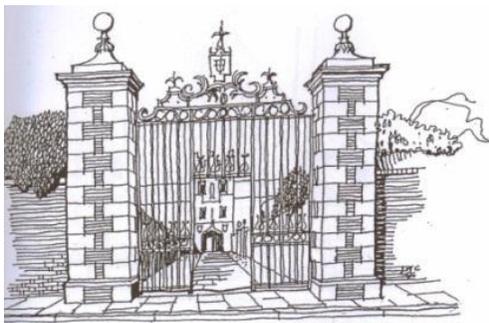# Cambridge Marked

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LINK NEWS

Autumn 2014
Link House Trust
a home from home for international
graduate students

Just as the weather is noticeably changing from summer to autumn, so things at Link House march on at a pace. Over the last month we have said farewell to Wardens Steve and Sam Baker. After two years of diligent service to the students and Trust of Link House, Steve and Sam have returned to visit family and friends back in New Zealand. They will be missed by the many friends they have made here in Cambridge and we are sure that many new students arriving here at Link House have appreciated the welcome, care and support they received during their time studying in Cambridge.

Link House welcomes back as Wardens, Mel and Lil Robson who have served previously from 2010 – 2012.
Lil says, "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to be back in Cambridge after a two year absence, returning to Link House is like coming home".
Mel and Lil have arrived at a rather busy time of year with many new students arriving in each of the three houses.

During the summer months at Link House many of the resident students leave to enable them to move on to fieldwork, research assignments or return to their home countries. From mid June the houses slowly empty and we tend to have to say farewell to 50% of the residents. This time however provides a different opportunity for us; that is to be able to relax the normal 6 month minimum stay regulation and welcome many short stay students. Some may be returning for a graduation ceremony, others only visiting Cambridge for conferences lasting a week or two, yet others spending several months as visiting scholars doing specific research assignments. Although the dynamics of the houses do change during this period, it is always a very lively time which gives us the chance to enlist many new friends into the Link House family.

This time of year with the many changes does increase the workload of all the Wardens. Applications have to be processed, administrative procedures followed, rooms allocated and prepared and of course a warm Link House welcome arranged no matter what time of day or night

our guests may arrive. This of course goes for all our newly arriving residents whether short or long stay. Many they have endured a very long and tiring journey perhaps travelling for 36 hours. Some simply wish to see their bed. Others although equally tired, are buzzing with excitement at realising a hard earned dream of actually being here in Cambridge. They are usually full of questions and want to know everything there and then.

It is a real sign of the times that the singly most requested piece of information by students on arrival is, "What is the internet code for the house?". All are eager to log on and let loved ones at home know they have arrived safely.

Shortly after Lil and I arrival back at Link House we were asked by one of our Chinese student Peizhong, if he could book the guest room. The room was for a professor from his home university who was travelling from China to Cambridge for a three day conference. About 11pm on the evening our resident answered front door of Chesterton road to his visitor. He welcomed him in and

Started to introduce him to Lil and myself. Peizhong was quite taken aback that before the introductions were complete the visiting professor was hugging Lil and I. No this wasn't a misinterpretation of British customs by the visitor, it was a fond reunion with one of our old Link House family members.

Wu Dong Professor at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

Wu Dong was one of the first residents we got to know when we arrived at Link House in 2010. He was an extremely studious young man who seemed to work all night and emerge from his room only when hungry. It was so lovely to catch up with him and hear how well he has done academically. He is now married and he and his wife are expecting their first child very soon.

The diversity of people who come to reside at Link House is amazing; their back grounds and cultures, as well as the variety of subjects they have come to study. No matter how great these differences, most are keen to improve their English language skills.
We are greatly blessed to be able to call on the services of Shirley Scott (trustee) and Pat Lebus (long time supporter and friend of Link House), who willing give up their time to assist the residents with their English.
Shirley and Pat undertake this role with an immense amount of patience and care for their pupils. A big thank you to them both.

The intricacies of the English language often elude me even after some 60 years of practice. So I have great respect for those students who aside from their core studies want to become more proficient in the language. It can be rather embarrassing for a native English speaker to be asked such questions as: Why is a wise man the opposite to a wise guy? Or why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same? Try to explain a news paper headline like. 'Red tape holds up new Bridge'!