editorial

A visionary. That’s what I was when this edition was in its infancy. Like the undergraduates who are driven to save the world, this first-time-editor was about to bring the world to you; everything you needed to know; changes both in the world outside and here at home; facts and gossip; the hip and humorous.

But as I took my first few steps, things started to change and kept changing. There was change not only to the structure of what was to be this edition, but change seemed to fuel most of its content too. Quite befitting as a final product, a collage of change that reflects the lives we lead.

So here it is, my first attempt at walking the line(s). I give you ‘change’ and, only because ‘tis the season, a dash of love as well.

Enjoy,

Viknesh Sivanathan

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I am not the first person that Vic approached to write an article about love for this edition of The Lina-cre Lines. In fact, I suspect that he attacked several innocent bystanders on his visits to college. But what was the root of the resistance he faced? I wondered why a seemingly gentle topic should receive such great scepticism, especially when it is so present in our daily lives...

The radio kicks off this morning quite predictably with James Blunt. Following this, we have: Huey Lewis with “The Power of Love”; another song or two; David Gray and “This Year’s Love”; another song and then Scar-let’s “Independent Love Song”. Unsurprisingly, the lyrics to these songs provide very little insight into their common theme. It is time instead to probe someone who has never had a hit in the Top Forty. His reply: “Love is when I hold back my girlfriend’s hair while she is being sick.” Nice. Still yet to leave the starting blocks, I do what any other “normal” chemist would do—turn to chemistry. Apparently, the chemicals in our brain have a lot to answer for...

It would seem that Cupid’s arrows would never have been effective if they had not been dipped into a chemical named phenylethylamine. This unromantically named chemical is the cause of the common symptoms of love: heady emotions; racing pulses; general restlessness.

So perhaps Shakespeare was not far off the truth after all; maybe love can be bottled up. Maybe indeed, but while an initial infatuation may be due in part to playful chemicals, a more stable and intimate state can often develop in the right cases. Most importantly, remember that there are many different types of love—do not bottle them all up. Love your family and friends; your hobbies; the food on your plate; the warm drink in your hand on a cold day; the thought of a holiday in the sun. Fill your life with the things that you love (romantic or not) and then you will love life too. And whatever the scientists might say, I personally believe in fairy tale endings. I like to think that every Elizabeth Bennet finds her Mr Darcy, every Posh her Becks and every Miss Piggy her Kermit. And ladies, you might need to kiss a few frogs before one actually turns into a handsome prince; or you might need to kiss the same one a few times. Men, you will possibly end up visiting a few Cinderellas before the glass slipper fits. And finally:

“This Valentine’s day, remember all loved ones who are close and dear; and remember the ones who are far and near. Have faith in your love and give it your best. And after all the exhaustion, get some good rest!”

So perhaps Shakespeare was not far off the truth after all; maybe love can be bottled up.

Its release from the brain can be triggered by the most simple of actions, a meeting of eyes or a brushing of hands. It is also the chemical present in chocolate, perhaps the reason why it is common practice to woo another by the giving of this heavenly substance. When accompanied with certain other chemicals in the brain, in the virtual explosion that results from the unbearably attractive that has been triggered, we enter a dangerous stage. How many of us have felt as though we are floating on air or like we could talk for hours? Before you know it, you have “fallen in love” with a person who more than likely possesses none of the attributes on the list of specifications that you have been building up. Blame it all on the chemicals.

“One bottle of love, please.”

A ticket to cloud 9, by Catherine Smura
Those lingering looks over Linacre dinners have sowed the seed of love. Glances (or was it gropes?), over glasses of Linacre’s finest wines are leading the two of you to a certain fate. Finally, the shamelessly pigeon-posted card/rose/chocolate heart has led to your first, virginal Linacre kiss and has provoked what a Welfare officer might refer to as an “emergency”. The (currently imaginary) OUSU condom machines are in the highest demand. Dr. Suspender analyses the top ten places to love at Linacre.

Fool-proof sites
1. The disabled toilet. Centrally located, roomy, hooks for clothes — surely a destination designed for skirts to be crumpled and shirts removed!
2. Toilets either half a floor up or half a floor down from the library. Lockable, discreet, and a shower included. A faultless location!

Slightly risqué
3. Linacre lift. Not often used in the middle of the night. A reasonably safe option, with the added bonus that if the lift is called to another floor, it moves so slowly that you should be able to redress before the doors open.

Moderately risky (Pick your time carefully!)
5. Dining Hall. Much fun can be achieved between the benches. A reasonable destination post 10pm, presuming that anyone requiring piano practice is already tucked-up in bed.

6. The corridor down to the housekeeper’s flat. Hazards: Fire alarms may provoke a sudden appearance of Louise. Not advisable during bops - too much competition for space.
7. The gym/gyms showers. A favourite during bops and balls. The mirrors, mats and exercise balls should keep you entertained, not to mention the interesting things that can be achieved with the exercise equipment.

And finally: Dangerous destinations,
8. Small room off library. Advantages: Table/chairs/armchairs to choose from. Disadvantages: might be caught out by the night birds of Linacre.
9. Similar problem arises for the T.V. room but those soft sofas are just so inviting…

Happy loving Linacrites!

Capture the LINES that surround us

LINACRE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

closing date: 31st of March 2006. email lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk for more details
At different times and in different cultures, a variety of sexual behaviours have been approved of, tolerated, punished, and banned. In this day and age, conversations on the expression of human sexuality are held with increased candour. And in one such discussion with friends Sangeetha Kumar and Sarah Cader (the latter a psychiatrist), this considerable amount of change to the perception of sexuality made us wonder about the future.

“*It makes no difference to me whatsoever [that Will is gay], he is still good looking, has a fabulous voice and great personality. The person who says females don’t fancy gay men must be a bloke!!*” (Sarah)

Sarah refers to Will Young, Pop Idol winner 2002 whose sexual orientation has now been officially declared for public knowledge (discussion?). Sarah’s comment, albeit in reference to a gay man, made several observations that perhaps hold greater universal relevance than previously thought. Is it one’s orientation that ultimately holds the key to the laws of attraction or is it the underlying qualities attributed to the individual? It has long been accepted that neither is mutually exclusive, but perhaps in this day and age what drives our senses is veering down a gender-blind path.

Asking a few others, their responses ranged from, “I don’t care if Will is gay” to “Who is Will?” Most responses though, boarded on the path of not minding the fact that someone had announced he was gay. Of course, there was a share of heart broken women, and homophobic men, but generally it seemed very clear that most people were accepting another’s choice of sexuality and said that it didn’t affect their opinion of the artist. On this issue there are a few issues to note.

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**Perhaps in this day and age what drives our senses is veering down a gender-blind path**

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Sexuality, once clearly a taboo topic, as a genre itself has evolved over the years such that its daily mention in the media is almost inescapable. If not a sign of the public’s hunger for all things ‘juicy’ in nature this surely must be indicative of a very real paradigm shift in once perceived norms. From gay men being held up as piñatas for the masses taking a moral high ground, to a new campaign every fortnight advocating what rights are due, the transition in public acceptance is clear.

Secondly, from the social aspect, the concept of family has been fundamentally changing. Previously it mattered most that one found the “right man” or “right woman” to fulfil one’s role in society. Therefore being a “proper couple” entailed a marriage that was followed by the production of offspring. However, in recent times, there has been a drastic change in what the notion of “proper” actually means. Many couples, especially in the Western part of the world consider themselves a couple without saying the vows, and continue their lives as married couples would. Such an evolution of the concept of marriage indicates that people are no longer looking at “marriage” per se, as much as they are interested in finding the right person to spend their lives with. With homosexual couples allowed to adopt children, then the barrier that would force the right person to be of the opposite sex for the sake of having children is removed. And in saying so it has altered the course from right man or woman, to the right person.

When we combine both these points, they work simultaneously in society creating a climaxing effect that people aren’t interested in sexuality anymore. What used to be a clear demarcation between homosexuality and heterosexuality has resulted now in much more grey area, where people look out for the endogenous qualities of a person more than anything else. This discussion does not include those who are primarily hormonally driven in finding their mate.

In short, whether or not we all become truly gender blind is uncertain. However, what was once a clear line has now become infinitely dotted, and the laws of attraction have undoubtedly been changed.
Society has been influenced by such thinkers as Kant, Freud, St. Augustine, Bertrand Russell, and many contemporary philosophers. The sexual pessimists argue that the sexual impulse and acting upon it is unbecoming to the dignity of the human. This does not necessarily indicate that sex in itself is morally wrong, and most major religions will accept that it has its place, albeit within the context of procreation only.

On the other hand, many modern thinkers would argue that sexual pleasure is a valuable thing in its own right, and therefore should be sought. It’s quite clear to me that sex can’t be inherently evil, and that the pleasure associated with intercourse has very clear biological imperatives. However, at what point sex goes from being something acceptable or right to something wrong is not clear.

Something new represented only by a minority automatically inherits a stigma.

Sexual behaviour can be considered “normal” or “deviant”. The very use of the word “deviant” implies wrongness. Though if we avoid using value judgments, it just indicates that statistically it is not practised by most. Homosexuality was until recently considered “deviant” in the UK, and is still considered deviant by many religions and countries.

This perhaps is the limit in what today’s society regards as acceptable sexuality. Something new represented only by a minority automatically inherits a stigma. But this isn’t necessarily a drawback, as within this lies bestiality, paedophilia, and other sexual practices. We define these latter acts as unacceptable as it compromises the integrity of an “innocent” party.

Perhaps then, this is the important part. Any acceptable sexual activity must be voluntarily carried out by all persons involved and with full insight. Not everyone agrees with this, some arguing for something greater than simple consent, and others arguing that it doesn’t need to be entirely voluntary. I strongly believe that the minimum requirement for morally right sexual behaviour is that there is, at some level, an agreement from all parties involved that this is what they want to do.

Thus, in this current society, where we are assuming a more and more liberal position on sexuality, it is important to protect the rights of the individual both to allow them free expression of their own sexuality, but also to protect them from the overzealous and inappropriate sexual behaviour of others.
My feet are tapping beneath my lab bench. My head is nodding to a tempo I’m not consciously aware of. I am hungry and can no longer concentrate. Then it strikes me— it is Thursday and almost lunchtime.

My realisation of hunger is not an intentional outcome of the twenty or so protesters, banging their drums on South Parks Road, but they have caught my attention. As they brave the cold to protest against the Animal Research Facility being built, I wonder whether they are making a difference. Does anyone really take them seriously?

I took the liberty to speak with one Animal Rights activist to find out if they are truly dedicated to producing an end to animal cruelty. Are their motives actually rational, or are they simply fuelled by a combination of boredom and a desire to be heard? Here’s how it went…

Q: While new methods have enabled scientists and medical researchers to reduce work involving animals, some work must continue for further fundamental advances to be made. Do you agree with this statement?

A: No! Many experiments carried out on animals have the opposite effect on humans. I may not be a scientist, but you don’t have to be one to understand that. Visit www.curedisease.net, and read it for yourself.

From www.curedisease.net

Drugs would be safer than they are now if the animal testing phase was eliminated. Many studies have shown that animals predict correctly for humans only 5-25% of the time: far worse than tossing a coin! 92% of new drugs fail in clinical trials, after they have passed all the safety tests in animals. Many drugs that reach the market are later withdrawn or re-labeled because of serious side effects. Reliance on animal data allows companies to avoid the expense of bigger and better clinical trials.

Q: Do you know of alternatives that will allow scientists and medical researchers to gain similar information, if not more accurate, should animal testing be stopped?

A: Yes. Off the top of my head— test tube experiments, stem cells and computer modeling. Go look at that website for more.

Q: All experiments carried out on animals have to first be granted a license from the Home Secretary. If you’re truly passionate about stopping animal experimentation, why not work with the Home Secretary to come up with more rigorous criteria for license approval?

A: There is too much bureaucracy; we’ll never be taken seriously. Plus, they wouldn’t agree. We’re not here to make it safer for animals, or to ensure that only some get tested on; we want to put an end to experiments on animals. If you want to observe them in their natural environment, be my guest, but no testing on animals. No testing whatsoever.
Q: I read in the Oxford student that according to animal protestors, the reason the workers on the new building wear masks is because of the guilt associated with erecting that building. I think it’s because they’re afraid of you. What do you think?

A: Rot! They’re not afraid. We (protesters) should be the ones who are afraid. University staff are the ‘protected people’.

Q: How can they not be afraid when there have been death threats?

A: Everyone gets death threats. It’s called standing up for what you believe in. I’ve been attacked and hospitalised for three weeks for what I believe in!

(Show me a scar on her face to prove it. Things get a little heated, and to avoid further agitation, I change the topic.)

“And where do you think these monkeys come from? Do you think they grow on trees?”

Q: Your protests do get loud. Do you not feel that those not involved with this animal research facility should be allowed to work in peace?

A: People have noisy neighbours; people have construction in their neighbourhoods. Cope! They’re working behind walls; we’re out in the cold fighting for a valid cause. Cope!

Q: How would you feel if you had to protest quietly?

A: Absolutely ridiculous. Animal testing is a contentious issue. Everyone should be allowed to voice their opinions. How would you feel if you were fighting for a cause, but were told to do so by standing inside a circle, only holding a banner and not being allowed to speak.

I’d feel like a clown!

Exactly.

In the background, with a hailer pressed against his eager lips, I could almost visualise the words coming out of another protester’s mouth, “And where do you think these monkeys come from? Do you think they grow on trees?” I almost laughed, and my interviewee smiled. With the situation much calmer, I approach the issue about death threats once again.

Q: How would you react if I said that many individuals, who are against animal research, are turned away from voicing their feelings because of the way this protest is carried out?

A: What’s wrong with this protest?

Q: Not to keep bringing up the same issue, but death threats. There is nothing peaceful about it.

A: You’re a joker. This is peaceful. We’re standing out here in the cold, with only haulers and banners. We might yell out to stop progress on the building, but you’ve never heard us yelling death threats. Some people have resorted to death threats, but not us. It’s not only us standing here that feel strongly about experimentation on animals.

We’re not threatening anyone, remember that. They’re a different group. And come on, have they actually done anything to the builders for anyone to be so scared? Surely even you can tell the difference between someone threatening to kidnap Leo Blair and a father scaling the palace walls?

Q: Can I quote you on everything you’ve said?

A: Of course, my name is Lynn XXXXXX. I work at XXXXXX. I’m fighting for a valid cause, and this protest is peaceful. I have nothing to be ashamed of.

As I walked away, I asked myself if I could say the same.

More information on the protest against the Animal Research Facility on South Parks Road can be found at http://www.speakcampaigns.org.uk/
What inspired you to take this photo?
I wouldn’t call it an inspiration... I was just trying to take photos of college and I thought that the stairs in the garden looked nice. Plus my friend Cristian was just tall enough to fit his eye in one of the holes.

Could you elaborate on the technical aspects of this photo, i.e. exposure?
I can’t really remember this, it was a sunny day, so it wasn’t difficult to have good exposure without the need for a tripod or flash. No tricks. If the stairs were inside, I’d probably have used a flash, which would be quite tricky with the stairs’ metal surface. Also the shadows on the face would look ugly. I usually point the flash to the closest white wall so the light looks like it’s coming from a window. I could have also used a tripod and a long exposure time to avoid artificial light, but everything must stay very still.

Why did you chose black and white, and how did you achieve the desired effects?
I like taking black and white photos mainly because I enjoy developing. If you mean the “old and scratched” effect that this photo has, well, that’s not intentional. It’s just problems I had with the scanner.

How long have you been taking composed photographs?
About 5 years ago when my dad bought me a camera as a birthday gift. But I went through a lot of film before I understood how to regulate aperture and time with different objectives in different light conditions. But I have to say that I still waste a lot of film.

What is your favourite type of photography, and why do you love it?
I like shooting portraits: of friends, random people, family, kids, old people, I like to make their wrinkles as sharp as possible. I also like taking photos of people from a distance, but only if they don’t realise. To look at, I prefer colour photos, snapshots of life in big cities or in wide landscapes, I don’t know, have you seen the Jeff Wall exhibition at the Tate Modern last month, for example? I liked that very much.

What is the most valuable piece of advice you would give to budding photographers everywhere?
I don’t have advise to give but from personal experience I can say that the more effort I put in each single photo (the more time and money I spend to get from the shot to the print), the more I learn. But with digital photography, you can go by trial and error and it’s not going to cost you anything!

To see your photograph in the next issue of Linacre Lines, send an electronic copy of your photograph to lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk
If you’ve been around Linacre for a few years, you’ll have heard murmurings about our 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign. There have been notices on the board, articles in Linacre News, events and many activities. Some of you have been very involved, and the college is really grateful to all the individual members of the Common Room, and of the Executive Committee, who have championed the campaign, either by enabling the proceeds of a bop to be donated to the campaign, or by other activities. These have included the Christmas raffles, the 2005 London Marathon, Linacre’s Future in July 2005, some individual donations, and lots of other ideas and help which students have given.

What were we raising money for? Funds identified by the Development Committee in 2000 were endowment, student support (scholarships and hardship monies), accommodation, and academic activities (eg. IT, library, Linacre lectures). During the later years of the campaign a strong emphasis was placed on endowment; Linacre is way down the list of colleges in the endowment ‘league table’, and its very small endowment is an ongoing source of concern, as it looks to the future and thinks about caring properly for its students.

What did we raise? Thanks to some generous major donations, and to a lot of smaller ones, we brought in £3 million. We appreciate every single gift, and all the work from so many people. Thanks to the campaign, we will be able to add £2 million to the endowment total; part of this is pledged, but will come in during the next two years, as is usual for a campaign. A new student house, Peter Holloway House, has been added to our accommodation, and we have added or continued a range of scholarships, from which some of you benefit. The largest single gifts were from the Tanner Charitable Trust, for endowment (£420,000), from the EPA Cephalosporin Fund, for scholarships and bursaries in biomedical sciences (£360,000) and from Dr Keith & Mrs Marjorie Lloyd, for accommodation (Peter Holloway House) (£200,000).

How did we do it? There’s no doubt that the campaign has represented a lot of hard work. I have really lived with it for the last five years, since April 2001 when I started in this job. The campaign proper was launched in October 2002 (the 40th Anniversary), following a quiet phase of 22 months. We focussed on major sources of support; unlike many Oxford undergraduate colleges, Linacre has very few major donors. It is the nature of the College; Old Members have allegiance to at least one other college or university, most of them go into academic posts which do not pay well, and we have found that the tradition of giving back to one’s alma mater is not strong in many of the 130 countries where our Old Members live. So we got to the total, but it was not easy.

How has the Campaign helped Linacre? Apart from the funds, which are naturally highly significant, we have deepened relationships with a large number of Old Members and other supporters, and reminded them what a great college Linacre is. We thoroughly enjoy meeting with them, and value their friendship. I trust that we are giving something to them; Development is never just about asking for money. It has been great to meet with them, and to see them meeting up with each other: together we can continue to enrich Linacre in many ways in the future. A huge ‘Thank you’ is made to all.

Anne Keene
Director of Development

Opening of 201 Iffley, with Peter Holloway
The future is bright.
The future is Strategic Planning.

John Roscoe tells us why

Linacre Needs a Strategic Plan

Under Vice Chancellor John Hood Oxford has begun to implement strategic change designed to woo large donors and attract alumni to give to the University. And yet, while making Oxford attractive to donors is a positive development, there is a real risk that it could create losers as colleges get left behind in the competition for benefactors. Linacre’s position in this new development environment is particularly precarious. We haven’t been around that long and are not as well known outside the University as the older undergraduate colleges. Not only do we have a relatively small alumni group that is globally dispersed, they are mainly comprised of a large proportion of academics with modest incomes and lacking connections to large private sources of funding.

Given these constraints, the college and the Development Office should be congratulated for successfully attaining the 40th Anniversary Campaign’s goal to raise £3 million. Of great encouragement is the fact that the amount raised includes benefactions from a considerable number of new donors in the mid-range of £10,000 to £100,000. However, what has also become clear is that -- with the exception of Coca-Cola -- all the benefactions in excess of £100,000 have come from sources that are either connected to the University or the same private donors who have repeatedly contributed to College’s development over the last 40 years. In the new development environment, attracting new large benefactors is becoming increasingly difficult for small institutions like Linacre. Looking towards Linacre’s 50th Anniversary Campaign the question therefore arises: what can Linacre do to successfully adapt to the changing development environment and secure its future? In order to answer that question the college needs to become involved in strategic planning.

What is strategic planning and why do we need it at Linacre?

Strategic planning is a management tool to help an organisation improve. It is a process designed to focus an organisation’s energy, ensure that its members are working toward the same goals and assess and adjust the organisation’s direction in response to a changing environment. In short, it is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organisation is, what it does, and why. Like the changing environment it addresses, strategic planning is unstructured (rather than tightly organised) and requires flexibility and creative thinking to be effective.

Strategic planning is needed at Linacre. It should be a statement of committed intent that informs all members of college and potential donors about where Linacre is headed, where its immediate priorities lie, how it intends to achieve them, and why. At the same time, the plan should not be regarded as a straitjacket. As conditions change, so aspects of the plan should be amended. But wherever possible, the college’s decisions and development priorities should be guided by it.

A strategic plan for Linacre

I have been pushing for a strategic plan to be implemented. However, such seismic changes to the Oxbridge way of doing things occur only once every century, and since women had been admitted to all Colleges only 30 years ago, I would have to wait a good deal longer before seeing a strategic plan put in place. Thankfully, John Hood’s actions appear to have precipitated a sea change in such tired thinking.

I have been informed that meetings to determine a ‘forward looking strategy’ are being held. This is usually associated with the development of yet another college goal: a new campaign target, a realignment of the college’s investment portfolio, a decision to increase student accommodation, etc.

But just who are these people deciding Linacre’s future, and why have we not been told about them?

They may be excellent people, but how would we know? In my estimation, the most flexible and creative thinkers, and those with the most invested in the college and its future, are its students. While I am not privy to who has been included in these “high level meetings” and whether alumni are also involved, I have asked around college and not found a single student who has been approached for their input to these meetings. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to offer a few ideas of my own.
The Student Body

Over its first 40 years, Linacre has grown from 60 students to just over 300. It should continue this growth strategy by aligning itself with the University’s stated goal to increase the number and proportion of graduate students. As has been done to date, college should strive to maintain rough parity in the number of male and female students. They should also continue to take a high proportion of international students from all regions of the world. In doing so it should build on its established reputation as an institution of national and international standing in graduate research in both the arts and sciences. In my view this requires eliminating non-degree students from the student body. Students studying for diplomas and certificates do not enhance college’s reputation as an institution of graduate research excellence. This does not extend to non-research Masters’ degrees - MBA, MJur, MTh, MSc, Med, etc. - all of which include substantial research components. It does however, require college to restrict the number of one year Masters’ program students. Over the last decade the proportion of one-year students to research degree students has steadily increased to the detriment of Linacre’s cohesion and reputation as a place of excellence in graduate research. To emphasise this point, it is noteworthy that a number of one-year programme students who, having attained their first degree and been accepted to go on to research degrees at the University, choose not to remain at Linacre. That needs to change.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure provides the perfect example of well intentioned development resulting in unintended consequences as a result of not having a strategic plan. In its zeal to house students in College accommodation, Linacre has for the last 15 years embarked on a mission to acquire student housing. Today College is able to house 163 students in College accommodation. However, 105 of those students are accommodated off-site. Since I have been at Linacre, it has been noticeable how this dispersal of the student body has negatively affected student life and college facilities at our main site. The most obvious consequence has been the lack of students attending evening meals in hall, resulting in the recent cutbacks to kitchen staff and the loss of meals on Thursdays and Sundays.

College has taken on the feel of a scattered hall of residence rather than a College. To rectify this problem Linacre should make it an absolute priority to develop its main site. This would necessitate the purchase of land from New College and the building of new accommodation for at least 50 more students. New College offered land from their sports grounds for use by the University to build the Said Business School several years back and are not averse to letting go of land to university interests for fair market value. Linacre should be making inquiries and preparing an approach.

Endowment

One of the key reasons why students decide to go to colleges other than Linacre is because we have very limited funds available to support their studies. Having a large endowment is particularly vital at an institution focused on graduate research. If College is to attract the best research students from around the world it must be a priority to build an eight-figure endowment fund to support students. This fund should be large enough to offer all students some support with their studies, from travel grants, to hardship grants and full studentships. Dr. Keene has indicated that college is pursuing donors to fund individual studentships such as the Coca-Cola studentships. However, large donors to a general fund are needed if a sizable endowment is to be built.

A strategic plan can be a powerful tool for guiding priorities and attracting funds to college. Large donors in particular are unimpressed by the anti-business rhetoric and/or cushy smugness Oxbridge academics have a traditional reputation for indulging. Luckily, Linacre has not been associated with this image. Our founding generation of Fellows were a highly motivated group of people who gave college a reputation for inclusiveness and level-headed development in the face of severe financial constraints. Linacre must now consolidate its reputation by reinforcing its strengths and eliminating its weaknesses. That will require a new sense of mission and commitment guided by a clearly stated vision.

The time has come for Linacre to develop a strategic plan, and we should all be privileged to know of it.
WiFi at Linacre

What Is WiFi? Learn the Lingo

A phrase that is short for ‘Wireless Fidelity’, which principally refers to Wireless Networks, but which in common language has come to be synonymous with any type of network connection using a radio frequency. It refers to methods of networking that comply with international Computing standards relating to transmission of data over radio waves. For the average user, this means being able to connect their pc to the internet without using cabling.

What are Wireless Area Networks (WLAN) and Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPAN)?

To a degree, at the moment, these are no more than ‘buzzwords’ and refer to conceptual ideas involving Wireless Networking. A Wireless LAN (Local Area Network) would be an organisation of Linacre’s size using only Wireless transmissions. Whilst ideal in terms of ability to move around, at current Wireless speeds this comes a poor second to Wired networks (including the one we have at College at the moment).

Wireless Personal Area networks probably have the greatest application at the moment and the greatest potential in the long term. The idea is to allow Wireless communications over a short distance between wireless-enabled devices, such as happens with Wireless mice and keyboards today. However, until they offer sufficiently better results than cables and/or give better functionality e.g. allowing people to use the Computer with greater freedom or control their Internet-enabled television remotely, the use will be restricted.

Working Wirelessly: What’s in it for Me?

In some ways, it is very difficult to make something as wide-ranging as Wireless applicable in the same way to everyone.

There are benefits in ease of use for laptops - you are not limited by the length of cable and you can move around where you like within reach of the Wireless networks - these factors have to be weighed against the security risks that are dissuading many from taking the step and the poor connectivity experienced by many at the moment; I hear many people talking about being able to get a better connection on their neighbour’s wireless setup than their own.

There is a clear benefit for ease of use of wireless-enabled devices that do not require cables e.g. listening to an ipod or personal stereo or mobile without a cable dangling and getting caught in things or being able to control your Computer, TV etc from the comfort of your armchair. In fact you might say that the idea of a TV remote was the first generation of “wireless” technology and who’d buy a TV without one of those now?

how many have tried the “Try Me” Wireless network to find that they have just handed over the keys to their laptop and wireless setup to a hacker?

A true Wireless society in principal offers us all the things that we are looking for in true computer use: the ability to roam anywhere and pick up connections, to be unrestricted by cabling both from a use and installation point of view and to be in constant contact. Of course, from a general point of view, there will be those who quite rightly do not want this level of intrusion and functionality and for whom the security nightmares are just too big a stumbling block.

What Should I Worry about when Working Wirelessly?

Wireless technology in its native form is currently hugely insecure. Despite most of them having the built-in technology to make life difficult for hackers and those attempting to use the wireless network without permission, how many people actually turn on all these features when they install their new wireless router? I have also seen a
huge number that name their new Wireless network with 
their house number and road so that any aspiring thief only 
has to have a wireless-enabled system to find the nearest 
house with lots of expensive computer and networking kit.

Also, from a laptop/pc point of view, Wireless 
by default is not secure. Wireless networks just appear 
in the list of available network and how many have tried 
the “Try Me” Wireless network to find that they have just 
handled over the keys to their laptop and wireless setup 
to a hacker? Equally how many times have you “just 
tried to see if you could” connect to someone else’s wire-
less network - if you can do it easily, how many more 
people are doing the same with less altruistic ideas.

Having said this, there are certain steps you can take to 
protect yourself:

1. Using the later versions of Wireless networking (B 
and G), allows the end user to set encryption on 
data transmissions and use passwords in 
connecting to wireless networks.

2. Wireless Routers typically 
come with a range of passwords 
to login to the user interface, 
passwords to allow connect-
tion, firewalls and filters to 
restrict who can connect 
and so on. You should 
always turn these off.

3. You can use your com-
mon sense and not only avoid 
the advertised Wireless Net-
works that look suspicious but 
also advise other people who are 
maybe not using Wireless in a se-
cure manner. Ensuring that everyone 
follows good practice ensures that fewer 
people can be compromised and pose a risk.

Here at Linacre, we have setup a system that re-
quires you to authenticate to Oxford University using a 
specific piece of software that will only work in the Uni-
versity and using a unique user id and password that only 
you have access to. You will get no connection without 
either of these so the chances of non-Oxford people at-
tacking the setup are restricted. Also, the connection itself 
is restricted to a limited number of websites in the Uni-
versity and otherwise only provides internet access; It isn’t 
possible to access the College network using this connec-
tion and therefore you can be happy that your data is safe.

How Do I Get Started? What do I need?

Essentially, you need nothing more than a wire-
less network card, either in-built to your laptop or pc, or 
purchased and added separately and then connect to any 
local Wireless networks available when you “View Wire-
less Networks” using the utility that comes with your card.

My recommendation would be to go for a mini-
um of 802.11g network card because this supports both 
good security and speed. There is a standard 802.11i 
available although whether it is actually possible to buy 
these cheaply at the moment, I am not sure. It con-
tains the current highest level of security but as these 
things are constantly changing, my advice would be to 
go for the wireless network card that has the highest in-
cremental letter as it will generally contain the good 
parts of the earlier releases with all the latest advances.

For the Linacre College Wireless Network, you 
will also need to download the Cisco VPN client from 
here https://register.ox.ac.uk (you will note that this site 
is restricted to those with a valid University card and 
so secures the software also. Please also 
note that you CAN NOT access 
this site if you are not on the 
University network (another 
security restraint) and apply 
for the same site for 
remote access user-
name and password.

When you have 
these, install the soft-
ware and then con-
nect using the remote 
access username and 
password (please be 
aware there may be a 
delay of several hours be-
fore this works). You MUST 
do this connection FIRST. If 
you don’t, it WILL NOT let you 
connect to the Wireless network.

Currently the Linacre Wireless network 
is enabled for the main College site and there are no 
plans to develop it beyond that at the moment. There are also 
Health and Safety issues involved with the way that we run 
this so I hope I don’t have to point out again that NO-ONE 
should be using it in either a kitchen area or a bathroom. 
It is also still in a testing state, so please don’t expect to 
have a connection all the time. We are awaiting a de-
cision from Governing Body and Common Room ap-
proval to locate the Network Point in Central Col-
lege to enable better coverage across the College. We are also currently enabling a second connection for visi-
tors to the College to enable them to use the network without 
a lengthy setup, but that will require some liaison with me.

If you cant get enough of IT, 
email lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk or 
rob.devereux@linacre.ox.ac.uk 
for more information.
Unsurprisingly the etymology of the word cocktail in relation to alcoholic drinks is somewhat hazy. The English version of the story is that horses of superb quality, but of mixed origins would have their tails docked to identify them. They were known as “cocktails”. A Dr. Johnson, familiar with the term, mixed his friend Boswell a drink of wine laced with gin. He told him, “to mix spirits to wine smacks of our alcoholic hyperbole. It would be a veritable cocktail of a drink.”

In recent times cocktails have become the quintessential element of any bar that wishes to highlight itself as being a cut above the rest. The only way to gain true notoriety is by being the creator of a world renowned cocktail. For example, the Manhattan was invented in the late 19th century when socialite Jenny Jerome asked a bartender to mix a special cocktail for elected Governor of New York, Samuel J. Tilden at the Manhattan Club in New York City. However, a cocktail does not obtain pedigree until it has been advocated by someone in the public eye. The 60’s saw John F. Kennedy pledge his allegiance to the Daiquiri, whilst in recent times the Cosmopolitan was popularised by the girls from Sex and the City. The final piece of the jigsaw is presentation, and the only way to make an impact in this department is flair cocktail juggling. The sight of a bar tender throwing bottles around whilst making a cocktail is always impressive, entertaining and helps alleviate the pain to your pocket often associated with a good cocktail.

You can now get cocktails at Linacre bar every Thursday evening after formal dinner, pop in to see what’s on the list and as ever your suggestions are always welcome.

Drink related scientific fact:

Studies have found that the severity of different drinks’ hangover symptoms decline in this order: brandy, red wine, rum, whisky, white wine, gin & vodka.

If you’d like to see your favourite cocktails being shaken or stirred or thrown up in the air, come talk to any of the friendly barstaff or email lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk
What do we do at Linacre to fulfil our part as environmentally friendly people?

If we consider the college as a whole, traditionally Linacre has had good ties with the Centre for the Environment and its green reputation has helped attract students from other fields who are concerned with the environmental issues we face today. On the main site there are provisions for the recycling of all the usual things like paper, mixed glass and cans, as well as cardboard. The kitchen uses locally sourced food whenever it can and the bar stocks a good range of fair trade products. In addition, there are many students whose eco-stories are unknown to their fellow Linacrites.

What are we achieving?

Some facts about the world:
- 10 of the hottest years in the world on record have occurred since 1990
- The earth’s average surface temperature has increased by about 0.7°C during the last century.
- Arctic sea ice has reduced by about 40% in recent decades
- Average sea level globally rose between 0.1 and 0.2 metres during the 20th century

Some facts closer to home, and how this converts:
- The Hemel Hempstead fire required 15 million litres of water to extinguish; this is equivalent to recycling 500 tonnes of paper. This may sound like a lot but in 2004 recycled paper and board provided about 74% of the source materials for the 6.2 million tonnes of paper manufactured in the UK’s 76 paper and board mills.
- For a journey from London to Edinburgh, a passenger travelling by plane could be responsible for 96.4 kilogrammes of carbon dioxide and a car passenger 71 kilogrammes, while a train passenger would lead to just 11.9 kilogrammes and a coach user only 9.2 kilogrammes.

What are we achieving?

AWARENESS. Each day we are faced with a daunting number of choices. A greater awareness about the size of the environmental footprint associated with each choice may help to inform our decisions. My greatest concern as environmental rep is the debilitating apathy that seems to have gripped the college populous. There may not be much power in one, but there is power in many ones. Together we can make a difference.

Why don’t we strive for more?

In the words of Jerry Maguire ‘we live in a cynical, cynical world’ and some people would argue that if we were truly concerned about the environment we’d be out campaigning for better environmental policies or protesting against the destruction of Brazil’s forests or volunteering for an NGO.

We all know how hard it is to resist (since in most cases we succumb) the temptation of a budget flight when the corresponding train journey is often impractical either financially or in terms of time it would take. While I concede there is always something more we could be doing, that is no excuse for not doing as much as we can right now.

Keep your thoughts positive, because your thoughts become your words.
Keep your words positive, because your words become your behaviour.
Keep your behaviour positive, because your behaviour becomes your habits.
Keep your habits positive, because your habits become your value system.
Keep your values positive, because your values become your destiny.

Mohandas K. Gandhi
The thirty minute period from 7.45 until 8.15 am is my favourite part of the day. While this may seem absurd to those (probably most) of you who spend that time in a state of deep depression, trying desperately to drag yourselves out of bed (or conversely, exercising your powers of restraint to prevent yourself from crawling back in), I have my reasons…

Porridge. Two years ago, as part of a highly necessary attempt to save some pennies, I began purchasing Tesco value porridge oats and cooking them in the only way I knew how: heating with milk until the consistency was right for pouring into a bowl and adding a generous dollop of golden syrup…yum…or maybe not??

Well, times have changed since then and my porridge know-how has developed a lot. Firstly, high milk requirements encouraged some experimentation and a realisation that the dish could be made much less sickly by using milk and water in a 1:1 ratio. There are in fact some porridge lovers among the population who are brave enough to go the whole way and use water alone. At this extreme porridge becomes what we call gruel and I would advise strongly against its consumption. I have no doubt that its name stems from an old phrase: “get one’s gruel,” meaning to receive one’s punishment. If you are unfortunate enough to find yourself without milk and desperate for your fix- relax, take a deep breath and be patient- milk is for sale at most normal shops, supermarkets and other retailers as well as being available from the house next door. I would recommend that the real addicts among you also keep a pint in the freezer.

My next big discovery came by chance, last year while in residency at Linacre’s Peter Holloway House. One morning I found myself without golden syrup and was driven to consider possible alternatives. Honey (being a sweet, runny and edible substance), seemed to be the obvious choice. At first I confess that it did not taste quite as good, but I persevered nevertheless and soon found myself unable to return to syrup. Furthermore, were there other possibilities that I hadn’t explored? What else could fuel my fascination with this breakfast delight? And so my journey had begun. It started with raisins and then I began to add sunflower seeds as well.

I soon learned that all dried fruit works (dates and prunes added midway during cooking are heavenly) and that fresh fruit is a novel addition- mainly banana, mango, cranberries, blueberries and chopped apple. And why stop there? Nuts and seeds supply crunch and flavour. I particularly like to sprinkle on toasted flaked almonds and pumpkin seeds followed by a final dusting of soft dark brown sugar, grated nutmeg or cinnamon (especially when apple and sultanas are involved). And how about a spoonful of crème fraîche on special occasions, to add a cool contrast to your bowl of warmth? Or try some yoghurt on the side. Indeed, forget the milk and water; cover your oats with natural yogurt, sprinkle on some chopped bananas and berries and drizzle with honey. And who said anything about restricting consumption to breakfast?
You have probably begun to realise that for me porridge is no longer simply a reason to get out of bed in the morning. It is an obsession, a religion…my saviour. And not only does it taste divine, it is also good for you! Yes, that’s right- porridge is in fact the ultimate health food and is Number 1 on the list of foods to include in a low GI diet. Indeed, Britain’s longest living man, David Henderson who died at 109, attributed his age and good health to a daily bowl of porridge. And so for the facts…

Porridge oats are high in soluble fibre and complex carbohydrates, providing a slow release of energy and promoting high concentration. A bowl of porridge for breakfast will easily provide both your body and brain with all the energy they need until lunch time. Porridge is also high in Vitamin B6 which promotes serotonin, a chemical in the brain associated with feelings of well-being. Limited sunlight causes a dip in serotonin leading to the dreaded “Winter Blues,” making porridge the perfect warmer for those long dreary months after Christmas. Porridge can also help to relieve the “poisonous effects of alcohol” (known to most as a hangover), the slow releasing carbohydrates redressing depleted sugar levels. And finally, for those of us who are feeling lust-less around Valentine’s Day, porridge oats boost libido by helping to rebalance testosterone and oestrogen in the body. Fantastic! All that goodness in a simple bowl of oats and that’s before you add the fruit, nuts, seeds…

Unfortunately health foods often come at a cost and while I began this article by singing the praises of Tesco value oats, I was not uncovering the whole story. Small oat flakes like the aforementioned are more readily digested by the body and lead to a much faster release of energy. Yes, size matters! Make whole and jumbo oats your choice of Flake. The Neil’s Yard variety (available from Holland and Barret) are to be highly recommended, as are Oxford Wholefood oats (also for sale in H & B and in most co-ops). Sainsbury’s Taste the Difference oats are worth trying as well. Although you will need to dig deeper into your pocket to buy these, you will soon appreciate that not only are they better for you but they taste superior too. And fear not- if the step-up in size concerns you- Tesco organic oats are an excellent mid-way compromise in cost and size (99p for 750g).

So I hope that I have convinced you all to become Porridge Lovers. Expel those views of the breakfast staple often associated with hospitals and boarding schools. Porridge has shaken off its dour image and is back in fashion.
Get fit bit by bit

by Meghan Treleaven

Greetings Linacrites!

I was approached to write a mini article for The Lines to help those with minimal time get a bit more fit. I have a background in ballet dance, teaching aerobics and now am rowing with the University lightweight women. I have tried a variety of different exercise and while there is no magic pill or button to make you a super-fit athlete in 5 minutes a day, you can improve your overall health and well-being by doing some aerobic activity daily.

The key to getting fit is making the decision to start. Beginning “tomorrow”, will never get you where you want to be, so start today. You can even crumple up this article and begin practicing your basketball toss (not recommended by the editor or the environmental officer).

Right, so if you have read this far, you have perhaps considered making the decision to start. The following is a very flexible and hopefully very (easy-to-follow) plan.

Monday - Dancing in the Dark

Turn the lights off, turn the music or ipod up and boogie. Pick your 3-4 favorite boogie songs and move to them for 15 minutes. Dance hard enough that you might have trouble having a chat with someone next to you. Increase the numbers of songs each week until you are dancing for 30 min.

Tuesday - Cycle Mania

If you do not have a cycle, borrow one for 15-20 minutes or do one of the other routines twice. Hop on with your helmet of course. Pick a route that should take you about 20 minutes to complete. Go as fast as you can without running over pedestrians or animal rights protesters. See if you can beat your time each week! When you get it down to 10-15 minutes, extend the work out by turning around and reversing the way you came or repeating the course until you are cycling for 30 minutes. Try wearing your back pack to get more of a work out!

Wednesday - Park Patrol

Wear comfortable, loose layers and take your ipod for a shuffle around the park. Do one lap and increase a half a lap each week until you’re jogging for 30 minutes. If it is too cold for you outside, try the “Precor” machine in the gym.

Thursday - Day Off!

This is a good day to take a hot bath, eat bananas and do lots of stretching. This is your body’s day to recover, so give it plenty of good food and rest.

Friday - Body Circuits

Do 10 reps at each station three times. Each week increase the reps by 5 until you are doing about 30 minutes. The five stations are push ups (girly or non-girly just remember to keep your butt down), sit ups (full or crunches), squat jumps, burpee jumps and jump squats.

... take a hot bath, eat bananas...

Saturday - Weights

Weight training is a very important part of any fitness routine. This is not just for guys, women need to work out their muscles as well and I promise that you will not get bulky (remember I am doing light-weights)! We have a really good gym with a variety of light and heavy weights. A simple overall conditioning routine for toning might look something like this: Bench Press, Leg Press, Lat Pull Down, Bench Pull, Squats, Bicep Curl.

Do 3 circuits of 8-12 reps, the idea is to make the last rep almost impossible to do. Continue adding weight as you get stronger. This routine will take you a bit longer than 30 minutes but you will see a difference!

Sunday - Sports/Fun Day

This is your day to try something new! Once you are involved, you will have regular access to a new group of people who will help you stay motivated. Dress warm and while you might not get to set up croquet or the volleyball net, you can still play a great game in the park or courtyard. Balls are in the gym! There is also a punching bag for those who like boxing. Seek out one of our sports team captains. It’s a great way to make friends and when you are fit by the end of Hilary, you can rock up for try outs in Trinity Term.

Well, there you have it! Remember, you will have good days and bad. When you don’t feel like working out, try 10 minutes, if you after 10 you really feel yuck, then stop, but chances are you will get the blood flowing and feel like carrying on. Nine times out of ten, you will not go home regretting that you exercised. Happy sweating Linacre!
Get fit without trying

by Vic Sivanathan

It is 8am. My alarm is ringing and I am very upset. Well, actually it is 8.30 am and my alarm has been annoying my housemates now for the last half an hour, but I still have not heard it. While some love this time of the day (see porridge lover a few pages back), I absolutely despise it. Either love it or hate it, most only have about 60 minutes to get from bed to desk. So how can you squeeze in time for fitness without changing your schedule? Here’s what you can do...

Brush your teeth more thoroughly. Not only will you be pumping your biceps and strengthening your neck muscles, you’ll also benefit from a million dollar smile. As this will take longer than usual, take advantage of the extra time and improve your balance; try brushing your top molars while standing on one leg and the bottom molars on the other.

Do up-right stomach clenches when in the shower. These won’t guarantee a six-pack, but with any luck you might have one already. For those who prefer not to have morning showers (although they are highly recommended), you could try clenching a little harder while reading the morning papers.

Seize the opportunity to have a good stretch as you put your shoes on and socks on (do not sit down). Start by keeping the supporting leg straight, and progress to having both straight simultaneously. Off to work you go, shining from teeth to toe.

Most people will have time for a morning tea break at work. This is an opportunity to relax, socialise with your co-workers and appreciate tea. Enjoy this period of respite, your next opportunity to burn a few calories is lunchtime.

try clenching a little harder while reading the morning papers

Don’t just walk to lunch- POWER walk! You will inevitably feel a little intimidated to begin with (I know I did), but please persevere and reap the rewards. Here are a few variations to try:

**Take extra big steps.** Imagine that large puddles are obstructing your path- sounds mad but it really works!

**Take extra small steps.** Now, you might think this will produce the opposite effect of taking big steps, but you’ll be surprised. Small steps are hard work and (if you take the scenic route to Linacre via the parks) also give you extra time to enjoy the scenery.

**Skip to lunch.** It’s as simple as that. Imagine while skipping as there is disturbing about skippers that smile (think creepy clowns).

**Do the catwalk.** Many do not understand the benefits of the catwalk: you burn loads of calories; increase your coordination; strengthen your back and waist and, most importantly, look damn sexy.

What about while you are at lunch? I would hate to impose work during lunchtime. Instead, follow my example and fidget while you eat- it’s easy! Just keep tapping or rocking your feet under the table. Et voilà, you can burn the fuel as you eat it!

Finally, after a long day at work when all you can think of is sleep, how can you make room for a little workout? Silly question! By far the easiest way is to get a sleeping partner and “be creative”. If you don’t happen to have a sleeping partner handy, the same still applies (be creative). If you’ve been taking my advice seriously, then you’ll probably be quite a good fidget already- use this to your advantage and rock yourself to sleep (also very soothing).

And then the day begins again. Oh, and if you hate mornings already, then there’s no harm in making them worse. Place your alarm clock at the other end of the room, or even hide it. This way you’ll get some exercise just looking for it (or your housemates will). Mornings are the best time for exercise. Your body is low on simple sugars, and if you do enough before you have your breakfast, your body will first burn fat instead of the available sugar to prevent you from collapsing. You might feel a little faintish though. But hey- no pain, no gain.
**FOOSBALL**

After winning a common room vote to hire a table football table and then an amendment and another vote to keep the table, Linacre entered its first ever ‘foosball’ team into the Oxford Uni intercollegiate league.

Now before you start laughing at me for covering a subject as inconsequential as table football, I should mention that enough people play it for it to have its own governing body – the British Foosball Association. There, that stopped you sniggering, didn’t it?

Following a successful ‘TableFootballTournament’ in Linacre last year, we decided to enter a Linacre team into the league. Even though we started off in the lowest division with a variety of talent at our disposal, the first half of last term didn’t go our way and we were languishing near the bottom of the table. However, a narrow win at Worcesters and a thrashing of Trinity II lifted our confidence and we were back playing the silky, stylish, quick passing, accurate, fluid foos that we were all capable of (ho ho ho). A final loss against Exeter I meant we finished last terms league with a respectable record of two wins and four losses. After a win and one loss this term we still have it all to play for and will be pushing hard to get into the dizzy heights of Division 2, where the lucrative contracts lie……

Contrary to what your mates in the pub tell you, there’s much more to table football than just randomly spinning the players and hoping for the best! Top foosball players have an arsenal of moves at their disposal which can be used to conjure up a goal at any moment.

Ultimately ‘foosball’ is a great way to meet new people, have fun, visit other college bars and (perhaps most importantly) hustle randomness out of their money down the pub. We don’t take ourselves too seriously - above all else the game is about fun. Interested? Email me at naeem.kaka@linacre.ox.ac.uk.

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**HOCKEY**

If i said hockey to you, what would your first impression be? Jolly hockey sticks? Public school girls running around on a freezing cold pitch in short skirts? Most people don’t realise that it is one of the biggest participation sports in the UK with 1084 clubs in England alone (excluding school, college and university clubs). Also many people in college don’t realise that there is an active mixed hockey club at Linacre.

As the current club captain, secretary, treasurer, kit washer etc. I decided to delve into the history of hockey at Linacre. It is a little known fact (and completely made up one), that Thomas Linacre himself used to be pretty nifty with a hockey stick, and while studying at Canterbury as a youth accidentally broke one of the cathedral windows whilst attempting a reverse stick aerial flick. Unfortunately the college hockey team cannot be traced back to the 1400’s but rather it emerged during the 2001-2002 season. I picked the brains of a previous captain Dan Woollaston for his early recollections.

“The first match we played was against a Jesus-Lincoln side featuring future captain Dan Woollaston as an inexperienced but enthusiastic right winger. The first goal we conceded was an own goal from Stuart Allen (Stuart Allen) off a searching Woollaston cross at about the 2 minute mark. Linacre went on to lose 14-0.”

The initial score line does tend to reflect the score line of some of our matches. We are a mixed team playing in the lowest inter-college men’s league and have an open team selection policy. That being the case, if you have two legs, can pick up a hockey stick and fancy a match, you’re in the team. This process makes for very sociable and exciting matches.

This doesn’t mean we do not have aspirations as a club. A huge leap forwards in performance has occurred this season, with the emergence of Richard Rowley as top scorer with Will Unsworth close at his heels. There have also been some outstanding performances in goal by Ollie Knights and Andy Haith. With our improvements in each performance, we will soon have a points win under our belt along with all our ‘moral victories’.

The end of Hilary term is in sight and with it comes the end of the Hockey season. I would like to thank everyone who has played this year for showing our opposition what team spirit really is. So if I have ruffled an interest in you to pick up a stick, please get in touch.
Linacre CR Blind Date

first encounters...
...can be close encounters

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!
Interested? Contact: gareth.maguire@linacre.ox.ac.uk

Round One
Round Two

24 Feb | Linacre CR | 9pm to 12:30am
Our first party of 2006 was a huge success.

We were very impressed by the mass of hideous outfits that everyone managed to dig out or make, I believe the Madonna breasts are still circling around college!

The 80s boogying amazed us all, but then how could dance moves and music like that ever be forgotten!

Our next party is on the 10th of March. See you there.

Love,
Cass and Clint
Social Secretaries

Recently I have received several comments that all I seem to talk about nowadays is condoms and that’s when I realised Annette’s predictions had come true. She had warned me that if I took on the Welfare job my life would revolve around condoms; buying them, trying to ensure they weren’t sabotaged etc.

Now the condom saga has taken a new twist, where are all the Abraham Building condoms? My incessant emails that these are for ‘emergency’ use only seem to have fallen on deaf ears, or perhaps there are lots of emergencies occurring in the building and frankly the rumour mill is not doing its job properly.

Or maybe, my emails have created panic taking – “I’ve heard they are all going, better get some in case I have an emergency and none are left”? Or maybe, just maybe, someone had a party which didn’t have balloons and chose to borrow some condoms?

There are plenty of places where you can get free condoms from: Alec Turnbull Family Planning Clinic’ or your practice nurse. Alternatively, students can purchase them from me (10 for £1). It’s time to be more considerate.

Love,
Helen Pagett
Welfare Officer

In Passing...

What’s on your plate?

Take the food survey at http://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/survey/food.html

closing date Sunday 12th of March
COME PLAY

the last PARTY of term
10th of March
Linacre CR
Cheesy and a little late you say? Spot on!
And if you’re the first to get it all right, you’ll win a block of cheese!
GOOD LUCK!

Across
2. What do you call a herd of sheep rolling downhill? A … (9)
3. What goes tick-tock-woof? A … (5,3)
4. What do snowmen have for breakfast? (10)
6. What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations? (10)
7. What lives at the bottom of the sea and shakes? A … (7,5)
8. What do you call a man with jelly in one ear and custard in the other? A … (7,4)
9. What do you get from nervous cows? (10)
11. What do you get from a pampered cow? (6,4)

Down
1. What do you call Santa’s little helpers? (11,7)
5. What do you call two robbers? A pair of … (8)
10. What do snowmen ride on? (7)
The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

Linacre Lines is now welcoming contributions for the Trinity Term edition, Themed Journey.

email lines@linacre.ox.ac.uk