



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
CONNAUGHT HALL

BULLETIN

January – February 2012

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 February, 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 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 sessions, advertised on posters and at openoffice.connaught-hall.org.uk. The next few sessions are:

Sunday 5th February, 7.15 – 8.15 pm
Wednesday 8th February, 7.15 – 8.15 pm;
Friday 17th February, 7.15 – 8.15 pm.

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 to offer advice and guidance, and to help immediately in case of emergency; you can contact them via reception.



Residents' survey

In February, you will be invited to fill out a questionnaire about your experience of Connaught Hall. It's completely anonymous so you can tell us what you really think.

Of course we want to know what we can do better, but *it is also really important that you tell us what we are already getting right and what you like about the Hall*, especially as pressure increases from the University of London to standardise policies & services and save money across the intercollegiate halls of residence.

Some of our services – including pastoral care, welfare, and community building & social life – are threatened by cuts over the next few months. *See this document about last year's consultation.* We need to know what you value most about our Hall so we can fight to keep those things!



THE WARDEN

Noise

Complaints about noise continue to increase. Please be warned that the Warden will pursue disciplinary action against any resident who is reported to be persistently noisy, and any noise complaint on your file normally means the Warden will veto your application for re-admission next year.

Pages 38–39 of the *Residents' Handbook* explain the rules about noise, how to complain, and what you can do to make sure you are not the subject of a complaint.

Being unable to sleep or work when you need to can make you annoyed and stressed, and can seriously impact on quality of life. So please always make an effort to consider whether what you are doing might disturb your neighbours. The walls, floors, and ceilings are thin and transmit sound easily, so give extra consideration to how loud your conversations might be at night.

Noise travels further than you think, so talk quietly in corridors; don't run or shout. It only takes one loud shriek down the corridor in the early hours of the morning to wake everyone up. And remember our doors make a bang when they shut: pull your door closed quietly at night.

The common rooms are well isolated from bedrooms, so take your friends there if you want to socialise or play computer games late at night (you can plug your console into the common room televisions).

If you need to make a complaint about noise, please report the problem by telephone to reception at the time the noise is occurring; do not only send an email, as this significantly reduces the Warden's ability to deal with your complaint effectively. Formal disciplinary action against the noise-maker(s) is not usually possible without written evidence from a member of staff who has heard the noise.

Library refurbishment

The library will soon be completely refurbished and renamed the *Convocation Trust Study Room*. Good progress has already been made with painting & new carpet; new lights have arrived ready to be fitted, and new study carrels with integral lamps are on order.

The Warden would like to put on record thanks to the University of London Convocation Trust Fund for making this refurbishment possible.



Senior Member vacancies

We are likely to have three vacancies for Senior Members at Connaught Hall to start in the summer. Look out for posters advertising these vacancies in early April.

Five Senior Members assist the Warden in promoting residents' personal and social welfare, dealing with disciplinary issues, and encouraging a supportive and harmonious living environment. Each night and at weekends a Senior Member is "on duty", with responsibility for managing any emergencies that arise.

Senior Members must be enrolled as full-time students within the University of London and have a minimum three years' experience of university-level study. Senior Members should be sociable and approachable; have a mature, responsible attitude, possess excellent communication skills, and be able to stay calm and take control in emergency situations.

You are encouraged to speak to the Warden at an open office session if you are thinking of applying.



THE BURSAR'S OFFICE

New Deputy Bursar

Gary Martin has joined the team in the Bursar's Office to cover for Harriet Harold while she is on maternity leave from 3rd February.

Please come and welcome Gary to the office and feel free to approach him with any questions or suggestions about fees, facilities, or accommodation matters.



Hall fees

Accommodation fees for term 2 are now overdue. If you have not already paid, please do so now or contact the Bursar's Office urgently to discuss the situation.

The easiest way to pay is 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.



Cutlery

Our supply of knives and forks is getting smaller by the day! In November, we had 200 forks and spoons; we now have only 109 forks and just 88 spoons. Unless we find some of the missing cutlery, 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.

Facilities Committee

There will be a Facilities Committee meeting on 9th February. If you have any comments, complaints, or suggestions about any facilities matters (catering, maintenance, security, safety, cleaning, or housekeeping) that you would like the Committee to discuss, email facilities.committee@connaught-hall.org.uk or speak with one of the student facilities representatives so they can raise it on your behalf.

Rebecca Ashton
Bill Batziakas
Phoenix Kushner
Bruno Loureiro
Chris Madden
Joe Mason
Patrick Ong
Neaty Soopaul
Christopher Wongsosaputro
Imogen Young

Minutes of the Committee's previous meetings are available online at facilities.connaught-hall.org.uk.



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.



THE RESIDENTS' CLUB COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents' Club, open to all residents, will be held in the dining hall at 6.20 pm on **Thursday 9th February**.

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.

Table tennis

The Residents' Club has purchased a table tennis table, now set up in the Bell Room for all residents to use.

New drinks machine in reception

We now have a Flavia machine in reception for making hot drinks: from smooth breakfast coffee to a warming hot chocolate; a dark, intense espresso to a soothing peppermint infusion; or creamy cappuccino to refreshing jasmine green tea. All reasonably priced at 50p or 80p and any profits go to the Residents' Club to fund social, sports, and entertainment events & improvements. Try it today!

Valentine's party & Speed dating

We're organising a **Valentine's party** on **Friday 10th February**, with bar open till 1am and dance floor till 1.20. The party starts at 8pm in the bar.

Speed dating is at 9pm in the dining hall during the Valentine's party. Everyone can join in – we need boys and girls, gay or straight, single or partnered... – meet new friends, chat to a hotty, reconnect with friends from last term, or maybe you will even find your true Valentine in time for the 14th?

"Dress to impress" both for the party and for Speed dating!

Connaught Hall hoodies

Hafez is organising a delivery of branded hoodies as a memento of your time at Connaught. Email him at sports@connaught-hall.org.uk for more information or to pre-order yours.

Hall bar

Keep your eyes peeled for great new offers and events coming to the bar this term, including cocktail nights, beer pong, and pub quizzes. **Support your bar!**



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
CONNAUGHT HALL

KEEP IN TOUCH

www.connaught-hall.org.uk



Connaught Hall



@connaughthall



blog.connaught-hall.org.uk



connaught.hall



photos.connaught-hall.org.uk

