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Welcome to Clare Hall!

Clare Hall is a special place. We are a small yet international college that strives to minimise hierarchical distinctions and formalities. Throughout the year, you may share meals and events with all college members – students, fellows, and staff alike. These spaces provide the perfect context for exchanging life experiences and knowledge. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities as they will certainly enrich your Cambridge experience.

As a student of Clare Hall, you are automatically a member of the Clare Hall Graduate Student Body (GSB), of which we are the current representatives. The GSB Committee, elected in full at the beginning of the Michaelmas term by all students, is in charge of organising student events and activities during the academic year. The committee also represents your interests in college and university-wide committees. Being part of the GSB Committee is an amazingly fun and fulfilling experience, one we hope some of you will be interested in.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped student life at Cambridge, but Clare Hall and the GSB Committee have worked hard to ensure opportunities for student connection while keeping college members safe. College policies and plans for student events will likely change throughout the year as we stay up-to-date with public health guidance.

You can keep in touch with us and other Clare Hallers through the Clare Hall students Facebook group, the Clare Hall Graduate Student Body Facebook page, the @clarehall.gsb Instagram, and the 2020–2021 Clare Hall Discord. The GSB Secretary, once elected, will also send you a weekly e-mail to keep you informed about what is going on in college and in Cambridge.

In this handbook, we have compiled some information about Cambridge and Clare Hall that we thought would be useful. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do for you.

We are looking forward to meeting you all!

GSB Welcome Week Committee 2020

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**Before You Arrive (and Other Essentials)**

Coming to Cambridge for the first time can be an overwhelming experience. Here are some tips that may make your life easier:

**Getting to Cambridge**
You can get to Cambridge by plane, train, bus or car. If you are arriving from outside the UK, you are likely to use one of the London airports. In all cases, you need to take either a bus or a train to get to Cambridge from the airport. You can find information about prices and schedules on the National Rail website for trains and on the National Express website for some buses. If you take the train, be sure to get off at Cambridge and not Cambridge North.

As of writing, it is mandatory to wear a face covering when travelling on public transportation in England. Please follow the latest guidance for passengers issued by the UK Government (see [here](#) for up-to-date information).

**Getting to Clare Hall**
Clare Hall is similar in distance from the Cambridge train station, the bus station, and the National Express bus stop. To get to Clare Hall from the train station, you can take the U-bus (bus stop 8 at the train station, direction to Eddington, get off at Rugby Club or Robinson College). U-bus tickets are £2.20, or less if you have a student ID. Taxis from any of these locations to Clare Hall are around £8-10 (be sure to ask them if they accept a card payment if needed). Make sure you mention Clare HALL, on Herschel Road, as there may be some confusion between Clare College and Clare Hall. Walking to Clare Hall from the train station takes about 40 minutes, and walking from either the bus station or the National Express bus stop (located just opposite the Parkside Police Station on Parker's Piece) takes about 30 minutes.

**Your Room**
If you are in student accommodation and have requested linens to be bought for you, you will not need to purchase these items. Otherwise, make sure you bring linens and your pillow or have time to go shopping for them when you arrive. Remember that you need to bring all your toiletries with you, as there are no shops nearby the college, particularly if you arrive at night, late in the afternoon, or on a Sunday. The college house kitchens are furnished with everything you need, minus the actual food. The college housekeeping staff provide some assistance in cleaning the kitchen, though there have been recent changes to this due to COVID, but please be respectful of your housemates and clean up after yourself.

**COVID-19**
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the information in this document about college policies, facilities, etc. is subject to change. Up-to-date information can be found in the reopening document on the Clare Hall website, and updates will also be circulated via email. Many social events will take place within households, with an increased emphasis on digital connection (text/voice/video chat, social media, etc.). The GSB has placed some resources (puzzles, board games) in student accommodation to help with the increased time in the household. We encourage students to reach out with any ideas for events or suggestions for resources that the GSB can supply both for students in college accommodation and those in private accommodation. During this time, we recognise the
increased stress felt by all college members, and we encourage you to use the resources at your disposal via Clare Hall and the university, including mental health care and hardship bursaries.

**Laundry**

For residents on the main site, there is a laundry facility located in the underground car park below the main College building, where there is also machine to convert your notes into coins. Costs are £2 for washing and £1 for drying, which at the time of writing is paid by registering laundry usage on the Clare Hall website. QR codes are also posted in the laundry rooms, which link to this form. The laundry facility on West Court is located behind the Salje building. Note that these laundry rooms close at midnight, so be sure to collect your laundry before then. Barton Road has a laundry room located next to the entrance to 102 Barton Road and can be used for free. Chesterton Road has a washing machine and dryer off the kitchen and are also free to use. Wolfson Court has free washing machines and dryers at the basement of each block (block D, E and F). Due to the pandemic, laundry policies may change throughout the year. For instance, some student houses may have washing machines added, eliminating the need to use the communal facility. Please keep up-to-date by reading your e-mail and check out the current regulations in the reopening document.

**Compost Bins**

The GSB has initiated a composting programme in all Clare Hall student houses (except Wolfson Court). Student houses are supplied with green bins, and compost bags may be collected as needed from the GSB pigeonhole (located at the bottom right of the student pigeonholes). Please read the instructions near the green bin in your kitchen and ask your House Representative or contact the Accommodation and Facilities Manager if you have any questions about the system in your house (accom.fac.manager@clarehall.cam.ac.uk).

**Maintenance**

For any issues related to the maintenance of your room or house, please complete the online Maintenance Request Form and the college maintenance team will deal with it as soon as possible. We also recommend that you make an inventory of your room and check for any damage when you move into your college room.

**Emergencies**

In the UK, dial 999 (or 112) for life-threatening medical emergencies, fire emergencies, and police emergencies. For urgent but non-life-threatening medical concerns, you can call 111 to speak to an adviser who will be able to direct you to appropriate medical care (by giving advice, sending an ambulance, connecting you to appropriate healthcare professionals, or providing other help as needed). For non-urgent concerns, you may contact the Porter. There are first-aid kits located in every Clare Hall student house. Please report any injuries obtained, small or large, to the Porter, including use of the First Aid kit. For COVID-related emergencies, it is critical to inform the Porters.

**Porters’ Lodge**

The Porters will be your point of contact for a lot of your day-to-day activities, including picking up your key when you first arrive, collecting post, booking rooms, and general problem solving. The Porters’ Lodge is open every day, 24 hours a day. You can reach the Porters’ Lodge by calling 01223 332 360 or e-mailing porters@clarehall.cam.ac.uk.
**Post**

If you live in college, the best address to give as your mailing address is **[your name], Clare Hall, Herschel Road, CB3 9AL, Cambridge.** Any letters or small packages will be put in your pigeon hole at college, and any large packages will be kept in the Porters’ Lodge until you pick them up. You will be notified of such a package with a note in your pigeon hole. Please make sure to put your name in the address to make sure your post makes it to you.

**Tutorial Office**

Each of you will be assigned a tutor at the college who you’ll meet during Welcome Week. Your tutor is your point of contact for any personal issues (e.g. finances, problems with your supervisor, health problems) impacting on your academic life in Cambridge. For questions regarding most administrative things, your best bet is to contact the Tutorial Administrator ([tutorial.office@clarehall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:tutorial.office@clarehall.cam.ac.uk)) who you have certainly been in contact with already.

**Mobile Phones**

You can choose from several mobile phone providers, and some of them will allow you to buy a phone with your plan while others require you to buy your phone elsewhere. Speaking to current students can be a good way to find out which providers are best for students. Of the major networks, reception seems to be good with GiffGaff, Vodafone, EE, and O2, but not so good with 3-Mobile.

**Bank Accounts**

Getting a UK bank account should be one of your first priorities upon arrival as you’ll need it in order to do most other things you’ll have to do. Make an appointment early as there will be loads of students setting up their accounts during the first week. You will need to provide some form of identification as well as a letter of introduction provided by the college. You can request the letter of introduction from the tutorial administrator ([tutorial.office@clarehall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:tutorial.office@clarehall.cam.ac.uk)).

**Doctor Registration**

The health system in the UK requires you to register with a GP (General Practitioner) in your area. You should do this as soon as possible. The college will provide you with an introductory letter for the GP and some suggestions on nearby surgeries. You may find it beneficial to choose a GP that is close to your department instead of close to your accommodation, particularly for PhD students whose accommodation situation will likely change during their degree.

**Sexual Health**

The GSB, with support from the [Cambridge Students’ Union (SU)](https://www.cambridge-su.org.uk), provides many welfare and sexual health supplies for free to students. These supplies are made available in the main building toilets and in college accommodation (please contact the GSB if supplies are running low), can be delivered discreetly to students upon request (with advance notice), and can be collected directly from the Cambridge SU. Supplies are also available in the Anthony Low Building (ALB) toilets, although access to these toilets is not guaranteed during the COVID-19 pandemic. These supplies include but are not limited to: external condoms (several varieties), internal condoms, lubricant, and pregnancy tests. The contraceptive pill is available with a valid prescription from a GP (i.e. your doctor). Emergency contraception is available for free from a variety of places, including many GPs and pharmacies. You can also obtain emergency contraception from the [Lime Tree Clinic](https://www.limenon.org.uk) and find...
more information here on accessing emergency contraception. The Lime Tree Clinic also offers sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, treatment, and support among other services.

Support and Wellbeing

The university offers a range of wellbeing initiatives and has several support sources available for those struggling with mental health issues or experiencing unfair/unjust treatment on the basis of their identity. Your college Tutor should be your first contact point. Clare Hall also has an in-house counselor, a representative from the University Counseling Service. To access this service and find further information, please visit Clare Hall Counseling Services or speak to your college Tutor. You can also reach the Student Advice Service for more information about the options that are provided for you through the University. If you feel like one of your friends might be going through a tough time and you are unsure about how to help them, please see this guide, developed by Cambridge SU. Furthermore see the University Counselling Service for all questions regarding counselling, check the Wellbeing website for questions relating to mental health, or check out the Disability Resource Centre for info on disability support. For events and resources by the Cambridge branch of Student Minds, see here. Finally, for possible complaints see this link, or specifically for complaints on sexual harassment or assault please reach out to sexual.assault.advisor@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Groceries

Sainsbury’s (42 Sidney Street) is one of the closest grocery stores to Clare Hall. Others around Cambridge include Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Aldi, ASDA, and Co-op. Near Barton Road, you can also find a small Co-op. Most shops, including grocery stores, close early on Sundays (around 5pm). Some groceries can also be purchased from the Cambridge Market. If you prefer, you can do your shopping online and get it delivered to your house; delivery fees are often waived for orders above a certain price threshold. There are a few great local companies that offer deliveries, such as Full Circle, The Cambridge Organic Food Company, Cambridge Fruit Co., and Fresh in a Box.

Bicycles

Bikes are one of the preferred modes of transportation for students in Cambridge. The price range varies widely depending on the type of bike you prefer (mountain, city, or road), but you should be able to get one starting in the £50-80 price range. Baskets are usually handy, and lights (front and rear) are required by law when it’s dark, so make sure you have at least a pair. Cars in Cambridge can sometimes be unaware of cyclists, so the GSB highly recommends that all students wear helmets while cycling. Some of the most popular bike stores are Rutland Cycling at Grand Arcade or the train station, Cycle King on Mill Road, The Bike Man in Market Square, and King Street Cycles on King Street. These shops usually have both new and second-hand bikes. If you prefer to rent a bike, you can contact Rutland Cycling. They rent bikes for anything from hours to a whole academic year, and they offer discounts for students.

Watching Television

In order to watch television in the UK (including watching on your laptop), you need a TV license. The rules are complicated with respect to students: UK students are usually covered if their parents have a TV license, and the televisions provided by the college (e.g. in the common areas of college housing) are covered by the college TV licenses. However, if you’d like to watch TV in your own
room (and your parents do not have a TV license that will cover you), you will need to purchase a TV license. Using services such as Netflix does not require a TV license. More details on TV licensing here.

**Connect with Us**
Go through Clare Hall’s website and explore, or contact the university. Follow Clare Hall on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Connect with the GSB through our Facebook group, our Facebook page, our Instagram, and our 2020–2021 Discord server. You can also contact the GSB using the e-mail addresses here.
Clare Hall Facilities

As a student at Clare Hall there are many college facilities that you may use. To gain access to some of these rooms you may either have to use a code or reserve the room in advance and collect the key from the Porters’ Lodge. Here is some information about the main buildings and rooms you can use.

Please note: many of these facilities are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but some may reopen during the academic year. Please follow e-mail updates from the Domestic Bursar and check out the current regulations in the reopening document on the Clare Hall website.

Student Accommodation

There are several houses on the main site and on nearby sites. On the main site, you will find Elmside, Michael Stoker Building, Brian Pippard Building, and Leslie Barnett House. Further down Herschel Road, in West Court (and 3 minutes away from main site), there is 9/9a Herschel Road, Salje Building, and Robert Honeycombe Building. Slightly further from the main site, near Wolfson College, there is 102/102a Barton Road. Near to the boat houses there is housing on Chesterton Road, and further north on Grange Road there is Wolfson Court. Elmside, Leslie Barnett House, 9/9a Herschel Road, 102/102a Barton Road, 88 Chesterton Road, and the Robert Honeycombe Building are refurbished family houses and are therefore older but more picturesque. Salje, Brian Pippard, Michael Stoker, and Wolfson Court are newer houses, built with the purpose of being student accommodation. All houses have common spaces (some bathrooms, the kitchens, and the common rooms). All kitchens are fully furnished with basic appliances (kettles, toasters) as well as cooking and dining utensils (pans, pots, plates, cutlery). Some of the houses also have rooms with private, ensuite bathrooms. Due to the pandemic, visitors are not allowed inside student housing at the time of writing.

Anthony Low Building (ALB)

The Anthony Low Building (ALB) is the place where most of the student activities happen. There are three main areas in the ALB:

- The music room (downstairs, back). The music room has a variety of instruments that you may use. This room doesn’t have a code, but you need to reserve it in advance and retrieve the key at the Porters’ Lodge in order to use it.
- The computer room (downstairs, front). This room was completely refurbished in the summer of 2017 and contains four PCs, a printer, work desks, and lounge chairs. The PCs are part of the University’s Managed Cluster Service and are equipped with academic software such as Stata, R, SPSS, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator, Python, LaTeX and so on. The printer also allows you to copy and to scan to your email, the latter of which is free of charge. A selection of board games, free for every Clare Hall student to use, is available here. Please use the check-out system provided. You can obtain the entry code from the Porters’ Lodge.
- The common room and bar (upstairs). Here, you will find comfortable couches, a TV, a pool table, a foosball table, and speakers to play your music. The college bar opens frequently during term, and you can purchase drinks from the bar with cash, credit/debit card, or your student card. Most of the in-person parties and events organised by the GSB Committee will take place in this area.
On the ground floor, there is also a vending machine stocked with drinks and confectionery (sweets, chocolate, crisps).

Ashby Library

The Ashby Library, located between the ALB and Elmside, is another place for you to study. You may use any of the available spaces at any time, day or night. If you prefer to have your own study room, you can let one of the private study spaces available from the college. You may obtain the entrance code from the Porters’ Lodge.

Gym and Pool

In West Court, past the Robert Honeycombe Building, you will find the Clare Hall gym and pool. The gym has a variety of equipment for you to set up your workout routine, including several weightlifting machines, a treadmill, and two rowing machines. Access to the gym can be purchased from the Porters’ Lodge on a termly or yearly basis. By paying the gym fee you also gain access to the indoor heated (!) pool, located right next to the gym. Please note that prior to gaining access to the gym and pool, you need to complete a gym induction.

Meeting and Events Rooms

There are several rooms that you can reserve to use for work or social events.

- The Richard Eden Suite: This room is located in West Court, in between the Salje Building and the Robert Honeycombe Building. There are several interconnected rooms with multimedia facilities that you may use for events that require plenty of space, such as talks and dinners. There is also a hidden room in the Richard Eden Suite… can you find it?
- Doshisha Room: This smaller but cosier room is also located in West Court, across from the Richard Eden Suite. It is very well lit and aired and is a very nice study space, but it can also be used for other types of smaller meetings.
- The Meeting Room: The Meeting Room is located on the main site, near the Porters’ Lodge. Like the name suggests, it is particularly suited for small meetings of fewer than 20 people. On the shelves of the meeting room are plenty of books that are available to all members of the college. These books are usually not subject-related; they are light reading, novels and such. Feel free to take one or many, as long as you bring them back.

Lockers

Lockers are available in the main college building on the lower level, opposite the student pigeonholes. £1 coins are needed to operate the lockers.

Printing

Printing is available in the ALB computer room (ask for the door code from the Porter), where instructions are located near the printer. Printing costs must be paid by card to your UIS Print account and can be used at various colleges and
departments across the university. More details on printing [here](#). At the time of writing, printing is only available by asking the porters ([porters@clarehall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:porters@clarehall.cam.ac.uk)).

**Guest Accommodation**

If you have family or friends visiting Clare Hall, there is guest accommodation available. Guest rooms can be booked, for a fee, online [here](#). At the time of writing, only college members are permitted on-site, but policies regarding visitors may change throughout the academic year.

**Designated Smoking Areas**

There are three designated smoking areas at Clare Hall. On main site, there is a smoking area in front of the ALB and another near the bike racks outside Leslie Barnett House. On West Court, there is a smoking area near 9/9a Herschel Road. Smoking should not occur at Clare Hall except in these designated areas. If you note any issue with the placement of these smoking areas, please feel free to contact the GSB.

**Accessibility**

**The Porters’ Lodge (and main college building)**

Access: The main route to the Porters’ Lodge from Herschel Road is via 2 short flights (one up and one back down) of approximately standard height steps. There is a handrail on each side of the steps, though both may not be within reach at once. Access to the Porters’ Lodge by wheelchair is via a secondary route: Enter the college through the gate on Herschel Road next to the Blue Badge parking, turn left, and follow the path to reach the Porters’ Lodge.

Toilets: A gender-neutral wheelchair accessible toilet can be reached from the Porters’ Lodge via 1 short flight of standard height steps with a handrail on each side or via lift. The other toilets in this building are not gender-neutral or wheelchair accessible but can be accessed from the Porters’ Lodge via 1 short flight of standard height steps with a handrail on each side or via lift.

Seating: The lounge (accessible via 1 short flight of standard height steps with a handrail on each side or via lift from the Porters’ Lodge) in the main building offers both padded and basic seating. The dining hall (accessible via 2 short flights of standard height steps with handrails on each side or via lift from the Porters’ Lodge) offers basic seating.

**The Anthony Low Building (ALB)**

Access: From the Porters’ Lodge, the route to the ALB is step-free and wheelchair accessible. The 1st floor of the ALB (where the bar is located) can be reached via 1 flight of standard height steps with a handrail on one side or via lift.

Toilets: A gender-neutral wheelchair accessible toilet is located on the ground floor of the ALB. In addition, there is a single-cubicle gender-neutral toilet on the ground floor and a two-cubicle gender-neutral toilet on the 1st floor.

Seating: Padded seating is available in the ALB bar (1st floor) and computer room (ground floor, code required for entry). Basic seating is available in the ALB bar (1st floor), computer room (ground floor, code required for entry), and music room (ground floor, key required for entry).
Life at Clare Hall

Clare Hall prides itself in having an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. We are, after all, the smallest college in Cambridge, and one of the least traditional ones. Although meeting absolutely everyone might be too ambitious a goal, you still may get acquainted with a lot of college members, including other students, fellows, and staff. In fact, it is quite easy to make friends in college, particularly if you like to participate in the activities available to you. Throughout the year, both the college and the GSB Committee will organise social and academic events, and you may also want to partake in more regular, everyday activities, such as meals or sports.

Meals in College

Please note: the dining hall is currently operating under COVID-19 restrictions that may change throughout the year. At the time of writing, the dining hall is not open for eat-in dining, but takeaway service is available 7 days per week. Orders can be placed online here; the weekly menu is available to view on the Clare Hall website and is also distributed via email.

Food is served in the Dining Hall from Monday to Friday at noon (12:30 to 13:45) and in the evening (18:00 to 19:00). You will have to use your student card to pay, which you can top-up through the UPay system, as no other forms of payment are accepted. Lunches and dinners are three courses (generally a soup, main, and dessert). At lunch all three courses are purchased together for one price, or you can opt for a smaller and cheaper Light Lunch made up of soup and a sandwich. At dinner the three courses may be purchased together or individually. At each meal, mains on offer include one cold option (a varied and well-stocked self-serve salad bar) and two hot options (one with meat and one without). There is always one hot vegetarian or vegan option, and the salad bar always has vegan options.

Visit the dining website for more information on meals, including updates on monthly dining events and weekly menus. The catering team is very responsive to dietary requirements and can be contacted by email (kitchen.manager@clarehall.cam.ac.uk) with questions, comments, and concerns. At times when no meals are served at Clare Hall (weekends), you can go next-door to Robinson College and use their dining hall (note that you will have to pay in cash).

Also, the coffee machine in the lounge serves free drinks during meal times. This is a wonderful opportunity to grab coffee, meet people, and chill in the lounge. All students will also get a coffee card for 3 free drinks (as long as you use a reusable cup, or only 2 free drinks if you don’t) per day from the coffee machine, in addition to the free drinks during meal times. You can purchase a Clare Hall keep-cup at the Porters’ Lodge.

Clare Hall has a formal dinner every Wednesday, both within and outside term time, instead of a regular dinner. We do not have a high table (fellows and students share the space and the same meals), and gowns are not required (although formal attire is). Formal dinners are billed to your UPay account as well, so make sure to put credit on there for booking formal hall. You may attend and bring guests to normal dinners without booking ahead of time, but for formals you must book yourself and your guests through UPay (the maximum number of guests is usually 3). Please book your places for formal dinners using the UPay system.

Students in Clare Hall receive a meal allowance that amounts to 8 free dinners per term. This credit is meant to be used at Thursday evening dinners and expires at the end of term. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up
with your friends at college. You may also use this credit to attend formal dinners (but you will still have to pay for the alcohol charge from your UPay balance, which is billed separately).

**Student Events**

The GSB Committee is in charge of organising social activities for students during the academic year. The choice of activities depends very much on the preferences of the student body of each year, but here are some examples of events organised in the past:

- Themed parties at the ALB (Halloween, Valentine’s Day, Christmas, etc.)
- Themed formals, including jazz formals
- Movie nights
- Student conferences
- Art exhibitions
- Viewings of sporting events

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many events have been adapted to be conducted virtually. Activities organised during the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- Home cooking challenges
- Virtual drink & draw evenings
- Virtual pub quizzes
- Jigsaw puzzles
- A home gardening project
- Text and voice chats via Discord (access the 2020–2021 server [here](#))

In previous years, the GSB External Officers have also organised formal swaps, during which a group of Clare Hall students attends formal hall at a different college. These events are particularly interesting for those who would like to have the “Harry Potter experience” by dining in some of the older, more traditional colleges. We hope to continue formal swaps if and when COVID-19 restrictions permit.

**The ALB Bar**

The ALB Bar opens most evenings during term time. It is a nice, cosy space to relax with friends while having a drink or playing pool or foosball. There is also a projector (to be booked ahead of time through the GSB), a Nintendo Switch (for use within the ALB only), a television if you want to watch TV or a film, and a sound system if you want to play music. The upstairs area where the bar is located is open at all times, but please be considerate if you’re using it very late at night. As of writing, upstairs area of the ALB is off-limits, but the opening hours of the bar will be announced at the beginning of term and will be updated based on changes to COVID-19 restrictions.

The bar is completely run by students and is always looking for people interested in bartending, which is one of the few paid jobs offered in college. Please contact Emily Goodacre, the bar manager, ([eig69@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eig69@cam.ac.uk)) if you are interested in becoming a bartender.
**Student Societies and Clubs**

Being a student in Cambridge, you will have access to an exciting range of societies and clubs you may wish to join. The University of Cambridge has its own multitude of societies, which we highly recommend you check out during Cambridge SU’s Virtual Freshers’ Fair on Oct. 6 & 7, and here. There are also some clubs and societies based at Clare Hall that you may be interested in joining. Students interested in applying for funding from the GSB for the purposes of a society or club are encouraged to contact the GSB Treasurer at gsb.treasurer@clarehall.cam.ac.uk.

**Clare Hall Choir**

Amid the stresses and focus of Cambridge academia and research, the Clare Hall choir offers weekly light relief through fun, relaxed, pressure-free music.

Formed in its current guise in 2018, the choir has become a regular fixture at college events including the Christmas, Burns’ Night, and Foundation Feasts, as well as the Cricket Formal. The choir also enjoys performing at events elsewhere in Cambridge, which have included an annual joint Evensong with Robinson College Chapel Choir, a concert in Clare College Chapel, a concert with Darwin College choir and a performance at ‘Sing’, hosted by Magdalene VoxSoc.

In May 2020 the choir was due to join forces with Magdalene College Chapel Choir for a joint Evensong, but unfortunately this had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It is hoped that circumstances will allow for it to be rescheduled for 2020/21.

Under the direction of its musical director Ben de Souza, Clare Hall choir has gained a reputation for being a relaxed, enjoyable, and accessible choir and is considered an integral part of college life. The choir is open to anyone affiliated with the college – graduate/PhD students, fellows, visiting fellows, tutors, staff, and life members, as well as family members of the above – and meets every Monday evening.* New members are always welcome, and the choir is also seeking a piano accompanist for rehearsals and performances. No previous singing or musical experience is necessary. The only requirement is that you want to sing and have fun doing it!

If you are interested in joining please email Ben de Souza (bd402@cam.ac.uk). Ben is a Clare Hall graduate and is a freelance choral conductor and accordionist.

*Please note, rehearsal dates and times may be subject to change. Necessary arrangements are being made for the choir to return during the Michaelmas term, although this is dependent on the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

“As long as we live, there is never enough singing” – Martin Luther

**Clare Hall Mathematical Association**

The Clare Hall Mathematical Association (CHMA) was founded in 2016 by a collection of mathematics and computer science students in the College. Our mission is to provide a unique opportunity for the discussion of advanced mathematical topics and to create a stimulating environment for research-minded students. Although the CHMA is most accessible to students in mathematical fields, all graduate students are welcome and encouraged to join. The CHMA holds weekly lunches which are attended by students as well as mathematics faculty members. These lunch time meetings are a great way to discuss a wide range of topics, from light-hearted conversation to current research. Additionally, the CHMA organises one or more social event each academic term, such as a sponsored trip. Our founding event was a trip to the
Bonfire Night in Lewes and in the past few years we have also organised trips to places such as Bletchley Park, the Royal Greenwich Observatory, and the Bodleian Library. Our trips are a mix of socialising, sight-seeing, fun activities, and just the right amount of mathematics within. So, if you are interested in learning something new about the history of mathematics or about the most recent research advances during a fun day trip with your friends and peers, you should definitely consider joining. And if all that is still not enough mathematics for you, we are also planning to start a series of invited talks by mathematics faculty members this term. Keep an eye on your email inbox and don't miss out! CHMA membership is currently free of charge for all Clare Hall students. Should you have any questions or would like to know more about our activities, please do not hesitate to contact our secretary Tanguy (tg418@cam.ac.uk).

**BAME Access & Equality: a GSB sub-committee**

The BAME Access & Equality sub-committee was created in 2020 after the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests worldwide. The sub-committee aims to address race and ethnicity-based discrimination, promote a culture of respect and tolerance, and mainstream diversity within the Clare Hall community. Initiatives and ideas so far include the creation of an online and physical library featuring literature on BAME-related issues and by BAME authors, projection of movies, and improvements to the visibility of anti-discrimination policies and norms. The sub-committee will furthermore work in close cooperation with the college’s new Access & Equality Working Group. Meetings are held online on a frequent basis (weekly to fortnightly), and members are free to join whenever they can. We are open to all students from Clare Hall and are actively looking for new members and fresh ideas! Do not hesitate to get in touch with Camille (cmb240@cam.ac.uk) if you wish to join, make a suggestion, or have any questions.

**Clare Hall Law Society**

Clare Hall has a strong background in law. In some years, law students have come together to form the Clare Hall Law Society, to give any Clare Hallers with an interest in the law the chance to share research and interests, to socialise, and to get to know each other. In the past, events have included regular Monday lunchtime get-togethers in the dining hall. The Clare Hall Law Society is currently looking for new representation.

**Clare Hall Chess Club**

The Clare Hall Chess Club is a club that is dedicated to playing casual games between each other as well as competing in the inter-college competition. The Clare Hall Chess Club welcomes players with any strength and usually plays an inter-college match about once a term. The Clare Hall Chess Club is currently looking for new representation.

**Sports at Clare Hall**

Clare Hall has a stock of sporting equipment that you can borrow and use at any time, including badminton, tennis, and squash racquets, cricket gear, a croquet set, and several different types of balls (football, rugby). The Kings College Squash Courts are available for use by Clare Hallers who complete an induction. There may be some restrictions in place on the due of this equipment due to COVID-19, but this is likely to develop throughout the academic year.

**Cricket**
Contact cricket@clarehall.cam.ac.uk regarding the cricket team. Sessions usually start in mid-October on a fortnightly basis. At the end of each academic year, the Clare Hall community comes together to watch the Clare Hall fellows play the students in a cricket match. Afternoon tea is served, a typical experience you cannot miss whilst in Cambridge! The team welcomes all interested people with different levels of experience.

**Clare Hall Boat Club**

Traditionally, rowing is the quintessential sport of Cambridge. It is a fantastic sport where becoming a team is essential to moving in unison. Every college member is invited to join the Clare Hall Boat Club (CHBC) to experience this unique Cambridge activity. The Club welcomes both novices and experienced rowers, with any level of commitment. Rowing is loads of fun and you will make lasting friendships along the way!

You will be introduced to the CHBC during the GSB Welcome Week, which will include twice weekly virtual morning workouts run by the Boat Club (more information [here](#)) and a dedicated Boat Club event, as well as a Societies Fair at which the Boat Club will be present. Many more events typically happen throughout the year, including formals, award ceremonies, and pub nights.

Clare Hall Boat Club shares a boat house with Clare Boat Club, which is located at Cutter Ferry Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8DD. The boat house has ergometers (rowing machines), changing rooms, showers, weights, and obviously boats. Clare Hall Boat Club owns five boats: two 8 rowers, a 4 rower, and two single sculls. If you have any questions about CHBC, you would be interested in using the CHBC’s facilities, or would already like to join, please contact the Boat Club president, Timo Haber (clarehall.captain@cucbc.org). We hope to welcome you on the water soon!

**All Greys Rugby Club**

Calling current and former rugby players, rugby enthusiasts and curious sportspeople! The mature and graduate college rugby team (the All Greys) is recruiting for next season. Whether you are new to the game or have been playing for years, this is the perfect time to get active after quarantine and try out the world’s best sport! In keeping with rugby clubs up and down the country, we are taking part in a phased return to contact rugby with the aim to create a safe environment in which you can learn and embrace rugby.

With regular games, socials throughout the year, and a strong rugby tradition in the uni, do your Cambridge year right and chase an egg-shaped ball with us.

To register your interest, please message Dylan Siriwardena (dks30@cam.ac.uk)

**May Balls, June Events, and Garden Parties**

Among the great traditions of the colleges of the University of Cambridge are the extravagant May Balls, which take place (ironically so) in June to celebrate the end of the academic year. These are nights absolutely packed with food, drinks, and entertainment. Most colleges organise one every year or every other year. When a college does not organise a May Ball, they will often organise a June Event, which is slightly cheaper and smaller-scale than a full-blown May Ball. Ticket sales usually start around February, so keep an eye out for them. [This website](#) contains an overview of all the May Balls and June Events (as of writing, the events that were planned for the summer of 2020), and will be updated regularly.
As a smaller college, Clare Hall does not host a May Ball, June Event, or Garden Party annually or biannually as some other colleges do but instead holds one every few years. Most recently, in July 2019, a small committee of Clare Hall students hosted a “Summer Soirée” (Lost in Wonderland) which was greatly enjoyed by Clare Hallers. On years when we do not host one of these events, many Clare Hallers choose to experience the spectacles that are May Balls at other colleges. Students should be aware that these events often come with hefty price tags.

If you are interested in planning events or would like to know more about these celebrations, please contact the previous Head of Events for the “Summer Soirée”, Mariana P. L. Pereira (mp850@cam.ac.uk).

**The Graduate Student Body (GSB) Committee**

All students at Clare Hall are part of the Graduate Student Body (GSB), and its elected committee organises many activities and makes sure to represent the interests of the students within and beyond college. Being part of the committee is a great way to make new friends while at the same time contributing to the well-being and enjoyment of your fellow students. There are many positions available: whatever your particular interest may be, we will have a place for you. In previous years, the GSB Committee has met fortnightly to discuss student matters. Some GSB Committee members also represent the students at college committee meetings and report back to the GSB regarding those meetings.

The following positions, with the exception of the Treasurer position, will be open for nominations at the beginning of the Michaelmas term:

- **President**, represents Clare Hall students both internally and outside of the College and is the head of the GSB Committee. The President sits on Council and Governing Body.
- **Vice-President**, assists the President and aids in the management of the GSB Committee. The Vice-President sits on the Council and Governing Body.
- **Treasurer**, maintains the integrity of the GSB economy and ensures financial security by managing finances and resources effectively. As the key account holder for the GSB, the Treasurer is responsible for advising the President, Vice-President and the rest of the GSB Committee on financial issues as well as managing the disbursement of payments to various activities. The Treasurer attends Finance Committee meetings.
- **Secretary**, plans GSB Committee meetings, takes minutes and circulates them to the rest of the GSB Committee, and is also responsible for compiling and sending out regular email bulletins to the Student Body. The Secretary works closely with the President and Vice-President and represents the GSB at Council and Governing Body meetings if the President and Vice-President have other obligations.
- **Social Officer(s)**, organise social events and parties within the College, as well as excursions for the Student Body. The Social Officers represent the GSB at the Social Events Committee. Social Officers sometimes choose a particular focus, such as planning events for students with families.
- **Sports Officer(s)**, maintain communication with College sports teams. They are also responsible for the upkeep of the College sports equipment, including football, cricket, badminton, tennis, squash, and croquet equipment.
- **Welfare Officer(s)**, look after the general welfare of the students by organizing Welfare events, inform students on services available inside and outside college, and represent the GSB at the Health and Safety Committee.
- **External Officer(s)**, interact with other colleges and organisations in Cambridge, arrange formal swaps, and maintain relations with our sister college, St Cross College, Oxford.
• **Fellows-Students Interaction (FSI) Officer(s),** organise social and academic events aimed at bringing students and fellows closer together, such as drinks receptions, talks, and the Clare Hall Graduate Conference. The FSI Officers may sit on the Social Events Committee, along with the Social Officers.

• **Green Officer(s),** make the College a more environmentally friendly place, organise green initiatives in the College. Previous work by Green Officers included Fossil Fuel Divestment of Clare Hall, and the start of the Food Waste Programme. The Green Officers sit on the Environment Committee.

• **Equalities Officer(s),** ensure that issues impacting the Student Body unequally along the lines of race, gender, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background are addressed and dealt with. The role covers BAME, women’s, and LGBT+ related issues, as well as issues related to disability. Equalities Officers sometimes choose one of these, or any other areas as a focus for their role. The Equalities Officers sit on the Prevent Committee, along with other GSB Committee members.

• **Arts and Music Officer(s),** work closely with College to promote arts and music and organise events such as open mic nights and jazz formals. The Arts and Music Officers are also responsible for maintaining the ALB Music Room with new and replacement equipment as needed. The Arts and Music Officers sit on the Art Committee and the Music Committee.

• **Information Technology Officer(s),** liaise with College on any IT-related issues and opportunities. The IT officers may sit on the Publications committee and are encouraged to work closely with the College’s Web Editor.

For the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary roles, only one person can be elected, but multiple people can be elected for all other roles. Please contact Emily ([gsb.vicepresident@clarehall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:gsb.vicepresident@clarehall.cam.ac.uk)) or Jenn ([gsb.treasurer@clarehall.cam.ac.uk](mailto:gsb.treasurer@clarehall.cam.ac.uk)) if you have any questions or are interested in joining the GSB Committee.
Beyond Clare Hall

Cambridge Students’ Union (SU)

Cambridge SU is the university-wide representative body for all students at the University of Cambridge. Elected officers represent the students at University-wide committees. Apart from representing students, the Cambridge SU runs events throughout the year, such as yoga classes, workshops, dedicated events for various student populations (e.g. parents, international students, working class students, etc.), and the annual Freshers’ Fair. Cambridge SU offers printing, soft-binding, hard-binding, gown hire, and Cambridge-branded stationary all for reasonable prices. They also offer free sexual health supplies, such as condoms, to all students. The Students’ Unions’ Advice Service, run by Cambridge SU, offers free, confidential, and independent support to all University of Cambridge students. You can find the union at 17 Mill Lane, and you can find their dedicated Freshers’ website here.

The Careers Service

The Careers Service offers support for both current students and alumni of the university. Their website has resources on jobs, CVs, applications, cover letters, interviews, bursaries, internships, negotiating job offers, etc. You can also use their website to make an appointment with a careers adviser to review your CV, LinkedIn profile, or job application or to practice an interview. The Careers Service has recently adopted the platform Handshake, through which you can search for jobs, learn about different career fields, reach out to alumni, book appointments with career advisers, and register for events hosted by the Careers Service. Clare Hall has its own networking platform, called Clare Hall Connect, which is run by our development office. After creating a profile on the website, you can get in touch with Life Members of Clare Hall as well as current members. Additionally, it’s a great way to keep in touch with your Clare Hall colleagues after graduating!

Representation

Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council

At Cambridge City Council, the needs of Clare Hallers and other local residents (part of the Newnham Ward) are represented by our two city councilors (there are usually three, but there is currently one vacancy) and one county councilor. The city council deals with council housing and homelessness, waste collection and recycling, community safety and events, the city’s open/green spaces, and much more. The county council is in charge of transport, education, and public health. As of September 2020, our city councilors are Markus Gehring (Liberal Democrat—and a Cambridge Law Fellow at Hughes Hall) and Josh Matthews (Liberal Democrats—and a Clare Haller!). Lucy Nethsingha is our County Councillor (Liberal Democrats—and is a former Member of the European Parliament). An up-to-date list of city councilors can be found here.

UK Parliament

In UK Parliament, the needs of the city of Cambridge and its residents are represented by our Member of Parliament (MP). As of September 2020, our MP is Daniel Zeichner (Labour Party).
**European Parliament**

In European Parliament, the needs of Cambridgeshire (part of the Eastern Region) are represented by our seven Members of European Parliament (MEPs). As of September 2020, our MEPs are Richard Tice (Brexit Party), Barbara Gibson (Liberal Democrats), Michael Heaver (Brexit Party), Catherine Rowett (Green Party), June Mummery (Brexit Party), Lucy Nethsingha (Liberal Democrats), and Geoffrey van Orden (Conservative Party). An up-to-date list of MEPs and their contact details can be found [here](#).

**Registering to Vote**

There are several different types of elections in the UK, and many people (even if they're not UK citizens) are able to vote in some of these elections. You can find out more about election types and eligibility [here](#). You can register to vote [here](#).

**St Cross College, Oxford**

St Cross College is Clare Hall’s sister college in Oxford. This means that Clare Hall members are free to use the facilities of St Cross and book a guest room there while in Oxford, and vice versa, of course. At the time of writing, St Cross is not accepting offsite visitors, but you can stay up to date with their COVID-19 policies [here](#). The GSB organises annual formal swaps between Clare Hall and St Cross, and we hope to do so again this year, if possible. Please keep an eye out for dates of these events, as places are usually limited.