



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

CONNAUGHT HALL

UPDATE

February 2013

FROM THE WARDEN

Valentine's Day: 14 February

Saint Valentine's Day is observed on 14 February, the anniversary of the death of St Valentine, patron saint of lovers. It coincides with the Roman festival of Lupercalia. Lupercalia was held in honour of the goddess Juno, and concerned all young people of marriageable age. The names or tokens representing all the young girls in the district were placed in a love urn; the young men each drew a token and the couples paired off. This was a kind of mating lottery game. During the Roman occupation of Britain, the idea was brought to this country and adopted by the ancient Britons. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that birds began mating on 14 February.

Your Residents' Club Committee have put together a programme of events for Valentine's. Many residents will be away for reading week on 14 February, so we are celebrating a week early.

Read on for details of our Valentine's ball on 8 February and a week full of events leading up to it.

Speak to Kat, Chris, Christopher, Jaiminee, or Daisy for more info, or email committee@connaught-hall.org.uk.

Valentine's @ Connaught

Love potions

From Monday 4 February, you can buy a love potion for your one-and-only:

1. Go to the bar.
2. Buy a love potion token for £2.50.
3. Write the name and room number of your Connaught true love on the token.
4. It will be delivered anonymously.
5. They can redeem the token for a love potion at the ball on Friday.

Romantic film

We will show *The Notebook* in the Bamforth Room on Tuesday night, 5 February.

Get fit for Valentine's Day

Come to Daisy's zumba class in the Bell Room at 8pm on Wednesday 6 February.

Valentine's dinner

We have a special Valentine's themed menu for a romantic dinner on Friday 8 February. Bring some cash to dinner if you want a glass of bubbly. Everyone will get a loveheart to write a message to their secret Valentine, and we'll put all these together to make a collage of love. **Dress: black tie or "dress to impress"**

Ballroom dancing

Our very own Jackie Lam will teach us the basics of ballroom dancing at 8.30pm in the dining hall on Friday. The best secret love messages from dinner will be read out. **Dress: black tie or "dress to impress"**

Valentine's ball

In the bar from 9.30pm on Friday. It's a "temporary event" so the usual restrictions on guests apply. **Dress: black tie or "dress to impress"**

Updates from the Facilities Committee'

The Hall Facilities Committee met on Wednesday 30 January. Amongst the matters discussed were:

Packed breakfasts & suppers

Packed meals are available Monday–Saturday if you cannot eat in Hall due to academic or sports commitments. Packed suppers must be requested before 11am on the day. They have been enhanced recently and may now include a sandwich, packed salad, or jacket potato, a carton of soup or a selection of sweet treats, a carton of fruit juice, and either a yoghurt or a piece of fruit. Packed breakfasts must be requested before 5pm for the next day. More information: bit.ly/concatering.

Breakfast & brunch entitlements

The catering company explained the brunch and breakfast entitlement. In summary:

Breakfast

Any **five** items in any combination
Plus a hot drink (but not juice, which counts as an item).

Brunch:

Any **seven** items in any combination (except pasta, which counts as four items)
Plus a hot drink (but not juice, which counts as an item).

I have made a poster with a QR link to this page, displayed in the dining hall so you can easily check: bit.ly/concatering.

Food running out

After complaints about food options running out before the end of service, I have made a poster with a QR code to display in the dining hall. If you get to dinner and there's no food left, scan the code and send the automatically generated email from your smartphone. If we help the catering team know how often – and at what time – food runs out, it will help them better predict how much food to prepare each night.

Bathroom mirrors

Following from the previous Facilities Committee meeting in December, all bathrooms should now have – or will have by the end of next week – a full-length mirror.

Bathroom hand driers

The Committee heard that some of these are very hot but not very effective at drying your hands! We will get a quote for replacing the old (Stiebel Eltron) hand driers.

Lower ground floor toilets (north corridor)

We will get a quote for installing a hand basin in this toilet block.

Hand hygiene

Following on from the norovirus outbreaks in May and December last year, Committee members wanted to remind everyone to wash their hands after using the bathroom. Signs will be put up in the bathrooms.

Hot water pressure on the fourth floor

The Committee received a complaint that the hot water pressure is very low on the fourth floor. We will have a new pump (which will increase pump capacity by 100%) fitted to the hot water supply and hope to do this during UCL reading week in order to minimise disruption.

Room lighting

Many Committee members said their room was dark in the area near the cupboard, making it difficult to see inside. We have started to make an assessment of this and will seek specialist advice on what options we have to improve things.



For more information about the Facilities Committee: facilities.connaught-hall.org.uk.



New social media presence

Connaught Hall is now on [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [Foursquare](#), and [Pinterest](#):



Join us! We will, of course, continue to update our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#) accounts.



Cutlery

Our supply of knives and forks is getting smaller by the day! Unless we find some of the missing cutlery, we could all be eating with our fingers by Easter!

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



Smoking

Please remember that smoking anywhere inside the Hall is prohibited by law in England. You could be fined if caught.

If you suspect someone is smoking please report to reception immediately so the incident can be investigated.

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.

Joining religious & political groups

I strongly advise you to investigate very thoroughly any political or religious group which you consider joining, especially if it is not officially endorsed by your college student union or ULU.

Sometimes the involvement required by a group may be deeper than at first apparent; mild introductory activities can disguise the level of commitment that is being sought. Groups can sometimes hide their fundamental beliefs from new members, enticing participation through more moderate propaganda or activities.

I have experience of talking with residents about their involvement in groups and organisations, and about conflict centred around religion, sexuality, and political views. If you have any concerns or niggling suspicions about the activities of any groups you become involved with or hear about, please come and talk to me in strict confidence. You are welcome to come to an open office session (openoffice.connaught-hall.org.uk) or email me for an appointment (warden@connaught-hall.org.uk).

Proselytizing (defined as "attempting to convert someone from one religion, belief, or opinion to another") is not permitted within the hall. Members of any faith or sect are entitled to their own beliefs, but may not seek to influence or recruit others within University accommodation. Active canvassing within the Hall is strictly forbidden either in person or by the use of fliers and leaflets.



North staircase refurbishment

The north staircase will be refurbished starting Tuesday 5 February. The staircase will be out of use until the works are complete.

Residents' Club Annual General Meeting

6.30 pm on Thursday 7 February

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Connaught Hall Residents' Club will be held in the dining hall at 6.30 pm on Thursday 7 February 2013. All residents & staff are invited to attend.

MOTION: That the Residents' Club (i.e. all residents) accepts the annual report and proposals for the remainder of the year as presented by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Entertainment Officer & Sports Officer.

What is the AGM?

At the Club AGM, the five people you elected in October have to tell you how they have been spending your £30/year Club subscription, what progress they have made towards the promises they made at the election, and how they have met the requirements of the "minimum Committee activity" that I set out here: bit.ly/11d3uCH.

They also have to tell you what they plan to do between now and the end of this academic year, and their projections for the Club's finances over this period.

Any resident can ask questions after the Officers have presented their report. Then, everyone in the room will be asked to vote and show their approval of what the elected Committee members have presented. Any resident may propose an amendment to the motion above.

The meeting is chaired by the President.

There is more information about the AGM – including what happens if the motion is not approved – in section 12 of the Residents' Club constitution: constitution.connaught-hall.org.uk.

What happens on the day?

1. The elected Committee members and the Bar Manager will tell you:
 - a) what they have done so far this year;
 - b) how much money they have spent;
 - c) how much money is left; and
 - d) what they propose to do between now and the end of the academic year.
2. Everyone present will be given the opportunity to ask questions or propose ideas.
3. The Chair will ask if anyone wishes to submit any amendments to the motion "That the Residents' Club (i.e. all residents) accepts the annual report and proposals for the remainder of the year as presented by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Entertainment Officer & Sports Officer." If any amendments are put forward, a maximum of five minutes discussion will be allowed then everyone in the room will be asked to vote on each amendment in turn.
4. Everyone present will vote on the final motion.
5. The meeting closes.