



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
CONNAUGHT HALL

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BULLETIN

*January - February 2011*

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*[www.connaught-hall.org.uk](http://www.connaught-hall.org.uk)*

# THE WARDEN

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## 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](mailto:suggestions@connaught-hall.org.uk).



## Readmission to Hall next year

In late January, the Intercollegiate Halls Accommodation Bureau (IHAB) will email you to invite applications for readmission to Connaught Hall for next 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 final selection of residents for readmission will be made by IHAB, but the Warden will review all applications and is able to support those 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 as soon as possible if you would like to be considered for any of these categories, or if you intend to apply but fall into one of the excluded groups in the paragraph above: (i.e. third year, non-payment, disciplinary) you can email the Warden at [warden@connaught-hall.org.uk](mailto:warden@connaught-hall.org.uk) or attend one of his open office sessions.**

## Dining hall roof

At the end of last term, some residents were gaining access to the dining hall roof either through windows in ground floor rooms 24 to 29 or from the reception lobby; lit cigarette ends and other refuse items were also found on this roof, causing damage to the new (and very expensive) planted felt roof.

Accessing any part of the roof or external features of the building is prohibited in the Connaught Hall supplementary regulations because it has the potential to be extremely dangerous.

**The Warden has issued a warning that anyone seen on the roof by a member of staff will be subject to an on-the-spot fine of £120; no further warning will be given. A second offence will lead to a disciplinary interview with the Warden and most likely expulsion from the Hall in the interests of that person's safety.**



## Open office sessions

The Warden is available to see residents without an appointment at scheduled open office sessions, advertised on posters and at [openoffice.connaught-hall.org.uk](http://openoffice.connaught-hall.org.uk). The next few sessions are: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 5.15 – 6.15 pm; Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 8.45 – 9.45 pm; and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00 – 11.00 am.

You can make an appointment to see the Warden at other times by emailing [warden@connaught-hall.org.uk](mailto:warden@connaught-hall.org.uk); it is usually possible to arrange a meeting within 72 hours. The Senior Members are also available to offer advice and guidance, and to help immediately in case of emergency; you can contact them via reception.



# THE WARDEN

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## *The Bar and garden*

Towards the end of last term, the Warden withdrew his permission for the bar area to stay open at night because people had been going out through the doors from the bar into the garden after 11.00 pm, causing noise disturbance for residents whose rooms face the garden.

*For the start of the new year, the bar area will once again stay open 24 hours a day.*

If there are any further instances of noise in the garden after 11.00 pm, however, the bar will be closed from 11.20 every night for the rest of the year.



## *Fire alarm practice*

Weather permitting, there will be a fire drill in the evening on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January**. Please take the opportunity this weekend to familiarise yourself with your nearest and shortest escape route: not necessarily down the main stairs and through the front door.

*Whenever you hear the fire alarm:*

- Evacuate the building immediately.
- Close all doors and windows behind you.
- Leave by the shortest route.
- Do not use the lift.
- Assemble on the pavement opposite.
- Do not re-enter the building until you are told to do so.

It is of course possible that we could have a real fire on Monday, so please do not ignore the alarm because you assume it is a drill.

## *35 Tavistock Square refurbishment*

Our neighbours at 35 Tavistock Square are having an extensive refurbishment between now and June. Scaffolding has been erected and there will be work to the roof and the partition wall between number 35 and Connaught Hall.

Because 35 Tavistock Square belongs to UCL rather than to the central University of London, we do not have any direct control over the refurbishment. But the Warden has negotiated with the building's owners to limit all work to 8.30am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday, and to try where possible to avoid any noisy work in the mornings. This is better than the 7.30 am to 6.00 pm that they originally planned, and should mean that Connaught Hall residents are not disturbed too much by the work.

If noise from the construction work next door is a problem for you, please contact the Warden and do your best to keep an accurate "noise diary" of what disturbs you and at what times. If this does become a problem, we may have to seek help from Camden council and for this we must have dates, times, and details of every noise disturbance.



## *Senior Member vacancies*

We are likely to have two vacancies for Senior Members at Connaught Hall, to start in the summer. Look out for posters advertising these vacancies in early April. Other halls will also have vacancies around the same time, usually advertised on the University of London website. The Warden is happy to discuss potential applications at his open office sessions.



# 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. For all other payment methods, you must visit the office at Hughes Parry Hall, Cartwright Gardens; the office here at Connaught Hall cannot process payments.



## Facilities & catering update

In response to residents' suggestions at the Facilities Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November (minutes available online at [facilities.connaught-hall.org.uk](http://facilities.connaught-hall.org.uk)):

- From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, the dining hall will be open between 12.30 and 2.00 pm, Monday to Friday, so you can use the toaster. You must provide your own bread. Please do not make a mess as there are no staff to clean up after you.
- We have written to the catering company asking that more wholemeal / wholegrain options be served.
- Efforts will be made to increase the protein content of vegetarian options.

Please send your suggestions & complaints about catering matters to [suggestions@connaught-hall.org.uk](mailto:suggestions@connaught-hall.org.uk). Use this address rather than the "catering@" address advertised in the dining hall, as this ensures both the catering company and Hall staff receive your email; we can help chase things up if you don't get a reply from the catering company.

## Cutlery

Our supply of knives and forks is getting smaller by the day! University of London finance have told us we are not allowed to buy any more cutlery this academic year, so unless we find some of the missing knives & forks, we could all be eating with our fingers by Easter!

*Please, please, please: If you have any Hall cutlery in your room, return it to the kitchen – no questions asked – as soon as possible.*



## Lift refurbishment

The goods lift refurbishment was unfortunately delayed last term as new parts were not able to be delivered in the bad weather. The goods lift should now be finished by 14<sup>th</sup> January. Work on the main passenger lift was scheduled to start on 10<sup>th</sup> January; this will now be slightly delayed but should still be finished before the end of April. Where possible, all work will be confined to 10.00 am to 4.00 pm so as to minimise noise disturbance to nearby rooms.



## Summer accommodation

Connaught Hall is closed to student residents in the summer. If you require accommodation beyond the end of June, we 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. Apply early to ensure availability.



# THE BURSAR'S OFFICE

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## 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!

Rooms that are dirty, damaged, or malodorous because of smoking will be subject to an extra cleaning charge, deducted from the resident's deposit at the end of the year.

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## Residents' survey

You will soon be invited to fill out an online questionnaire about your experience of Connaught Hall. It's completely anonymous so you can tell us what you really think. We want to know what we can do better and also what you think we are already getting right, especially as pressure increases from the University of London to standardise policies & services and save money across the intercollegiate halls of residence: we need to know what you value most about our Hall so we can fight to keep it!

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# THE RESIDENTS' CLUB COMMITTEE

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## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents' Club, open to all residents, will be held in the dining hall at 7.00 pm on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January**.

The elected Officers will present a report on the state of the Club, their activities so far this academic year, and their plans for the rest of the year. Residents will be given an opportunity to ask questions and a vote will be held to approve the Committee's plans for terms 2 and 3, so this is a good opportunity to make sure your £10/term subscription is being well spent!

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

## Connaught Hall Bar

Support Connaught Bar! Open every night from 7 to 11, staffed by resident students and run by the Residents' Club purely for the benefit of Connaught Hall residents, Connaught Bar is one of the cheapest places to get a drink in central London! The cellar is cold again and the pool table & table football will soon be back in their usual places.



## Valentine's party: Sat 12<sup>th</sup> February

We're organising a Valentine's party with a dancefloor and bar open late on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Look out for posters advertising the theme and more details soon.

