

JCR President's Column 2011-2012

It would be fair to say that Churchill Hall strikes a very happy medium between the spartan 'cosiness' and wanton frippery of certain other halls. The newly refurbished blocks – notably The Holmes – are the 'jewels in the crown', both boasting luxury and spaciousness. Soon to join them this summer are another residential block, the bar, the Hexagon games room and the kitchens – which, bizarrely, will also become a water bottling plant... This caused much chagrin to the environmental committee, whose valiant – if slightly ineffectual efforts – will set a precedent for further sustainable measures in halls next year.

The quad saw a myriad of activity over the year: barbeques during the glorious spate of sunshine in the midst of exam season; the Churchill football team – unable to enter the league – trampling it to mud every Wednesday afternoon; and the occasional firework in the middle of the night. We took the opportunity of the end-of-year Garden Party to further destroy the lawn with a slip 'n' slide, a fun and (mostly) injury-free activity. Inflatables, a Pimms tent and live jazz band provided a yet richer backdrop against which to bid goodbye to Churchill.

The JCR was totally transformed for the extravaganza of debauchery that was the Valentine's Ball – well nigh unrecognisable beneath new lighting and drapes. On a bitterly cold night, the atmosphere inside was certainly warm. Other highlights included a pub quiz run in aid of BVDA – a student charity for development abroad – which saw an unprecedented turnout, with barely standing room only.

The JCR did sadly stand empty for much of the year; no longer outfitted with the armchairs and newspapers of the 1960s, there seems little reason for students to go there. During exam season, however, it saw a steady stream of refugees from the library. This led to what I think embodies the Churchill spirit well – by simply studying side by side, nobodies became acquaintances, acquaintances became friends; and so it is with real sadness that the year came to an end.

Barney Main

Churchill Hall President 2011/2012

