

Stop Press

Many of our residents were awoken this morning by the sounds of chanting and drumming from the roadside opposite Link House. This was a noisy but peaceful protest held by the 'New Kadampa Tradition' (NKT) against the Dalai Lama's visit to Magdalene College. Some residents were quite bemused by the fact that open protest was actually allowed in the UK.



One student commented, "At home there is only one way allowed". A reminder that our freedom of speech should never be taken for granted.

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The Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, The Rt Revd John Taylor KCVO,
Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, Prof Hugh Williamson FBA

Thank you for your response to our request to change to email receipt of Link News. Through this and the efforts of the L/H team we have been able to reduce the costs of distribution and publishing (now done in house) by a total of 60%. If you don't already receive Link News by email and wish to do so, please let us know.



LINK NEWS

Autumn 2015

Link House Trust

a home from home for international

graduate students



Autumn sunrise over the Cam from L/H

If you are anything like me, each Spring I plan to do so much during the summer months: sadly such plans are often frustrated by more pressing needs and looking back we have to be content with the things we did manage to achieve. Here at Link House, we did have time to enjoy some fine weather activities: others such as the *Link House Olympics* will have to be on hold until next summer!

A residents BBQ held in the Link House grounds was well attended by all three houses. This is an opportunity to take time away from the laboratory, the library and the laptop and enjoy an array of burgers, sausages, salads and sauces. The individual houses

also host international evenings, where each resident brings a traditional dish. Also in the houses each resident's birthday is celebrated and leaving parties are held. However an occasion such as the BBQ is an opportunity for the residents of all three houses to meet together and get to know one another.

At the beginning of August Link House organised an open day/garden party and invited supporters, neighbours and residents to come along. **Below** some of the L/H garden party guests.



The Lord answered prayer by giving us a lovely sunny day and all who attended enjoyed a choice of delicious home made cakes, tea and coffee in the grounds. We were pleased to be able to show around one long time supporter who had never previously been to Link House, needless to say he was very happy to finally be able to see the houses first-hand. The resident students circulated chatting to the visitors and the trustees and wardens were available to answer questions about the work of Link House.



Teas and cake served in the Garden room

The location of Link House just opposite the river Cam on Chesterton Road is also extremely convenient for impromptu picnics and gatherings on Jesus Green, especially on a sunny summer weekend or evening.

However Autumn very soon appears around the corner and another summer is over all too quickly. As the nights draw in and the temperatures fall, so it heralds change at Link House too. Many residents who have become friends during their time here move on and the applications for rooms for the new academic year drop in to our email inbox. We are very fortunate to be able to advertise rooms that are becoming vacant on the *Cambridge University Accommodation Services* website: it is through their services that the majority of our residents hear about Link House. Having said that, there is a growing network of former "Linkies" who recommend us to friends and colleagues which is always encouraging, and a great endorsement of what we are offering here. At the time of writing we have about 15 new residents booked in to arrive between the end of September and the middle of October. With the convenience of email correspondence, I often wonder how my predecessors in the earlier days of Link House managed when reliant solely on 'snail mail' or telephone contact with applicants.

The change over periods when rooms become vacant give us the opportunity to undertake necessary work in the houses with the minimal disruption to the residents. As we reported in the Spring Link News, we had set a programme of renovations, improvements and upgrades for the coming year. We endeavour to offer all our residents not only a clean, practical and safe environment in which to live and study, but also a high degree of comfort and a standard that reflects the care and commitment to each resident. This underlines the Christian ethos of Link House. Overseas mission support worker *Mr Jim Smith* of Durham has spent a total of 4 weeks this year at Link House undertaking some of the practical work, especially in the Chesterton Road houses. Jim has spent the last 20+ years building schools, hospitals and orphanages for mission projects across the world from the Bahamas to Siberia but has a particular love for Africa and its peoples. At Link House Jim has been replacing floors, fitting en-suite shower rooms, repairing brickwork and plastering ageing interior walls. We are very grateful for his time and expertise.



One of the stylish new en-suite showers
This year's annual Open Meeting was held on 27th March at Castle Street Methodist Church.



The guest speaker was *Mr Howard Norrish* who spoke on 'the privilege of living in the Arab world'. As well as reports on the work of Link House by the Wardens and Chair of Trustees all who attended enjoyed a lovely two course dinner followed by coffee. **As** an early plug for the 2016 L/H AOM, I can announce this will be held on Thursday 17th March at Castle Street Methodist Church. Tickets will be available in advance by contacting the Link House office. Speaker to be announced.

