A Peek through Selwyn’s Windows

We’ve all seen the stained glass windows in the College Chapel, but some staff may not be know there are some wonderful leadlight windows around the College.

Traditionally found in Victorian houses, ‘leadlight’ is the term given to coloured glass, which differs from stained glass in that it was usually made in simple geometric designs, (square, rectangular or circular but most frequently diamond shaped, and sometimes depicting birds and flowers) and easy to manufacture. Stained glass windows, such as those commonly found in churches, usually include designs that were painted onto the glass and fired in a kiln before assembly. The extra time and cost employed in painting and firing the glass usually prohibited its use in domestic architecture.

Leadlight windows are much more common, and from the 1860s to the 1930s were a regular feature in many private houses, where their style is often a clue to the age of the building.

Stained glass and leadlight was also used as a decorative element, to create a comfortable atmosphere and retain privacy in public buildings such as banks, pubs and railway stations. The leadlight windows in the Master’s Lodge show the background of the College, depicting (left to right) the Diocese of Ely, Bishop Selwyn’s personal coat of arms, and the Cambridge University coat of arms.

Stained Glass in the Chapel

All but one of the windows in the Chapel were designed by Charles Eamer Kempe, a famous Victorian stained glass window designer. He was asked to provide windows giving a history of the church from Christ through Selwyn’s foundation, but due to a lack of money, only half of this plan was completed.

The first window installed in the East end of the Chapel was dedicated to the second master, John Richardson Selwyn, on Pentecost Sunday, 3rd June 1900 and features St Barnabas.
Looking ahead to the Easter Term

Quiet Please!
We’re in the middle of the first Quiet Period, to allow our students to study in peace and quiet, without noise or interruption. This ends on 9 May and the second Quiet Period starts on 19 May through to 13 June. The FPR ends on 22 June, and shortly after that date, the majority of our returning 1st and 2nd year students will be going down.

Staff Coffee Morning
Another important date for your diaries is Wednesday 28 May for this term’s Coffee Morning (10.30 am in the Hall), when the Social Events Committee will be raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK (one of the charities nominated by staff earlier this year) with delicious bacon butties for sale and some side shows to test your skill and co-ordination, with prizes to be won.

Bursar’s Garden Party
The traditional strawberries and cream will be served at the Bursar’s Garden Party on 18 June (let’s all hope for fine weather!)

Degree Day
The last event for the Easter Term is General Admission (Degree Day). This is normally held on a Saturday for Selwyn students, but this year our Graduands will be processing down to the Senate House on Friday 27 June.

Staff Outing: The ELO Experience

Ten of us, went to the ELO Tribute Concert at the Corn Exchange on the 24th April, which was a brilliant night out.

Are you a Team Player?

Part of being successful at work is having the skills to work with your colleagues and be a valuable part of the team. Being a team player will help you develop worthwhile relationships with co-workers. Keep in mind these few simple suggestions on how to be a successful team player.

Pitch in If you’re always the person who leaves the photocopier empty of paper, your colleagues will be less likely to consider you part of the team. You’re more likely to be considered a team player if you treat co-workers with courtesy and help out within your department.

Be reliable Show others they can count on you. Meet deadlines and always do what you say you’re going to do.

Get to know your co-workers Knowing a little bit about your colleagues will help you to be friendly with each other and enable you to help each other out.

Learn flexibility Be flexible enough to come in a little early or stay late to help meet a department goal or to finish a job. Being flexible shows willingness to do what’s best for the team.

Participate in group meetings Don’t be afraid to speak up and give your thoughts during meetings.

Offer constructive help Give constructive suggestions for problems. Sharing your knowledge, but doing so to produce constructive results instead of displaying superiority, will make you a valuable, and trusted team player.

Respect your co-workers Don’t gossip or make fun of your colleagues. They won’t trust a gossip or want someone on their team who mocks them behind their backs. Treat them with respect by being polite, not interrupting them and avoiding gossip.

Solve problems Do your part to help deal with problems and difficult situations. Instead of passing a problem to someone else, do what you can to support your colleagues to find a solution to the problem.
Spotlight On ….. the Gardens Department

I’ve been Head Gardener at Selwyn for twelve years and my current team (Sam, Paul and Laurie) has been together for nine years. The garden needed a bit of TLC when I first started. There had been some improvements and new features put in place, but I always look at a garden as a whole entity, not just specific areas, and I hope we have managed to create a tidy and colourful garden that builds on and enhances the improvements and features put in by my predecessors. After a few years of tidying up and removing dead trees, a lot of pruning, and with a kind donation of a second-hand greenhouse to replace the bubble wrap and wood greenhouse, and a new top on the existing greenhouse, we now have a good infrastructure to store and propagate new plants. This has helped me to add to the inherited Salvia collection. I have implemented a regime that has the greenhouse empty in the summer, so I can spend more time in the garden. The next project was Phase 1 of Ann’s Court in 2005. This needed some attention, and the new build gave us the opportunity to do exactly that, with a new tree planting plan, new shrubs, bulbs and new layout for the grass areas. Four years later came Phase 2 of Ann’s Court, and the plants and trees that had been planted as a temporary measure had to be relocated around the College, along with the plants from the existing gardens. Then the whole area had to be planted up in the format you see today.

In 2007 we had to do major work on the pond, as it had been leaking the previous summer. The nearby roses were removed, and three tonnes of sand was put in the middle of the pond because it was too deep. A felt liner was put in before the butyl rubber lining was put on top. Now the pond was contained, as before it just merged in to the garden border at the back of the pond and that was another way the pond was losing water. We have planted marginal plants in four tonnes of small, medium and large pebbles.

Next was the Fellows’ Garden. We fenced it off to isolate it from the garden yard, and put in an arched walkway entrance. Evergreen climbers were put on the maintenance building, and the herbaceous border was split up and re-established. Another kind donation of the summer house to replace the old one that was falling down, has made an eye-catching feature, and it is more practical at the far end of the Fellow’s Garden near the faculty buildings. My next venture is to design and implement new borders around Cripps Court. The large border near M staircase will be put back to narrow borders and therefore follow the cloisters. Most of the planting will be shrubs, with softer plants on the front. There are also plans to plant more trees in the middle of Cripps Court, to deter ball games, so it looks as if we will have plenty to do this year and in the future.

Paul Gallant

Pets Corner

Having featured ‘Yo Yo’ (the Master’s ‘dog) in the last edition of Selwyn Signal, here are some pet photographs submitted by other members of staff.

Pictured on the right is former Development Director Sarah Harmer’s 5 year old pet tortoise called ‘Mr Cosimo’. Samantha Carr has a new addition to her family—Buddy (right) - who is a very well behaved 5 month old West Highland Terrier, whose favourite pastime is chewing sticks, (which drives Sam crazy!)

And finally Sheila Scarlett has 2 year old Labradoodle called Milo, who enjoys long walks and also playing with Yo Yo.

Please share your pet pictures with your colleagues. Send your photographs to Sue Barnes by 25 June for inclusion in the next issue of ‘Selwyn Signal’.
Staff Update

New Faces
We welcome Vince Alecock as a Tradesman in the Maintenance Department, Diego Alvarez (Casual Catering Assistant) and Lizzy Cole, who has joined us as the Temporary Development Assistant.

We also welcome Mateusz (Matt) Baca as a temporary Housekeeping Supervisor to provide cover while Nicoleta Voinea is on maternity leave, and also two new Relief Porters, Kerry Williams and Tony Cross who joined the College during April.

Leavers
In March we said goodbye to two members of the Housekeeping team; Anna Rogowska (Housekeeping Assistant) and James Greener (College Caretaker).

Retirement
At a retirement party held on 26 March, the Bursar presented Sarah Stamford with a Kindle and leather cover and two garden pots from joint collections from Staff and Fellows.

Gardening Word Search
Find the items listed below in this word search. The words could be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonal.

When the word search puzzle is complete, read the left over letters starting at the top left and reading down to the bottom right to learn an interesting gardening tip.

GARDENHOSE HANDTROWEL
WATERINGCAN WHEELBARROW
SPREADER SUNHAT
PRUNINGSAW SHOVEL
RAKE TILLER
PRUNINGSHEARS KNEE STOOL
LAWNMOWER LEAF BLOWER
POLE PRUNER PRUNINGSAW
AKE LOPPERS
PRUNINGSHEARS KNEE STOOL
SPREADER SUNHAT
TANK SPRAYER TILLER
WATERING CAN WHEELBARROW
GARDEN HOSE HAND TROWEL

An Ode to our students graduating on 27 June...

It’s time to wear that pointy hat, With four sides and a tassel, To celebrate your years of work, Of study and of hassle. Now you are a graduate, So please don’t try to shirk, You may not have to study now, But soon you’ll have to work! (Denise Rodgers)

Personal Details
Remember to keep the College informed of any changes to your personal details such as your address, telephone number and mobile number, and also your emergency contact details just in case you are ill or injured at work.

Selwyn Signal is produced bi-monthly. If you would like to contribute an article or have any news that you would like to share with your colleagues, please send the details to Sue Barnes by 25 June.