight into the inner-workings of the Fitz JCR.

Good to know that the welfare of Fitz is in such safe hands.



SPORTS

GED NORTON AND JACK DAVIES

At the end of the day, it's a game of two halves.

FOOTBALL

Fitz Women's Football

The Fitz women's football team are having a great season and are currently top of the first division. This is a fantastic achievement so far. The title race will be closely fought with Christ's, our main rivals. A tough game against Christ's resulted in a loss, putting them just behind Fitz with one game still in hand. We hope that things have gone well for them in the 2nd half of Lent! Unfortunately in the plate a number of injuries in extra-time took a nine-woman team down to seven in the quarter finals, and so Fitz were forced to concede the match. In the meantime, the team have travelled to Oxford for their annual match with Teddy Hall, our sister college.

Fitz Men's Football

The abundance of rain has led to a disappointing amount of football this term for the league and cuppers champions Fitz 1st XI. Wins in mid-season friendlies provided promising signs, as neighbours Churchill and neighbours of a different type, ARU, were dispatched comprehensively. The team put a huge effort on a ruined pitch, to come from behind and beat Trinity Hall, the league leaders, by two Bogle goals to one. Unfortunately we haven't been able to play any games since then. Dave Norman claims it's "the most rain in 17 years". The 1sts still have three fixtures remaining: Homerton, Jesus and a potential winner takes all league decider against Caius at the end of term.

The 2nd XI's only game in the first half of the term was a local derby against Churchill. Fitz dominated the game in the first half despite the absence of inspirational captain Oliver Jones. Fitz controlled possession, with Neat and Tice dictating the tempo, and were unfortunate to be not to be more than a single goal ahead, Ross Ewen providing the breakthrough direct from a corner. Two Churchill breaks beat Fitz's high line, and the rivals were 2-1 up with 10 minutes to go.

A huge response from Fitz saw Sandbach and Harris putting in huge tackles to win the ball back. A long range effort from Harris in the dying seconds resulted in a 2-2 draw. A bit disappointing, but Fitz 2nds remain in a good position for a respectable mid-table finish in division 3. In the meantime they have played a semi-final in the Shield vs. either Jesus or Kings following on from an 8-0 demolition of Sidney Sussex in Michaelmas, so there's every chance of cup glory this season.

Lent term has been a bit of a let down for the 3rds due to weather conditions causing cancellations - hopefully things improve in the latter half of term.

RUGBY

Narrowly losing out of promotion in the league, Fitz are ploughing all their efforts into the Cuppers tournament this term, which they have done well in in the last few years. FCRUFC's only league game in Lent came in week 1, against a rusty Catz side. With both teams still carrying the excesses of Christmas about them the match was a scrappy one indeed, in which Fitz forged a heroic draw in the last play - captain Tim Fleyre finally breaking the line and putting steroid abuser Oli Jones in for the try. Tice added the extras for a 12 all draw. Cuppers began in week 4, and having seen away Trinity (a team in the league above Fitz don't you know) 7-3 after monumental defence and a debut try for Ross 'core strength' Ewen, the next fixture is against first division Jesus, a match which promises to be a real tough one. Big hand to all those who have played, including strong line running from Howe, Harley, Harper Donnelly and Fleyre, huge tackling from Fielder, Evangelou, Kea ne, and Leahy, and the ever-present Welsh David Joseph and scuffling for the ball at the breakdown. Thanks also to the dedicated core of fans for turning up to every match, led by Col Plane and Richard Courtney Pinfield.

ROWING



This term has been a strong one for Fitz first men, with results placing in the top half of men's college crews at the City Head to Head (2 x 2000m sprints) and 24th overall out of 113 crews. Similar results were seen at Newnham short course, where M1 came 7th in the M1 division. We're looking forward to the Lent Bumps (Tues 25th Feb - Sat 1st March) where we're hoping for a bump on Emma, plus a revenge bump on Caius II who are coming down. M2 have been training hard, and the mainly novice crew have advanced a great deal. Despite the weather, they've managed to have a good set of outings including the Pembroke Regatta before trialling in the Getting on Race for bumps. The end of Lent term was the Head of the River Race, where over 400 crews compete from worldwide through central London. We hope that both crews can get a place and show Fitz off in the real world of rowing!

Building on last term's bumper crop of novices, the women's side has managed to field three senior boats this term. With one ex-novice in the first boat and several members of the second boat vying for a place in W1 next term, it promises to be an exciting fortnight for a strong W1 and W2 this Lent Bumps, with W1 psyching themselves up to bump Girton W1, and W2 hoping to qualify for Bumps in the Getting On Race on Friday 21st Feb. Unfortunately the bad weather has meant that W3's race (and outings!) have largely been cancelled, but they remain hard at work in training. W2 took on Newnham Short Course on Saturday 1st Feb. W1 took on City Head to Headon Saturday 25th January, finishing 21st out of 63 women's crews. Both crews rowed in the Pembroke Regatta.

NETBALL

Ladies netball got off to another flying start this term with three matches played and three victories gained - something the team is particularly pleased about given their recent promotion to Division 2. Having proven they can step up their game to face

tougher opposition, they're hoping to have a good shot at getting beyond the pool stages of Cuppers this year! Fitz finished in a strong mid-table position last term and so remain in Mixed Netball League 2 of 3. In the face of diverse playing conditions, near-deprivation of Sunday Lunch and opposition teams who have suddenly upped the bar, they've had a spectacularly unlucky start to the term. Despite some very liquid play (and, of course, their deeply serious commitment to the proper rules and techniques of netball...) two nail-biting draws are the best they can show for their efforts.

HOCKEY

Fitz hockey (joint with Trinity and affectionately known as Titz) has been storming ahead in the second half of the season. Having been promoted from div 3 to div 1, the men's side are holding their own in the top league beating Selwyn and drawing with Johns, but suffering defeats from Jesus and Catz who remain at the top. The ladies have not been faring as well, having to concede a match due to lack of players, but they're hopeful for some more successes later in the term. Outside of Titz, Fitz has also entered a team into mixed cuppers in which they took a heroic win against Churchill with 'big dog Bristow' making a rare appearance in college hockey and helping to secure a semi-final place.

BASKETBALL

A few problems with attendance this term for the basketball team. Despite having a joint team with Magdalene, they had trouble getting five players for a match, with the notable exception of Ope Oduyeye, who has been a key player all the way. This led to us getting 3 losses and a draw this term. Next up are the Cuppers, so hopefully they will turn the tide around.

SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

Fitz water polo is a growing sport in the college and this year they have had a brilliant turn out for matches. They have won one match and lost two this term, however with one match left in the league and one friendly against Addenbrookes, a local Cambridge team, after time of writing. Next term is cuppers and they hope to be able to get far through the tournament. A shout out to the two excellent goal keepers Sophus Zu Ermgassen and Kevin McCarthy, and outfield players Tom Gough, Harry Machete-Downes and Renate Fromson. Not too much swimming to report on as of yet, but Cuppers is coming up - an event in which Fitz have generally done very well.

TENNIS

Last term was the first time Fitz has ever entered La ladies tennis team in what was previously a rather under-publicized winter league. In spite of the wind and the rain, the girls showed up week on week to play the other colleges. The league finished at the beginning of this term, with Fitz girls coming out second, just behind Murray Edwards, who constantly fielded a really strong team. This means things have looked really hopeful for tennis coppers at the end of this term/in the summer term! Everyone is so welcome to come along and play, regardless of standard or amount of practice.

BADMINTON

It's been a slow and steady start to this term for the Men's Badminton team, with a few solid training sessions and a closely fought loss in the league to Caius. They had lots of matches in quick succession in the 2nd half of term, including a coppers match against Robinson as well a lot of league matches to push for promotion. The Fitz ladies badminton team has gone up a division in the college league this term. They lost their first 2 matches but have attempted to turn it around in the latter half of term. Badminton practice sessions take place every Wednesday 8-10pm in the auditorium.



SQUASH

The women's squash team had a disappointingly quiet start and, despite being in the first league, other teams have struggled to get enough players. However, they remain currently 1-0 up against Johns in the coppers quarter finals thanks to a very comfortable win by Sally Millett and are hoping to win our next match in order to qualify for the following round. We are also very excited to see Sally, Ellie Davies and Anira Perera training with the uni teams and wish them best of luck in their play offs and, if all goes well, in Varsity!

MIXED LACROSSE

The Fitz Mixed Lacrosse team plays with Peterhouse and Murray Edwards, and this term so far has seen several strong performances, including a hard fought draw with Magdalene. There was also a very funny game against Newnham - our derby game. The 2nd half of term saw a Lacrosse Formal swap with Selwyn and of course Cuppers.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

The Thundercatz have had a great term of Ultimate Frisbee being successful in all their college league matches. It has not been plain sailing though as every match has been tight right down to the last point with some very close score lines to prove it. Some excellent performances and a great team effort across the board. They are looking forward to cuppers (If the wind and rain ever stop ruining their fun!).



the Goat Post

To get involved, e-mail ta2408@cam.ac.uk
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