

# St John's College Junior Common Room

## The People's Republic of St Giles

Agenda for the 4th meeting of Hilary Term 2015  
1st of March 2015, 8.30pm, JCR

i/ Minutes of the previous meeting

ii/ Matters arising from the minutes

iii/ Officers' reports

### Academic Affairs Officer: Peter Blenkarn

*Pizza, probably. (To be delivered verbally.)*

### Access & Admissions Officer: Alex Manby

Not much to report. Two weeks ago I took part in a Target Schools shadowing event. It was really enjoyable, and I would defiantly encourage anyone who is interested to get involved (let me know if you would like anymore details). OUSU Access Forum in 4th week was unfortunately cancelled because of the Castle Mill protest, but hopefully it will be re-sechduled soon. After sending my magnum opus of emails to the Bursar, college have agreed to waiver the room booking fee for the OUSU Reach Scholars event later in the term. Last week I also helped with the housing ballot. Over the vac I intend to begin work on planning the Brighton roadshow and checking if are any changes that need to be made to the alternative prospectus before the next round of open days. Hopefully we should also have a new SLO by the beginning of next term and things should be a bit busier on the schools visit front.

### Discounts Officer: Silas Elliot

*Silas managed to secure a 110% discount with Apple after baffling the regional manager with clever statistics and G&D's bribery. Buying Macbooks will now actually result in JCR members being paid! (To be delivered verbally.)*

### Domestic Officers: Alice Smalley & Colette Snape

Alice and I have been organising decorations for guest dinner, as well as collecting deposits, and by the end of the week we will also have bought all of the alcohol. I have also e-mailed the domestic office about the water cooler situation for Kendrew café.

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

*After a large Wahoo, the Entz Officers commissioned Hussein to design and construct "a [expletive] chip mountain" in order to mitigate the incoming hangover. Our last contact with Kim and Ssuna was as they dived into a mayonnaise-powered waterslide. (To be delivered verbally.)*

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

It's currently Fairtrade Fortnight and appropriately it is our second Fairtrade brunch on Sunday.

### Equality & Diversity Officer: Claudia Haavik

Helped in running the events of mental health awareness week (thanks to everyone who came!).

### Welfare Officers: Beth Candlin & Charles Goodman

We have been busy coordinating St John's Mental Health Awareness Week with Tom, Lidia, and Claudia. *(They really have! - Sec.)*

#### Women's Officer: Lidia Fanzo

Over the last two weeks we've had Women's Dinner, which was really successful, and Mental Health Awareness week. I'm currently organising the events for International Women's Day on 8th March and starting to think about the speakers for Women's Lunches next term.

#### Treasurer: Vicky Skornia

Have spent the week reimbursing everyone on the committee, and have also begun to book punts for this summer's punting season!

#### Vice-President: Blathnaid McCullagh

Room Ballot.

#### Secretary: Danny Waldman

I've got in touch with the MCR about the College Physio situation (thank you for the reminder last meeting!) and provided them with a template motion to take to their next MCR meeting (if they're on board...!), which if passed will give us a strong negotiating chip with College. Apart from this, dealing with requests as normal, and (hopefully!) will have met with the Constitutional Reform Committee to nail down the slimmed-down "Rules" drafting so we can move on to more substantive Standing Orders. Also attended Governing Body, which was a unique experience. Gearing up for Rents and Charges Negotiations - fun fun. Also, come to the next OUSU Council, it's gonna be a whopper.

#### President: Christina St Clair

All things good. Been to Academic Services Committee, President's Committee, Governing Body and I went on Garden Perambulation - that was an experience. Essentially just me, MCR P&VP, and Maggie wandering round the gardens looking at trees for an hour also looked at new plans for the new library! Starting to think about Rents and Charges Negotiations (get in touch if you want to help! plz!). Housing ballot, done. Finalist room ballot, done. Massive well done, congratulations and thank you to all the Mental Health Awareness Team and thank you to Lidia for a wonderful Women's dinner with such a fab speech from Jill!

#### iv/ Reps' reports

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

*Continuing with her accelerated timeline (having graduated last fortnight to better understand alumni), Beth has now settled down and bought a house in the countryside. She lives with her husband and has three children, two of which are now at university, also occupying similar alumni-focussed roles - we wonder if they will be married next week too. (To be delivered verbally.)*

##### Art Rep: Helen McCombie

Things are coming together nicely for Art Week, which has been the main focus in the last week or two. Electra's done some fantastic artwork for the posters so expect to see those going up soon, and people will be receiving e-mails about us borrowing back their artworks to go in the exhibition. We will hopefully be having quite a few works re-valued for insurance purposes while they're hanging in the exhibition. Announcement of the programme for Art Week coming soon!

##### Bike Rep: Anatoly Smirnov

*Anatoly has managed to amass a huge stockpile of oranges and bananas - we don't know what exactly he sold in order to purchase these but the JCR Fruitcake Scheme is firing on all cylinders. (To be delivered verbally.)*

### Charities Rep: Cecilia Peker & Meredith Hood

Hey everyone! The last two weeks we have been organizing the Mental Health Awareness Week Formal and post-drinks we had on Wednesday. A big thank you to everyone who came; we raised nearly £70 just at the drinks event!

We're starting to look into some big events for next term such as a college comedy night, so do let us know if you have any any other ideas or events you would like us to help with next term!

Charity love,

Meredith and Cecilia xoxo

### Computer Rep: Eliot Ball

*Having defeated the evil machines that kept us all in the Matrix, Eliot was corrupted by his newfound power and has taken over as master of our virtual realm. As of next week all your battels will belong to him. (To be delivered verbally.)*

### Disabilities Action Rep: Thomas Wadsworth

*Tom has taken to the sky in a makeshift spacecraft, determined to beat the other Oxonians to Mars and make it back in time to tell everyone. When asked how he will accomplish this, he informed us that all the other craft designs were "weighed down by supplies" and that by travelling light he'll "make it back quickly". We wish him and his Snickers bar luck on their 300-day voyage. (To be delivered verbally.)*

### DVD Rep: Charles Clegg

The D.V.D. Collection, to paraphrase George Plimpton is doing "whatever it is it does". This has, since the last meeting, involved taking receipt of 'Her' and not too much else. I've decided to revise the lending time for television box-sets from a week to a fortnight: because if you can complete a D.V.D. box-set in a week at Oxford, I'd be rather concerned for you. I also intend to put forward a motion to increase the annual budget by £75 as I'm near enough finished this year's budget already and continue to receive requests.

### Ethnic Minorities Rep: Cameron Joshi

*Now the captain of an incredibly successful pirate ship, Cameron continues to sail the seven seas in search of plunder and racial equality. (To be delivered.)*

### International Students Reps: Charlie Vaughan

*Unfortunately Charlie was captured by Captain Cameron, and now serves as a cabin boy aboard his fine vessel, scrubbing the decks and bringing rum for the sailors from below. Not much different from Standing Committee at the Union, then. (To be delivered verbally.)*

### LGBTQ Reps: Flora Sheldon & Jamie Jackson

As we come to the end of LGBTQ History Month, we hope you have enjoyed our events! We had a great film night - watching and discussing Paris is Burning, and on Thursday we had our first ever Queer Consent Workshop, which was so goooood and hopefully will run again in future. Thank you so much to everyone who came and participated in these events. We've organised a crewdate for today (Friday), which should be fun, and next week we have queer women's drinks on Tuesday -- if you think you should be invited to this or other events for LGBTQ members of John's, please get in touch in touch with Jamie or Flora. As ever, if you have any ideas, concerns, or suggestions - please get in touch. Queer love, xxx

### OUSU Rep: Blagovest Gospodinov

Hello dear SJC JCR member,

During the past two weeks I have done what OUSU reps tend to do - I organized a poll to let everyone have their say as soon as the agenda was released and I voted correspondingly at the 5<sup>th</sup>

week Council (motions mostly pertaining to the General Election manifesto, all passed). In the next two weeks, another poll and council are in sight so stay tuned for those. You can always find more about what happened at a Council meeting at <https://sjcousu.wordpress.com/>.

Blago x

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

*Ed has broken a sacred vow after buying Pizza Express on the weekend. His brief dalliance with bar pizza was a transgression to be certain, but one the JCR was willing to begrudgingly put aside - this however is something altogether more sinister. Needless to say the Pope has been informed. (To be delivered verbally.)*

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

This week I've been looking at different possibilities for the online voting system. OUSU have given me some suggestions including Mi-Voice (the same system that was being used in the NUS referendum scandal) which would cost the JCR £175 a year. Another system, Electionbuddy, isn't as slick as Mi-Voice but can still cover AV elections and would cost £30 per election (so an average cost of about £90 a year). There are some free systems available but they only cover FPTP voting and so wouldn't suit us. If you have any suggestions please let me know; I'll probably be sending in a financial motion at the first meeting of next term in time for the Trinity by-election.

#### **v/ Ratifications**

a/ Bike Rep (please)

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

a/ Rents and Charges Subcommittee

b/ The Bar

#### **vii/ Agenda Items**

##### **a/ The JCR Airbeds Financial Motion**

Proposer: Jessica Colston

Seconded: Danny Waldman (ex officio)

##### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. There is high demand for airbeds when people have occasional guests staying
- b. It's not fair for those who have airbeds to have to constantly lend them out
- c. The current system of asking on Facebook is not very efficient

##### **This JCR believes that:**

- d. Airbed provision is a basic right for all!
- e. An official JCR scheme would mean a fairer distribution of airbeds
- f. The Domestic Secretaries are best placed to run such a scheme

##### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- g. Grant the Domestic Secretaries £200 for the purchase of air beds and sleeping bags and other accessories such as pumps

- h. Mandate the Domestic Secretaries to loan airbeds and sleeping bags to JCR members as they see fit
- i. Advertise the new scheme
- j. Renew and update the stock of airbeds if necessary

**b/ Motion for Representative NUS Representatives**

**Proposer:** David Cesar-Heymann **Seconder:** Sapan Maini-Thompson

**This JCR Notes:**

1. That in 2013 there was vigorous debate in which almost every JCR decided to oppose BDS (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions) - which includes a full academic and cultural boycott of Israel - and OUSU voted 69-10 against aligning with the BDS movement.
2. Many of the delegates to NUS, who stood unopposed for election, support BDS.
3. There is currently a motion for OUSU Council in week 7 to mandate OUSU's NUS delegates to oppose any pro-BDS motion at NUS (although this may be settled in 8<sup>th</sup> week's meeting for Spill-over motions).

**This JCR Believes:**

1. That the delegates should represent the university's views at NUS, and not their personal ones.
2. That the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is very complex, and there have been regrettable actions on both sides, and that complex foreign policy ought not to be the focus of the NUS - an organization that ought to undertake the general interest of students.
3. A. That BDS unfairly targets Israel, takes a disturbingly one-sided approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and lays burdens upon Israel heavier than it can be reasonably expected to shoulder, including the right of return as condition for lifting BDS - equivalent to the end of Israel's existence as the national homeland of the Jewish people.  
  
B. That the Palestinian Authority opposes BDS as it also harms Palestinians, and makes peace more difficult to achieve - as BDS opposes a two-state solution.

**This JCR Resolves:**

1. To mandate the President and the OUSU rep to ensure that three delegates (the college's maximum) will attend any OUSU Council discussion where this motion is debated.
2. To mandate the three SJC JCR's delegates to support the OUSU motion against BDS.
3. To mandate our delegates to convey "Believes: 2" at the OUSU debate on this issue.
4. To make "Believes: 3." standing policy.

### c/ The “OSARCC” Charities Motion

Proposer: Lidia Fanzo

Seconded: Flora Sheldon

#### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. Rape and sexual assault are massive issues affecting members of St. John’s and our wider community
- b. Both survivors and their supporters need support and guidance
- c. OSARCC provides a number of invaluable services to local women
- d. OSARCC is run solely on donations and is massively underfunded for the work that it needs to do
- e. Although OSARCC does not provide forensic preparation, our nearest SARCC (Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre) is in Slough so it is really important that we have local support for survivors and their supporters

#### **This JCR believes that:**

- f. It is important to protect and support survivors
- g. This money could make a real difference to an organisation that helps people of John’s and the wider community

#### **This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- h. Donate £300 to OSARCC

### d/ The “Support Jacari” Charities Motion

Proposer: Blagovest Gospodinov

Seconded: Stefan Cucea

#### **This JCR notes that:**

- a. Jacari is a student-run, Oxford University charity that provides home teaching for children aged 4-16 living in Oxford who do not speak English as their first language. The children we work with are recently arrived immigrants, asylum seekers or refugees, or from homes where the family does not speak English. We work with 16 schools in the area, which refer students to us. They lack key English skills, which leads to a lack of comprehension and communication disadvantages in their education and everyday life. Jacari tutors pay individual attention to their pupil's educational and pastoral needs, helping their:

- Language ability and academic skills
- General confidence and motivation
- Ability to engage with and contribute to school life and the wider community
- Employment prospects in the longer term ;

- b. Funding from SJC JCR would help Jacari create a volunteer project to set up 2 new classes in local primary schools and to monitor their impact.

#### **This JCR believes that:**

- c. Jacari is a charity with tangible impact on local children's lives;
- d. Jacari and similar projects should be supported;

- e. For Jacari to be able to expand its area of activity, i.e. number of schools it works with and number of classes it offers, it would require additional funding.

**This JCR therefore resolves to:**

- f. Donate £200 of its Charity Budget to Jacari to allow it to offer 2 (two) new classes in local primary schools and to monitor their feedback.

**viii/ Any other business**

Danny Waldman  
JCR Secretary  
28/2/2015