

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Link House Annual Open Meeting 2017

will take place at **Castle Street Methodist Church**
on **Thursday 23rd March, 6:15pm for 6:30pm**

Two course meal with coffee to be followed by the main meeting.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm with reports on the work of Link House, followed by our guest speaker **Mr Josh Bell** from **Friends International**

Tickets for the meal are **£7.50** and can be booked through the Link House office before **18th March**.

Please note: There are a limited number of parking places available at the side of the church.

All Welcome! Come and meet some of the Link House Residents!

Wardens: Gary & Anne Boswell

17 – 19 Chesterton Road
Cambridge CB4 3AL
Tel: 01223 561202

Assistant Warden: Phyllis Shaw

The Lodge, Hertford Street
Cambridge CB4 3AG

Volunteer Wardens: Biljana & Milijan Saviki

7 East Hertford Street,
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Email: wardens@linkhousetrust.com **Website:** www.linkhousetrust.com

Trustees: Jenifer Cooper MBE, Prof Sir Colin Humphreys CBE FREng, Elizabeth How, Angela Palmer, Shirley Scott, Andrew Keiller, Stuart Anderson, Paul Anderson

Patrons: Lord Anderson, Lady Catherwood, Prof Sir Brian Heap CBE FRS, The Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE FRS, Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, Prof Hugh Williamson FBA, Dr Denis Alexander, Bartow Wylie

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 2017

Link House Trust

a home from home for international graduate students



New Wardens at Link House



Let us introduce ourselves – we are Anne and Gary Boswell.

We arrived at Link House on 2 January and started work the very next day. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mel and Lil, the previous wardens, who stayed on for a fortnight and spent much time with us, handing over responsibilities and showing us many of the practical details that we would need to know.

We are both South Africans (although Gary was born in what was Rhodesia), and have been living in the UK for 8 years. We come to Link House and Cambridge via the Cotswold and Scottish Highlands, where in both instances we have worked for Christian charities in various roles providing spiritual, emotional and practical help to people in need.

Anne has previously worked in several secretarial and administrative positions - she sometimes says she is like Polyfilla – as she has filled many roles over the years.

Gary qualified as a pharmacist in South Africa and worked for almost 17 years as a hospital pharmacist, whilst also completing a degree in Theology, and doing a brief stint as a part-time theology lecturer.

We were married 16 years ago, and after a few years both of us felt the call to explore full-time Christian ministry. This is when the opportunity arose for us to immigrate to the UK, and we have since worked together seeking to meet the needs of others through our gifts and talents.

When we got married, the Baptist pastor who conducted our wedding ceremony knew us both well, and spoke about us “welcoming others” as part of our ministry. Little did any of us know what that looked like in the years that followed, but the words have remained with us, and we see the work and ministry at Link House as a new season in the fulfilment of this vision.

Anne has already made her presence felt by putting fresh flowers in each house every week. The residence have certainly noticed the flowers and expressed their joy and appreciation at this small gesture which for them makes the houses feel even more like a home away from home.

As we settle in, we hope to meet more of the supporters who have made Link House such a special place. We invite anyone who happens to be passing by to come in and have a cup of tea with us.



International Dinner & Chinese New Year

On any ordinary day, the garden room looks inviting inside, with its exposed beams and paper lampshades, but on the evening of Saturday 28 January 2017 it looked even more magical, as colourful Chinese paper lanterns and decorations were hung across the room (as can be seen in the photo above). It was Chinese New Year, and our East Asian residents had suggested having a party to celebrate, so we opened the event up to all and made it a combined International Dinner and celebration of the Year of the Rooster. Lists went up in each house asking residents to sign up and indicate what dish from their home country they would be able to contribute. By Saturday afternoon, all the kitchens in the various houses were busy and amazing exotic aromas drifted around the central courtyard. In the end, there was a fabulous spread with food representing: China, Vietnam, Japan, Brazil, Greece, Spain, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Macedonia and South Africa. There was not a spare seat at the tables as we tucked in to one of the most diverse menus



imaginable. Following the feast, we folded up the tables, formed a large circle of chairs, and each person introduced themselves, told us which country they were from, and shared with the group where in the world was the best place they had visited - Link House excluded, as that was taken for granted! It was interesting to hear that New Zealand was mentioned a few times. It was wonderful to have John and Jeni Cooper join us for the occasion, and for them to share very briefly how Link House came into existence because of their vision. The event was an invaluable opportunity for the residents from all three houses to meet and get to know each other better. We finished off the evening with a couple of very simple games that required a bit of "thinking outside of the box", which you would have thought would not present too much of a challenge to a group of university students, however, there were many puzzled expressions, lots of laughter, and then the inevitable groans as the answer is finally revealed, and it is glaringly obvious!

"Snow" exciting!



There was great excitement when one of our resident from Brazil, Daniel, got to see real snow

falling for the first time. Coming from Sao Paulo, this was his first experience of a northern hemisphere winter. He had been diligently watching the weather reports for Cambridge and finally one very cold Sunday morning in January it happened. Not enough fell to settle on the ground because it was "wet snow" instead of "sticky snow", but it was still snow!

It is fascinating comparing thoughts with residents from other climates on British weather – a topic which, of course, we in the UK never get tired of talking about!



Graduation Exhibition – M.A. Children's Book Illustration

It has been thrilling to anticipate Puck's completion of her studies. She is from the Netherlands, and has been working on her Masters degree at the Cambridge School of Art, specialising in designing illustrations for children's books. In February a special exhibition was held at the Candid Gallery in London where the students' works of art were on display. We were so proud to see that one of Puck's pictures was chosen to appear on the home page of the website promoting the exhibition.

Commenting on her work Puck says,

"I like to show the joy and humour in the small and ordinary things of life. Sketching is the part I enjoy most, and I can never stop. But the truly interesting part is how the sketches develop into finished illustration. Often I use printmaking to make this step. A combination between big blocks of nicely picked limited colours and a lively line."

More can be seen at www.puckkoper.com



Lunar Birthdays & Name Days

Wouldn't you like to have two birthdays each year? In the UK it seems only the Queen gets that privilege, however at Link House we are discovering that if you come from other parts of the world it is common to have two special days every year.

In January, we gathered together in the dining room to celebrate Jie's lunar birthday. As Jie (or Jane, as she is known to us) is from China, it is traditional for people in East Asia to celebrate their birthday according to the lunar calendar, which differs from our Western calendar that is based on the sun's movements.

On the same day, however, it was also Antonios' name day. Antonios is from Greece, where in the Greek Orthodox tradition people are named after one of the saints. As it was Saint Anthony's day we also had a special celebratory time with Antonios, because it was the day of the saint from whom his name is derived.

