

JCR Sub-Committee 2016/17 Hustings

Women's Officer:

Becca:

- 2nd year classics student
- Is passionate about making Fitz a safe and happy place for females – trying to help eliminate everyday sexism and other more serious matters
- Has benefitted from role of women's officer at school and at Fitz
- Has volunteer experience:
 - o Every Tuesday morning, volunteers at Just Love
 - o Also volunteers as an educator for Benghazi refugee Muslim women
- Experience as female welfare exec in 2015
 - o Active listening, working with CUSU, sensitive issues, highly organised (also does weekly collections)
- Has some ideas for the role:
 - o Women's dinner (invite back female alumni, meal for male and female students)
 - o Develop Fitz Feminism society (more feminism debates)
 - o Anonymous reporting platform (to report catcalling or more serious matters that people don't feel comfortable reporting in person)
 - o Introduce Master's talk with consent workshop – make the consent workshops taken much more seriously. In conjunction with the welfare exec.

Target and Access Officers (x2):

Andrew:

Really liked being involved with shadows as a CUSU shadowing scheme mentor and would like a chance to get to do it more. As a care leaver who was first in his family to go to university and went to a state college understands how impenetrable Cambridge can seem and was directly influenced by a mentor on the Sutton Summer School who proved to him that he could make it to Cambridge.

He is engaging in a dialogue with both the social services in his borough and the charity that housed him in terms of doing talks, and he is going to do some work with Realise - a Cambridge-wide outreach group

He wants to give that type of experience to other people.

Started to go back to college to do talks – wants to get care leavers involved with these events.

Specifically wants to target care leavers (6% of care leavers go to university – so much fewer numbers must apply to Cambridge) and homeless young people.

There are lots of people who are more than capable but don't apply – need to target these people as Cambridge/Fitz is a very accepting place

Will:

A first year from a state school with no university attendance in the family. Was really concerned about the negative Cambridge stereotype and was convinced to apply through participation in Pathways to Law, a two year outreach program at

Oxford. Gave the confidence needed to apply, and would love to give something back and help others apply with a similarly negative outlook to himself, or who just don't want to give it a shot for whatever reason.

Thinks he would be good at the job - friendly and approachable, and can talk to pretty much anyone, which is vitally important in helping people who perhaps don't feel like they could fit in to change their minds. Has done tours for SLO and has applied to be a Fitz Web Ambassador, as well as talking in old school and helping applicants on the Student Room.

Wants to spread the word about Cambridge and Fitz – it is really important to try and broaden both communities by ensuring people who should apply, but don't, actually give it a go. Would focus on social media, TSR, Wiki etc as that is where he got a lot of application information from. Fitz, in particular, seems under represented online and around Cambridge and, whilst a definitely aspirational goal, I would love to completely change this as we are a great and super friendly college who can completely subvert the Cambridge stereotype.

Dan:

Was empowered to apply to Cambridge/Fitz after an outreach programme. He is a first generation student to university and so knows how it is for people to be in that situation. Has perspective both as a student and mentor. Has experience working with the admissions officer at Fitz – and at other colleges at university. So has ability and confidence in communicating with members of staff and students. Target and Access is the way in which he got into uni. He has given back in the form of summer schools and open days and thinks Fitz is a very good college that gets attention when properly advertised to prospective students. Has gone back to Sixth Form College and given talks there on access to university. Wants to attract more students to Fitz in the way he was encouraged through summer programmes

Elaine:

Spent ages visiting colleges – decided Fitz because its friendly and welcoming. Fitz is at the forefront of breaking down Cambridge stereotypes. Wants more people to consider Fitz and be a bit more involved in pushing the college's name forward.

Runs CamTweets from a BioNatSci perspective for which students tweet about their daily life. Has also been back to old school to give talks - more support for current students wanting to return to schools that aren't their own, how to approach? As a NatSci can't give usual college tours due to contact hours - maybe more events in evenings and more chances to be involved in interview and open day help?

Has experience with organisation and communication being the Musical director of show choir

Had a lot of Oxbridge support at her school and wants to give similar support to prospective students (that she was used to). A lot of students at Cambridge live quite close to Cambridge Wants to target students who live far away – possibly rent rooms to students from afar during open days (in the newly renovated A,B,C).

A lot of people don't know about CamTweets and Shadowing Scheme so wants to

do a lot of advertising on social media (facebook/instagram/student room) to increase the reach of these.

Scotland gets a bit neglected due to free education for Scottish students. So wants to organize talks from Fitz students at these schools/schools that aren't their own.

Louise (speech sent):

Hi I'm Lou,

I was worried Cambridge was going to be a bit lardy dar, full of workaholics and unsociable. But it's not; I got those vibes as early as my interview because some really lovely students sat with us and chatted about Cambridge.

I've really enjoyed my first term here, it hasn't been the Hogwarts (we'll say snobby for the Harry Potter lovers) experience I expected. Everyone is so chilled, down to earth and welcoming. I would like to remove the Hogwarts stigma and make everyone feel like they'll enjoy, and be welcomed, at Fitz!

I would particularly like to promote Fitz to fellow Northerners and also first generation uni students because it seems like such a more chilled and friendly college than all the others!

I have a tendency to talk to anyone (it's a northern thing), I'd like to be a friendly face for prospective applicants!

Q&A:

There is a lot of working in groups – if you don't know someone how will you deal with it?

Will:

Can work in a team. It's like being in a sports group – can build a good rapport with anyone.

Andrew:

Knows the people applying and gets on well with all of them.

Dan:

Knows some other members applying and is willing to work in a team with everyone.

Elaine:

Knows Dan well and can work professionally with anyone to get the job done.

Website Officer:

Charlie Jonas (speech sent):

Apologies for not being able to make the hustings.

Why you think you'd be suitable for the role?

Currently I'm the Webmaster for TEDxCambridgeUniversity so I have experience of running, updating and managing a major Cambridge society's website. In particular, due to an administrative oversight, I had to completely recreated the TEDx website from scratch and so have experience in managing the backend technology of websites.

I have several friends and contacts who are involved in designing and managing

website for other JCRs and Cambridge societies and I'd seek to use their experience, as well as my own. That said I'd always be willing to listen to feedback and suggestions for features from anyone within college.

What you'd like to do with the role?

I'd like to maintain our reputation amongst all the colleges as having one of the best website by condensing the content slightly and changing aspects of the block layout to improve the site's clarity. I'd also like to consult with the rest of the JCR committee about potentially changing aspects of the colour scheme and/or making it more consistent.

I understand the importance of maintaining an online presence and would seek to work with all departments of the JCR to give them their own presence and section of the JCR's website.

Publications Officer:

Isabel Cocker (speech sent):

Hi I'm Isabel and I want to be the JCR'S Publications officer. I am a keen journalist and know that I can bring a lot to the role. I recently spent 2 months working in Bolivia for a magazine, both writing articles and editing and designing the issues of the magazine themselves. In addition to this I have written articles for the Goat Post and for Polyglossia, the MML publication. I am organised and good at admin - I am President of the University's Chamber Orchestra which involves a lot of organisation in order to successfully hold twice - termly concerts with professional soloists and conductors. If I were elected as Publications Officer I would work to involve the college more fully in the magazine, by holding editorial meetings at the start of term to decide a theme of the issue (not necessarily based around college) and work throughout term to publish articles either through Facebook or on a blog post in order to maintain momentum of the magazine and keep the college's interest in the publication. I would also hold a social media drive in order to increase readership of the magazine - a recent one I held for the CUCO Facebook page raised our followers from 400 to 700 in 4 weeks. This would encourage the college to see the magazine as a more integrated issue as opposed to a single termly event at its publication.

Charities Officer:

Peter:

Relevant Experience:

- Healthcare work in Tanzania
- Volunteering in a children's orphanage in Romania
- Working in a refugee camp in Germany

Hope to bring some of that experience to Fitz and help the college be more aware about pertinent issues in both the developing world and areas closer to home that face challenges such as how to best support refugees. Many people feel that charity is a duty or a bit of a chore – I would like to make Fitz conscious of the

fact that giving is a privilege and that we should really value the chance to serve others. Highlight that charity isn't just about money, it also includes time and other areas.

With that in mind here are some practical suggestions:

New fundraising ideas such as sports events (Fitz/with Hill Colleges etc)

Advertise volunteering opportunities during holidays in cooperation with established charities

Food bank collections at the end of term

Give students a choice of charities to support so we all feel involved

Encourage local action (in Cambridge) – bring it closer to home.

Green Officer:

Melissa Dicks:

I'm really interested in environmental issues, and I have some experience of getting involved with Greenpeace and WWF campaigns.

I understand that we are all very busy and it's hard to make changes, so I want to make it easier and more convenient to be green.

I would like to improve recycling facilities - have a place in the porters lodge for recycling batteries and printer cartridges, and also better paper recycling provision.

I want to talk to the catering team about having more locally sourced food in buttry, or maybe a locally sourced food formal and a fair trade formal. Also to encourage people to eat more seasonal fruit and veg, I'd send out information about what's in season along with student-friendly recipes every couple of weeks.

To raise awareness, I would keep people informed about events with an environmental focus both at a university and a national level, as well as putting on events in Fitz, such as continuing with film nights, hosting talks and discussions, and also definitely hold a second-hand fair at Fitz.

Generally, my aims are to make it easier and more enjoyable to make Fitz more environmentally-friendly :)

Q&A:

Q: Houses' recycling bins get full and house keeps putting recycling in normal bin.

A: Would like to look into the issue. The main problem is that it is not clear who meant to be doing what

Q: Housekeeping said you can't have your own compost bin?

A: Will talk to college about it.

Could also maybe create a system to give compost to allotment society (particularly if you live in college).

Charlotte Coventon (speech sent):

I'm a geographer who is really enthusiastic about environmental issues and promoting sustainability.

Through the geography department I have lots of contacts for potential guest speakers who are experts in this field.

As part of the freshers committee I have experience of how the JCR works.

My aims as green officer would be:

Improvements to recycling, with emphasis on clearer labelling and waste food. Make the invisible visible in terms of energy consumption throughout the year, not just during the Fitz off competition.

Continue with having speakers and film screenings.

Hold a green formal consisting of locally sourced, free range and vegetarian food.

A broader campaign to increase environmental awareness.

In addition, though I realise this may be very ambitious I would like to see an increase in renewable energy at Fitz.

Together we can make Fitz keen for green!

Ents Officers (x3):

Georgia:

Why am I suitable?

Key is being organized and juggle work. She is someone who is able to prioritize time and balance a lot of extra curricular activities.

Organising events in college means you have to be creative and bring ideas forward.

Introduce more frequent events during term. As term goes on freshers don't tend to meet anyone other than the people around you. Having movie nights would give a more community feel.

She is approachable and is receptive to other's ideas.

Increase contacts with fellow students – ask how to improve current events and what would people like to have.

Have more events for people who don't drink or go clubbing. Ask them for suggestions. Also ask for suggestions for themes for bops and superhall and music requests.

Abi Sommers (speech sent):

I LOVE ENTS. I always enjoy going to ents and I want to make sure that other people have the opportunity to enjoy ents as much as I do. I was on the Freshers Committee this year and it made me appreciate how much the ents team do. I really enjoyed being on the Freshers Committee and would equally look forward to working as part of the ents team and listening to people's suggestions of what kind of ents they want to see more of at Fitz.

Matt Hill (speech sent):

Would like to do it because I would like a say in college events.

Would like to have more Fitz events, i.e. a termly bar crawl.

Would like to organise the events and listen to ideas others may have.

Would also like to give something back for freshers next year as a lot of work was put in for us this year.

Personally have good time management and am a geographer so have plenty of

free time to organise and run events.

Would also like to be involved in the day to day running of college, having more say in what goes on.

LGBT+ Officer:

Savannah

Having participated in an increasing amount of LGBT+ events at Cam both within and outside the CUSU LGBT+ umbrella, I like to think I have a good knowledge of a lot of issues that LGBT+ students might face. Coming from a very intersectional background as a black gay woman, I unfortunately know quite a lot about discrimination and am keen to ensure that other students don't have to experience this. As a frequent face at a lot of LGBT+ events, I know how overwhelming it can be to have no-one to go to such events with and really want to be able to take along or chaperone any students who don't feel like they know enough friendly faces within the LGBT+ scene, whatever the level of engagement they'd like to take up. I'm also already involved in the LGBT+ organisation of the law firm I'll be working with in the future, and am super happy to discuss being LGBT+ in careers with anyone who might want to do so.

- would like to increase LGBT+ social events available to Fitz students, including Fitz-based/Hill college swaps (especially without emphasis on alcohol)
- if interest, would like to do Fitz LGBT+ film nights
- want to listen/be a point of reference/welfare point for anyone to discuss issues they're having, whether with gender or sexuality or along those lines (even if you think gender/sexuality influence is slight!), e.g. whether questioning, being in the closet, relationship issues, etc.
- keen to shepherd/chaperone students to external LGBT+ events; understand how isolating it can be to not know anyone going to them!
- think my own intersectional background + experience within Cam's LGBT+ scene helps qualify for role
- happy to discuss/share being LGBT+ in many graduate roles; am already involved in the LGBT+ society of my future law firm

International Officer:

Tom Benn (speech sent):

Earlier this year I was honoured to be offered a position to study here at Fitzwilliam. My experience would not be the same if not for the students I met during International Fresher's week.

Despite my home being in Sheffield, I've often felt "international" on account of where I've lived and my family background. I'm the son of a Scotsman and an Israeli, and spent my first 5 years in Glasgow followed by 3 in Belgium. As a result, my accent is so mixed up that I often need to awkwardly explain precisely why I live in the north of England but sound like I'm from the north of California.

It's important for Internationals to be integrated with other students as well as being free to make their own community. I intend to facilitate that by taking what I learned from our incredible current officer Marie during international fresher's week and improving on it with more ents designed to integrate

students into a wider community (without compromising bonds made with other international freshers).

For example, despite many local natural science freshers being on campus for their pre-course, there was no integration with internationals. I would like to remove all forms of segregation so we can stop being “internationals” and just be “students”.

Of course there's more to this position than international fresher's ents. I intend to support any internationals who come to me asking for help or support - and if I'm stuck, then of course I can go to the friends I made during my international freshers.

I would be delighted to serve this college as international welfare officer.