

# St John's College Junior Common Room

## The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 3rd meeting of Trinity Term 2015  
10th of May 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

**Academic Affairs Officer: Peter Blenkharn**

Na.

**Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby**

This week's been pretty busy. On Tuesday I met with Sarah Jones to start planning open days and the roadshow. College have agreed to extend the roadshow to visit our target schools in London which is great. Applications for both the roadshow and the open days are now open- so keep your responses coming in. Next Tuesday is the TeachFirst access training event. This should be a really great session ft. loads of pizza. I've also been working with the welfare team and Eden (MCR prez) on revising college's suspended student policy. New SLO starts Monday (yay!) so hopefully there will be lots more school visits this term.

**Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot**

Report: Free scoop of ice cream for finalists on monday - wednesday of 4th and 6th week. Looking ahead, would love some helpers for freshers events and freshers fair. Get to wear one of the highly coveted jackets.

**Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape**

*The Domestic Officers realised this week that whilst they've got the "Officer" side of their role down (as the upcoming Guest Dinner will no doubt prove), they don't quite feel "Domestic" enough, somehow. To remedy this, they have decided to "start building houses for JCR members" - we don't quite know how serious they are about this but stay tuned for the JCR Housing Scheme. (To be delivered.)*

**Entz Officers: Kim Myton & Sssuna Golooba-Mutebi**

More time thinking up fab new ideas for Bops, and speaking with the MCR about their First Responders and Harassment at Events policy, which we are hoping to bring to the JCR.

**Environment & Ethics Officers: Sally Hayward & Jen Lord**

We've met with the librarian over replacing the plastic bags in the library with biodegradable alternatives, which he is looking into. We also had our first fairtrade brunch of the term, which was a success.

**Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik**

Organising an international food event for before 4th week (hopefully 3rd!). Speaking to vendors such as the bubble tea people and the nice dumpling lady from gloucester green to come in and feed the masses. ( ヾ(=^▽^)=)

### **Welfare Officers: Beth Candlin & Charles Goodman**

The past two weeks have been quite busy with planning for a few welfare events that we have up our sleeves in the next few weeks. Our latest order of welfare supplies has just arrived, so we're all stocked up. We also now have everything we need for the finalists' welfare packs, which will be made up and pidgeoned this week. Organisation for college marriages on 4th week are well underway and our help with the Suspended Status Students Working Group, alongside students from the MCR is continuing with success. Last week's TW Tea was also well attended - thanks to everyone who helped out! There was a Men's Lunch and Welfare Lunch which were good. We hope many of you made use of the STI testing last week in college. Trinity can be a stressful term so we'd like to reiterate that we and the Peer Supporters are about if you need to chat!

### **Women's Officer: Lidia Fanzo**

Over the last two weeks I have been writing and planning the JCR gym survey, organising the new sanitary product system and Women's lunches. I've also been working out the details for the Women's Garden Party and have been planning some other exciting events for people of all genders this term.

### **Treasurer: Vicky Skornia**

Sorry that I cannot attend the meeting today. I've spent the week making reimbursements and payments. The punt club is also going well with a good number of MCR members also joining.

### **Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh**

Well Christina and I have elected a new freshers committee. congrats to them and thank you all for the many applications - we didn't expect that! Working with welfare reps and one of the freshers committee secs, Bex redding to recruit freshers helpers. Other than that just sorting out the timetable for freshers week woo

### **Secretary: Danny Waldman**

Heyho,

Ruthlessly emailed the termcard man until he finally got off his arse and put them in production (which, once he finally did that, turned out to take just as long as it usually does... funny that), met with the lovely Constitutional Reform Committee and we have dealt with the drafting of the Articles (yay!) - we should have met again by this meeting to start work on the Standing Orders. Also minuted the JCR Presidents' Committee (a brief glimpse for me of what never was...), and tried to clean the JCR Office again - got about as far as opening the door 10 degrees. That place breeds rubble, I swear.

### **President: Christina St Clair**

Hello everyone,

The last two weeks have been alright. I've been to educational policy committee and discussed the value of presidential collections and Fania (Art Rep) and I went to the committee for the promotion of music and visual arts. We also had a cracking OUSU council last week and I hosted a joint meeting with all the JCR and MCR Presidents from other colleges (thanks to Danny for minuting) where we discussed how to push the university for Prelims feedback. Rents and charges negotiations are on the table at the moment so I'm working on that. Not much else to report. Contact me with questions/problems/suggestions. C x

### **iv/ Reps' reports**

#### **Alumni & Development Rep: Beth Gregory**

The A&D Office have been quite busy recently! The Telephone Campaign this Easter was very successful, and there is a Benefactor's Reception which JCR members are invited to attend. It will take place in London and looks set to be a great evening, so please do email Caitlyn if you're interested!

There is also a competition each year which we could get involved in.. The winner is the College with donations from the highest proportion of recent graduates. I'm looking into the possibility of a student-driven initiative, as the winners get these donations matched! The Office are also keen to find out our opinions on the travel awards (Hans Michael Capari and Burke Knapp) as there seems to be less interest than would be expected. If there's any reason that you wouldn't apply, whether that be the application process, the countries available, or so forth, please email me (bethany.gregory@sjc.ox.ac.uk) to let me know! Positive feedback would also be really helpful, and any ideas that you may have to improve the grants.

#### **Art Rep: Fania Weatherby & Lauren Kennedy**

*Some has theorised that Helen McCombie actually never stopped being the Art Rep, and that Fania and Lauren are actually paintings Helen made to carry out the day to day administration of the Scheme. Unfortunately, as paintings are inanimate for us muggles, they can't respond to requests for reports all that well. (To be delivered.)*

#### **Bike Rep: Edmund Woolliams**

*Understandably, Ed has needed a bit of time to take over running the multimillion-dollar military operation that Anatoly left behind. He started by compiling a list of assets, but this quickly became a list of lists as he struggled to keep the many thousands of tonnes of raw minerals properly organised whilst maintaining an inventory of the various assault aircraft. Perhaps wisely, he has now decided to hire Anatoly as an administrator, allowing Ed to focus on the wider questions such as "why are we here?", "am I real", and "what is a bike?". (To be delivered.)*

#### **Charities Rep: Cecilia Peker & Meredith Hood**

We've been working on getting charity sweatshirts organised for everyone the last couple of weeks, which lots of people got involved with and got their forms in on time - well done them! We're planning a charity comedy night (hopefully for 4th week) with the Oxford Imps (among others) in support of Mind, which we hope you'll all come to - more details to follow soon. The Oxford Dignity Drive has been going on in second week which hopefully lots of you went to the events for, and donated generously. Various charity motions are coming up this evening - make sure you support them! Charity love, M & C xx

#### **Computer Rep: Eliot Ball**

*The One, as Eliot likes to be called, has recently gone back in time and sent us a message saying that he discovered a little-known, startup organisation called Apple. He said he wasn't 100% sure but reckoned that they might be in with a shout as far as computers are concerned, so he decided to contribute £100 to their initial product drive in return for a 15% share in the company. He hasn't come back from his time travelling yet, but begging bowls are already appearing outside his door.*

#### **Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth**

*This week Tom has been obsessed with Corn Flakes. We weren't really sure why until we tried it again ourselves - I mean, how long ago was it that you tried them? Sure, we were all forced to eat them instead of Coco Pops from time to time so they become the devilmereal, but if you give them a second chance... fuck these Corn Flakes are tasty... (To be delivered.)*

#### **DVD Rep: Charles Clegg**

All has been rather quiet in the land of D.V.D.s, not least because I have decided to take out the collection after my collections: which have been delayed until tomorrow. Nonetheless, I will get

things up and running soon and really ought to return my receipts to Vicky for the D.V.D.s I bought last term.

#### **Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi**

*“Come here scallywag! Get back here ye scurvy dog I want a word with ye and yer stupid reports! How’d ye even get on me vessel?!”* (To be delivered.)

#### **International Students Reps: Syrie Byfield**

*Syrie is tired of the barriers international students face, both practically and socially, in coming to university in the UK. We were somewhat alarmed when she told us her solution to this problem was to set up a military dictatorship, conquer the West and push for a united world government.* (To be delivered.)

#### **LGBTQ Reps: Flora Sheldon & Jamie Jackson**

Whilst even the John’s LGBTQ squad is not immune to finals, there have been informal drinks etc. continuing. Later in the term we have a lunch, welfare LGBTea-Q and even a trip to London planned. We are also keeping our eyes on the Irish same-sex marriage referendum in two weeks...

#### **OUSU Rep: Blagovest Gospodinov**

*Blago, like many OUSU Reps before him, has sadly become a move to vote (it happens to the best of us - S.). We’re still waiting to hear if he has passed, or if points of discussion will continue. Either way, our thoughts are with his amendments.* (To be delivered.)

#### **PRAT: Ed Evans**

*Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full!  
One for the master, one for the dame,  
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane.*  
(To be delivered.)

#### **Returning Officer: Will van Duzer**

If Thursday wasn’t enough democracy for you, you’ll be pleased to hear that all timetabling information is now available for the JCR By-election, which is due to take place in 6th week as you can see on your term card. Nominations will open on Sunday of 4th week for Academic Affairs officer, for Bethan Candlin’s position of Welfare officer, and for Women’s officer (*we don’t want you to go! waaaaah* - S.). All information will go out in a JCR email in due course, until then just pop an email to [william.vanduzer@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:william.vanduzer@sjc.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

### **v/ Ratifications**

### **vi/ Items for discussion**

### **vii/ Agenda Items**

#### **a/ The motion to support Students for Happiness**

Proposer: Cecilia Herbert

Seconded: Georgina Berriman

This JCR notes that...

- a. Although there is adequate mental health support inside and out of college, as well as women’s and men’s welfare support, we believe that there is a deficit in information and education about more general student happiness and well-being
- b. Not only is it vitally important to foster worthwhile organizations about the well-being of students, in which St John’s students have an active role in, but it is also incredibly

- important that the university provides education in these fields
- c. Well-being, happiness and mental health can sometimes be compromised or worsened in the pressurized university environment, and it is important that education plays a key role in combatting the issue and focusing on non-clinical forms of unhappiness, on top of the medical support services at the university.

This JCR believes that...

- d. We believe that there should be an increase in easily accessible talks, workshops, and online resources for a day to day motivation, self-led, and community led positive psychological movement
- e. Students for Happiness believes that people should prioritise well-being and place greater emphasis on collaborative ways of living, which value positive relationships, fulfillment and altruism, all of which have been proven to create greater long-term happiness, by engaging with issues concerning well-being, happiness and mindfulness in an intellectual capacity

This JCR resolves to:

- f. Assist in the start-up of the first Students for Happiness event in Oxford in May 2015, which will be a panel discussion including speakers such as Dr. Mark Williams of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre, Nic Marks who runs the New Economics Foundation and the Centre for Well Being, Miriam Akhtar, and Dr Sophie Bostock
- g. In October, Oxford Students for Happiness will also welcome to Oxford, Dr Ilona Boniwell who is a leading international positive psychologist and Dr Barry Schwartz, who is a leading psychologist in social theory and social action and whose TED talks have had over 10 million views
- h. This JCR proposes assistance in the form of funding for hiring a venue for this panel in May & October in St John's College, accessible to all students here and at other colleges, which is estimated at the cost of £300

#### **b/ Oxford Dignity Drive Motion**

Proposer: Cecilia Peker      Seconded: Katy Haigh

This JCR notes that

1. Many homeless and vulnerably housed people in Oxfordshire have difficulty with regular access to sanitary products while menstruating.
2. Oxford Dignity Drive will take place throughout second week, with a couple of events after that.
3. This will be a one-off drive to collect physical donations of sanitary products to be donated to a number of shelters in Oxford and Oxfordshire.
4. There will also be a drive to raise funds to purchase sanitary products for additional donations.
5. Over the course of the second week drive there will also be a programme of events to raise awareness about this issue and other related topics including homelessness and stigma around menstruation.
6. There are a number of administrative costs such as speaker travel expenses and purchases of boxes for storage of products.

This JCR believes that

1. Sanitary products are an essential item for people who menstruate, and that homeless people should not be forced to use unsafe or unhygienic alternatives.
2. By donating products and by raising awareness, Oxford Dignity Drive will be campaigning against this injustice against homeless and vulnerably housed people in Oxford.

**This JCR resolves to**

1. Donate £300 towards Oxford Dignity Drive

**c/ The Save the Children Nepal Earthquake Appeal Charity Motion**

Proposer: Lidia Fanzo

Seconded: Bethan Candlin

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. Hundreds of thousands of children are injured, homeless and struggling to find basics like clean water following the devastating earthquake in Nepal
- b. More than 7,000 people have been killed by the earthquake which struck on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, and the final death toll is expected to be higher still. Around 2 million children are affected by the disaster.
- c. Save the Children has been working in Nepal since 1976. They have lots of experience in the area.
- d. Save the Children is raising money for the Nepal appeal as a member of the DEC- 13 aid agencies working together at times of disasters and emergencies

**This JCR believes that: *(Why the situation should be changed)***

- e. The charity needs money to support local medical staff and foreign medic arriving daily
- f. Help is needed to rescue people in crisis and to distribute supplies to those in some of the hardest hit regions outside Kathmandu Valley, including Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk districts

**This JCR therefore resolves to: *(What do you propose we do?)***

- g. Give £300 to Save the Children

**d/ The “Positive Minds” Motion**

Proposer: Chiara Bleckenwegner

Seconded: Maham Khan

**This JCR notes that: *(Facts about the current situation)***

- a. 1 in 10 people will experience depression and/or anxiety in any one year.
- b. “Positive Minds” is Oxford’s first-ever entirely student-run support group for students with mild depression and low mood.
- c. Three students from St. John’s have been involved in founding the support group, and are current facilitators at Positive Minds.
- d. Running group sessions is costly; we fundraise termly in order to provide resources for these sessions and to pay for training new facilitators.
- e. There is at present only one support group that runs every term (and can only support 15 people at any given time), even though the support groups are heavily oversubscribed and the waiting list is very long (over 75 for this term).

**This JCR believes that: *(Why the situation should be changed)***

- f. With more funding, we can train more volunteers and run more support groups. This means fewer students will have to wait a whole term to attend group sessions, and we will be able to support more students.

**This JCR therefore resolves to: *(What do you propose we do?)***

- g. Donate £300 to “Positive Minds” in order to achieve its goals.

### **e/ The Oxford RAG Charity Motion**

Proposer: Chris Williams

Seconded: Cecilia Peker

**This JCR notes that:** *(Facts about the current situation)*

- a. Oxford RAG supports a number of charities that are close to the hearts of Oxford Students including Student Minds, Jacari, Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre and Against Malaria Foundation. The JCR notes the involvement of a number of JCR members in this charity.

**This JCR believes that:** *(Why the situation should be changed)*

- b. It is important to show appreciation to the members of the JCR involved with Oxford RAG who all dedicate in excess of 4 hours a week to this worthy cause. This JCR believes that the fundraising activities carried out by all members of the Oxford RAG team are beneficial to the students in this JCR and our wider community.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:** *(What do you propose we do?)*

- c. Donate £200 to Oxford RAG

### **f/ The Kidney Research UK Charity Motion**

Proposer: Chris Williams

Seconded: Cecilia Peker

**This JCR notes that:** *(Facts about the current situation)*

- a. Kidney Research UK is dedicated to raising money for research into the causes and prevention of kidney disease working to ensure that one day people's lives will be free of kidney disease. Kidney Research UK funds are directed into research to find better treatments and ultimately a cure to help over three million people in the UK at risk of chronic kidney disease.

**This JCR believes that:** *(Why the situation should be changed)*

- b. We should pursue Kidney Research UK's goal to support the three million people in the UK at risk of chronic kidney disease in an attempt to improve their quality of life such that one day they may not have to be reliant on machines to survive or the small chance of finding a matching kidney donor.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:** *(What do you propose we do?)*

- c. Donate £300 to Kidney Research UK

### **g/ Donate to GiveDirectly**

Proposer: Romily Tahany

Seconded: Jack Weston

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. GiveDirectly transfers cash directly to extremely low income households in the developing world via the M-PESA mobile phone-based payment service.
- b. This pioneering direct transfer approach allows people to buy whatever they need most at the time, whether that is a Malaria Net, food for their children or money to start a small business.
- c. As a result GiveDirectly is currently rated as the second most effective charity in the world by GiveWell.

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. GiveDirectly has strong transparency and a commitment to self-evaluation, and has two high-quality studies of its impact ongoing. Furthermore, it has taken the unusual step of making the details of these studies public before data is collected. The evidence shows that such transfers increase short-term consumption, especially of food, and can be invested at very high rates of return (e.g. ~20% annually). Data also shows that the proportion of people who squander the money is far lower than expected.
- e. GiveDirectly is not only extremely cost effective, it is also setting a new standard by which all charities are judged and revolutionise world aid spending - all programs should be proven to be more effective than just transferring money directly!

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Donate £300 to GiveDirectly to allow people most in need to help themselves and change global charity spending for the better.

#### h/ The “Support Big Shiny Building!” Charity Motion

Proposer: Sophie Louth

Seconded: Tim Biasi

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. ExeWaterSports is a sports charity based in Exeter
- b. It is made up of Exeter British Sub Aqua Club, Exeter Rowing Club, Exe-Calibre Dragon Boat Club, Exeter Canoe Club
- c. It is planning new premises to increase accessibility and allow an increase in membership numbers

**This JCR believes that:**

- d. John’s students love rowing
- e. Some John’s students love kayaking

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Give £300 to ExeWaterSports towards their new premises

#### i/ Giving What We Can motion

Proposer: Adam Kashani

Seconded: Edward Higson

**This JCR notes that: (*Facts about the current situation*)**

- a. Giving What We Can (GWWC) researches into the most cost-effective charities and advocates them
- b. Current top recommended charities include the Against Malaria Foundation, Project Healthy Children, SCI and Deworm the World
- c. Many SJC JCR members have been involved with GWWC
- d. GWWC’s most recent estimate says for that every £1 given to GWWC it moves £8 to the most effective charities

**This JCR believes that: (*Why the situation should be changed*)**

- e. Giving to charity is about doing good for others, and cost-effective charities do this best
- f. GWWC is an incredibly cost effective charity

**This JCR therefore resolves to: (*What do you propose we do?*)**



- g. Make a donation of £300 to GWWC

### k/ The “Massage a Finalist” Motion

Proposer: Beth Candlin

Seconded: Churlur Gurmurn

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. Finals are stressful.
- b. Stress is bad.
- c. Massages alleviate stress.
- d. Peace of Mind Massage therapy offer 10 minute massages for £7 per appointment.
- e. Wadham has already used Peace of Mind and highly recommend their services.

**This JCR believes that:**

- f. Any method of reducing exam or work-related stress is worth utilising.
- g. A reduction in stress can help with productivity.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- h. Subsidise massage appointments for finalists.
- i. Give £240 to cut the cost of 10 minute appointments from £7 each to £3 (we are intending to book two, 2.5 hour sessions, each hopefully with two masseurs/masseuses in attendance, which would cater for a maximum of 60 finalists).

### l/ The First Responders at Events Motion

Proposer: Kim

Seconded: Ssuuna

**This JCR notes that:**

- a. The current college policy on harassment.<sup>1</sup>
- b. The current college policy does not address events in college, and does not suggest what immediate action should be taken if harassment occurs during events.
- c. Sexual violence is endemic in the UK, with 1 in 4 women<sup>2</sup> and 1 in 30 men<sup>3</sup> having been survivors of sexual assault during their lifetime.
- d. Harassment has occurred in the past at JCR events.
- e. The St John's JCR takes issues of harassment seriously, and the JCR is committed to supporting those affected by it, and to ensuring that our events are safe spaces for members.
- f. The JCR is also committed to the principles of fairness, and the proposed policy has been drafted to reflect this.
- g. OUSU (through the VP for women) can provide First Responder's training, in-house and free of charge.

**This JCR believes that:**

- h. We are a community in which sexual harassment is not tolerated, and survivors are supported.
- i. First Responders training enables officers to handle issues around sexual harassment in a more informed, sensitive, and productive way, and is therefore essential.
- j. Having trained First Responders in our community is valuable outside of events.
- k. First Responders will be able to help and respond to situations at Bops that don't involve harassment.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/6641/SJC-Harassment-Policy-Feb2014.pdf.download>

<sup>2</sup> Hidden Marks, 2010

<sup>3</sup> Survivors UK

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

**I. Adopt the attached JCR events policy.<sup>4</sup>**

**Harassment Policy for JCR Events – updated HT15**

This policy supplements the St John's College Harassment Policy and Procedure. It establishes role and procedures for applying that policy at JCR events. The JCR maintains that there should be no tolerance for harassment.

- When a complaint of harassment arises at an JCR event, the event organiser or person agreed between the event organiser and the Welfare Officers are the first point of contact for the witness to or victim of the harassment.
  - An JCR event is defined as any event hosted by an JCR committee member in an official capacity.
  - The event organiser is the individual who booked the JCR space.
  - Where a person is agreed between the event organisers and the Welfare Officers to be the first point of contact in relation to a particular event, that person is the first point of contact, and is required to be present for the duration of the event.
  - In the case of bops, the Social Secretaries and Welfare Officers will agree beforehand on at least three first points of contact for the duration of a bop (which may be more than three people working in shifts), none of whom is a Social Secretary. The Welfare Officers are responsible for identifying and arranging the attendance of such persons. They are also responsible for ensuring that the Harassment Policy is properly advertised at bops.
  - The Welfare Officers are responsible for organising such training sessions as are required to qualify sufficient members of the JCR to act as points of contact for events.
  - If agreement cannot be reached for any reason or the Welfare Officers cannot arrange at least three people to act as points of contact for the duration of a bop, the Welfare Officers (or as many as are required to ensure there are sufficient points of contact at all times) will attend bops themselves and act as points of contact, unless this is inappropriate.
  - The First Responders should meet quickly with the Junior Dean before the start of a BOP.
  - The witness or victim is either the direct victim of the behaviour or another attendee at the event who saw or heard the behaviour.
- When the event organiser or designated person is told about an instance of harassment, they must contact the Junior Dean on duty unless explicitly asked not to by the victim or witness.
  - Subsequent decisions about expulsion, followup, and application of the College Harassment Policy are to be made by the Junior Dean.

- The event organiser or dedicated person may also contact the Porters, either because the Junior Dean is not immediately available or because of an imminent threat of physical violence.
- The event organiser or designated person is not responsible for judging whether harassment has or has not taken place, nor are they responsible for removing the alleged harasser.
- The event organiser or designated person and all members of the JCR Committee must maintain confidentiality around the identities of the victim/s, witness/es, and alleged harasser, except in conversations with the Junior Deans, Porters and members of the JCR Committee.
- In the exceptional case when a Junior Dean is not available, the event organiser or designated person must contact the Porters, and the alleged harasser will be asked to leave.
- If the event is held off-site, so that the Junior Deans or Porters are unable to respond, the event organiser or designated person is expected to follow up with them as soon as practically possible.
- If the First Responder is approached with a situation that is not harassment, but requires their attention, they should contact the Junior Deans for support if they are unsure of how to approach it.

#### viii/ Any other business

Danny Waldman  
JCR Secretary  
9/5/2015