

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Link House Annual Open Meeting 2016** will take place at **Castle Street Methodist Church** on **Thursday 17th March**.

Come and meet some of the Link House Residents.

Two course meal with coffee : 6.15 for 6.30.

Meeting starts: 7.30. Reports on the work of Link House, followed by our guest speaker **Andrew Fellows** from **Christian Heritage** and former head of **L'Abri England**

**Ticket price for meal £7.50 are available through the Link House office**  
(Before 10<sup>th</sup> March please)

All Welcome



A limited number of parking places are available at the side of the church.

**Wardens:** **Mel and Lil Robson** 17 – 19 Chesterton Road Cambridge CB4 3AL  
Tel: 01223 561202

**Assistant Warden:** **Phyllis Shaw** The Lodge, Hertford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AG

**Volunteer Warden:** **Bilijan & Milijan** 7 East Hertford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AJ  
**Saviki**

**Email:** [wardens@linkhoustrust.com](mailto:wardens@linkhoustrust.com) **Website:** [www.linkhoustrust.com](http://www.linkhoustrust.com)

**Trustees:** Jenifer Cooper MBE, Dr Chris Gaston, Prof Sir Colin Humphreys CBE FREng  
Elizabeth How, Angela Palmer, Shirley Scott, Andrew Keiller & Stuart Anderson

**Patrons:** Lord Anderson, Lady Catherwood, Prof Sir Brian Heap CBE FRS,  
The Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, The Rt Revd John Taylor KCVO,  
Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, Prof Hugh Williamson FBA

Link News is now only published twice a year,  
Spring and Autumn

## Postage Has Increased!!

(PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS HAVE CHANGED OR IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE LINK NEWS)

Did you know that you can receive Link News by Email??? Please send your email address



# Link News

SPRING 2016

**Link House Trust**

*'a home from home for international graduate students'*

### **Spring is just around the corner.**

The gardens at Link House first showed signs of spring back in December as the very mild weather tempting some of the early flowering bulbs to break the surface. Similarly many of our residents were confused by the unseasonable weather. Some coming from countries where snow is hardly known and winter means it drops below 20 degrees, were taken aback when waking up on Christmas morning to a very pleasant 14 degrees and not a single flake of snow to be seen. This is a typical example of how those visiting the UK for the first time have preconceived ideas of what life will be like here and just what to expect. Part of the function of Link House is to educate its residents, dispelling cultural myths, instructing in what is the 'norm' and informing them about differences in lives and lifestyles to their country of origin.

Although snow on Christmas day was something I was happy not to provide, we were able to ensure that the residents' first Christmas in the UK was a traditional one and full of the joys of the season.



### **Residents gathered in the lounge on Christmas day.**

This year we had 16 residents who stayed at Link House over the Christmas period and joined us for a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings followed by presents for all; we then retired to the lounge for the Queen's speech and party games.

### **PhD problems for one resident**

As regular readers of the Link News will know, we strive to provide safe, comfortable, affordable accommodation which we maintain to a high standard of cleanliness. We try to ensure the atmosphere in the houses is more one of a home from home, rather than a hall or residence or hotel.

To this end we often have to give advice to our residents on matters of keeping their rooms and especially their bathrooms clean. Remember many have never previously had to look after such luxuries as en-suites. Some time into one particular residents stay with us, I was taking to him in the kitchen and enquired how his studies were going. With the look of one carrying the world upon his shoulders he announced to me, "you know the hardest thing I have had to deal with during my PhD is lime scale". I am not sure if this reflects the expectations of his supervisor (he is studying Physics) or the expectations of his wardens. Either way he is happily continuing with his studies and he has asked to extend his stay at Link House for another year, so neither can be too bad for him to cope with. Perhaps when qualified he might research the 'lime scale' problem further.

### **Volunteer Wardens East Hertford Street house.**

Last year saw the departure of Leeann Moe, our volunteer warden and also an intern with Christian Heritage at the Round Church. Leeann had to return to her home in Phoenix, Arizona quite suddenly due to health reason. We are pleased to say her health is now much improved and she was able to make a brief visit back to Cambridge later in the year.



Stepping up to the plate as volunteer wardens are residents Milijan and Biljana Saviki (*above left*) who have been at Link House since October 2012. Mil and Bil, as they are affectionately known to all, originate from Macedonia and while Bil is in her last year of a PhD in education, Mil works as a print manager for a firm based near Milton Keynes. It has been really helpful to have another male warden on site and both Mil and Bil are always ready and willing to assist the residents.

### **All dressed up and somewhere to go! (Below) Ready for a formal at Clare College.**



Every so often in the house we will hear the ooh's and aah's of the residents followed by a plethora of compliments such as "Don't you look amazing." or "Wow ! I hardly recognised you". Then we know it is time for a formal dinner at one of the colleges. Often on these occasions the participants will come along to our lounge to give us a twirl and have their photos taken together. To be honest at times we hardly recognise them ourselves in their smart suits and evening gowns, a far cry from the T-shirts and jeans, track suits or onesies we are used to seeing when around the house. It is really nice to see a group of residents who prior to coming to Link House hadn't know one another, getting all dressed up and together going to visit one or another's college for a formal dinner.

### **Christmas contact.**

It was very encouraging over the Christmas period to receive numerous emails from former residents of Link House who want to keep in touch and let us know of their own news. We hear of PhDs completed, jobs offered, teaching positions obtained and further research and study opportunities as well as news of marriages, children arriving and moves to other countries. All remember with great fondness their time at Link House.

### **Helen Lawrence**

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Helen Lawrence at her home in Storey's House on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Helen was a faithful supporter of Link House and a valued member of our Thursday morning prayer group. She will be greatly missed for her care and joviality.



**(Above) Helen Lawrence at a Link House meet and greet evening.**

