



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
CONNAUGHT HALL

BULLETIN

January - February 2010

www.connaught-hall.org.uk

THE WARDEN

Happy New Year!

The Warden and all the staff in Hall hope you enjoy a happy, healthy new year and wish you every success in your studies and exams this term.

Please let us know if there is something we can do to make your time in Hall more enjoyable or productive: email the suggestion box with your comments, complaints, and ideas - suggestions@connaught-hall.org.uk.



Readmission to Hall next year

In mid-January, the Intercollegiate Halls Accommodation Bureau (IHAB) will invite applications from residents who want to stay at Connaught Hall for another year. Places are strictly limited and must be allocated according to quotas set by the colleges of the University. It is very unusual for anyone to be offered a third year in Hall. Places will not be offered to residents who have not fully paid their Hall fees for term 1; nor will places usually be offered to residents with disciplinary warnings on file.

The Warden is able to support applications from residents with significant medical or social reasons for wishing to stay for a second year, and those who have made a major positive contribution to the social and community life of the Hall. *Please contact the Warden well in advance if you would like to be considered for any of these categories*, or if you intend to apply but you fall into one of the excluded groups in the paragraph above; you can email the Warden at warden@connaught-hall.org.uk or attend one of his open office sessions.

Open office sessions

The Warden is available to see residents without an appointment at scheduled "open office" walk-in sessions. Times are advertised on posters in reception and online at <http://openoffice.connaught-hall.org.uk>. You can make an appointment to see the Warden at other times by emailing warden@connaught-hall.org.uk; it is usually possible to arrange a meeting within 72 hours. The Senior Members are also available in Hall to offer advice and guidance, and to help immediately in case of emergency; you can contact them via reception.



Noise

We started to receive a few more noise complaints towards the end of last term. *Remember the walls and ceilings are quite thin and sound travels easily between rooms and down corridors.* Don't be "that noisy person" who wakes up all your neighbours! If you experience problems with noise, it's best if a Senior Member hears the noise while it is actually going on; so call reception for an immediate response. Contact the Warden if problems persist.



Senior Member vacancies

We shall have vacancies for Senior Members at Connaught Hall, to start in late July. Look out for the advertisement in early spring. Talk to the Warden if you want to know more or to express interest in applying.



THE BURSAR'S OFFICE

Hall fees

Payment of your accommodation fees is due within the first two weeks of term. The easiest way to pay is online at <https://epay.london.ac.uk>, which includes options for payment in instalments; you can pay by cheque at the Bursar's Office here in Hall; or for all other payment methods, you must visit the office at Hughes Parry Hall.



Email addresses

Please ensure that you keep the Bursar's Office informed of any changes to your email address. Most correspondence from the Hall and the University of London (including information about readmission for next year) is by email, so you will miss important communications if we do not have your current email address on file.



Facilities & catering update

Following residents' suggestions at the Facilities Committee meeting on 12 January, we have agreed to consider turning off stairwell lights in the daytime, and to turn off some of the corridor lights to save energy; we will also ask for an assessment of how we could recycle more. We will ask the catering company to display a weekly menu in reception, and to provide a few jacket potatoes every day as an alternative to the main options. Discussion continues about whether halal meat should be available in the intercollegiate halls; we will keep you updated.

Summer accommodation

The date on which you are expected to move out of Connaught Hall in the summer is determined by your college. It is sometimes possible to extend your stay for a few weeks, subject to room availability. Please contact the Bursar's Office with plenty of notice if you would like to stay beyond your scheduled move-out date. If you require accommodation beyond the end of June, we would normally recommend that you apply for a room at International Hall, which stays open for University of London students throughout the summer. Details of how to apply will be publicised in the spring.



Smoking

Please remember that smoking anywhere inside the Hall is prohibited by law in England. You could be fined if caught. And under no circumstances must you cover your smoke detector - this will always be reported to the Warden and could get you expelled from the Hall!



Room swaps

The process for requesting a room swap has changed this year. All room swap requests must now be sent in the first instance to the Intercollegiate Halls Accommodation Bureau at info.halls@london.ac.uk. It is useful if you copy in the Bursar's Office and the Warden with your request, as we may be able to help without you having to move at all.



THE RESIDENTS' CLUB COMMITTEE

General Meeting

There will be a General Meeting of the Residents' Club, open to all residents, in late February. The elected Officers will present their reports on the state of the Club, their activities so far this academic year, and their plans for the rest of the year. Look out for posters advertising the General Meeting nearer the time.

You can email the Committee any time with your views and ideas: committee@connaught-hall.org.uk.



Explore England

There will be a series of subsidised coach trips for residents to visit historic destinations in Great Britain between now and the end of the academic year. The first trip - to Cambridge - proved very popular last term. Contact Matthew for details (president@connaught-hall.org.uk) or look out for posters advertising each trip.



Recycling

Polly has set up the first wave of a recycling programme for Connaught Hall. Recycling bins are in the common rooms and in the basement next to the vending machines. Email secretary@connaught-hall.org.uk for more information.

Connaught Hall bar

The bar was redecorated during the Christmas vacation. Come and check out the new colour scheme, play some pool, and enjoy a drink or two! *We've recently cut prices on many drinks.* The bar is open every night from 7 to 11.



The library

The Committee plan to build up a fiction lending library based in the Hall library this term, from purchases of second-hand books. The existing books and periodicals in the library will be tidied up and arranged by subject.



The old fitness room

The old fitness room (in the basement), which had to be closed because of difficulty insuring the gym equipment, is to be reopened as a new social space. Contact us at committee@connaught-hall.org.uk if you have any innovative ideas for how this space should be used.



Forthcoming events

Welcome back party: Saturday 23 January (bar till 2)

Valentine's party: Friday 12 February (bar till 2)

