

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Royal Holloway, University of London, Community newsletter – Community Matters – which is published in October and May each year. It keeps you informed of College news and developments, events being held at the College which are open to the public, news of fundraising events and volunteering in the community.

# Community Matters October 08



## Volunteering Week

The College's third annual Volunteering Week saw over 150 students complete more than 1,000 hours of volunteering in total.

The volunteers completed 14 community projects, including painting fences at St Cuthbert's School and planting flowers at Birchlands Residential Home. Thorpe Lea Primary School was given a 'facelift' by the men's rugby club as they redecorated its outer walls, while the fencing team painted fences and dug allotments at Manorcroft Primary School and the women's football team helped out in a variety of cleaning and gardening projects at BEN, the automotive industry charity.

There were also several workshops on campus organised by the student radio station, 'Insanity', and the student magazine *The Orbital*. Students from College sports clubs also led fun sports sessions.

Rosemary Wilder, Headteacher of St Cuthbert's School, was delighted with the results, "The volunteers all worked very hard and were really enthusiastic about the project. They have really made a significant difference to our school environment."

Phil Simcock, the Community Action Volunteer Co-ordinator for the College, says,

"Royal Holloway's Volunteering Week has yet again made such a big impact in the community this year. Having visited the project teams during the week and met the community partners it is clear that the week has served countless numbers of children, young people, the elderly and other local residents."

If you have an idea for a regeneration project or volunteering opportunity, please contact Phil Simcock on 01784 414078, [volunteering@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@rhul.ac.uk)

Pictured above: Student volunteers with children from Manorcroft Primary School

## Silent Students Happy Homes relaunch

For over three years, the Students' Union's (SU) 'Silent Students Happy Homes' (SSHH) campaign at Royal Holloway has promoted the importance of students returning home quietly, whether just leaving the bar or finishing a late night of studying.

Now, a generous donation from the College's Support and Advisory Services has funded the branding of one of the Students' Union's non-residential buses with the new and reinvigorated SSHH logo, effectively relaunching the campaign to ensure its continued success.

The non-residential bus is a service offered by the Students' Union which drops off students at their door for only £1, and will now advertise how highly a strong and positive relationship with the local community is valued. As well as taking students home at night, the non-residential buses are driven around the country when used by the Student Activities department for sports matches and events, such as the Edinburgh Fringe. Consequently, the message of SSHH is proclaimed nationwide, ensuring that the commitment Royal Holloway makes to community relations is at the forefront of higher education campaigning.

Liz Owen, SU President, believes that,

"This is a fantastic opportunity to combine one of our priority campaigns with the essential service that is the non-residential bus provision. Not only does it promote the importance of personal safety amongst our students, but it helps to reinforce our commitment to our fellow residents, ensuring that our activities have the least possible impact on the rest of the community on a day-to-day basis."

Pictured above: The Students' Union Sabbatical team with the Head of Support and Advisory Services, Christopher Butler (far right)

# Community Matters

## October 08

### How the College deals with crime prevention

Students do not have disposable income – even if a lot of it is from loans they will have to repay in time – and many of their possessions are newly bought. Add to this the fact that they are often new to the area – possibly even to the country – and that they are up late and perhaps still getting used to the responsibilities of living independently. Consequently, there is a risk of them being victims of opportunist crime.

We do not want to see our students get caught in this way and neither do we want petty criminals to be drawn to the area. With the help of the Students' Union and the Police, we support a number of initiatives devised to encourage our students to look after themselves and their possessions. Raising awareness is a vital component of this strategy. In addition, we have a rapid system for reporting any incidents that do occur while the excellent work of our local Police in responding ensures that crime is kept to a minimum. The College's students report that they feel they live in a very safe area.

What about the other side of the issue – the criminal behaviour of a small minority of our students? As achieving a place at the College is difficult in the first place and completing a degree requires a considerable investment of time and money, no student is likely to jeopardise their place with us lightly; we have been pleased to find that students very rarely get on the wrong side of the law. We know this because if one of our students is involved in a crime, the College has to be informed and we have the power to review the student's registration. We have only had half a dozen students in trouble with the law over the last five years – usually because of incidents involving other students.



The College takes these cases very seriously; a termination or lengthy suspension of registration is the usual outcome. You may also wonder how we deal with students who arrive with a conviction. They are not rejected automatically - we consider each case individually. However, if admitted, such students are made fully aware that any further criminal behaviour will result in prompt deregistration.

The College is pleased that its work with the Police and the local community has to date minimised student involvement with crime – whether as victims or as offenders.

**Christopher Butler, Head of Support and Advisory Services**

**In the next issue: How the College deals with diversity...**

### People



Meet Adam Cadoo, Students' Union Vice President, Education & Welfare

**Q. How would you summarise your role?**

My role is about providing support and advice to our students for any problem that they may encounter while studying at Royal Holloway. I deal with matters relating to student welfare with regards to on-campus and private accommodation, student safety and the academic experience of our members.

**Q. What are your priorities for the year?**

My overarching goal is to try and improve even further the experience of students, both those in College and those living in private accommodation. Ultimately, I want to represent the views, opinions and interests of our students with the aim of improving the student experience and avoiding any grievances occurring in the first place.

**Q. What do you like about Royal Holloway and the local community as a place to study and live?**

The greatest quality about Royal Holloway is its community spirit. It has a cosy, welcoming atmosphere which makes it easy to be thought of as a second home. You have the feeling that you'll always bump into someone you know and this mix of safety and comfort led me to having a truly amazing university experience here.

**Q. What are your interests outside of your work?**

Socialising with friends both on campus and also in Egham and Staines. I love going to catch the latest movies as well as exercising regularly. You might find me jogging up Egham Hill every now and then!

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### Royal Holloway in the USA

Royal Holloway is sending its world-famous collection of Victorian paintings on a two-and-a-half year tour of the United States of America from October 2008. The majority of the 60 canvases – amassed in the late 1800s by Thomas Holloway, the founder of the College – have never before been exhibited outside the UK.

Amongst Holloway's purchases are some of the most famous of the period, including Edwin Long's meticulous reconstruction of the ancient world, *Babylonian Marriage Market* (1875) and Sir John Everett Millais' superbly iconic history lesson, *Princes in the Tower* (1878).

The exhibition premieres in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on 12 October and will travel to many major American art museums until May 2011, including the Yale Center for British Art. The Choir of Royal Holloway will be performing concerts in select locations in the United States in conjunction with the tour of the Royal Holloway Collection.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to raise Royal Holloway's profile in the United States of America," said the Principal, Professor Stephen Hill.

"We shall do all we can to ensure that the College leaves a lasting impression on all those who come into contact with some of our finest treasures."

For the past eight months, the Picture Gallery in the Founder's Building has undergone extensive renovation and is due to reopen soon. This carefully planned and thorough refurbishment is set to breathe new life into the celebrated Gallery. The 16 paintings not included in the USA tour will be returned to the Gallery alongside very worthy additions from the College's secondary painting collection.



Pictured above: *Babylonian Marriage Market* by Edwin Long

### Sustainable success

Royal Holloway's end of term reuse project proved to be a great success for the third year running as nearly three tonnes of good quality items, including 1.8 tonnes of clothing, were diverted from landfill and redistributed to local charities for reuse. The project encouraged students to rethink their 'rubbish' as they cleared out their rooms for the Summer exodus. There were collection points at each hall of residence for books, CDs, clothes, kitchen equipment, electronics and cosmetics.



The items were sorted by student volunteers and then donated to several local charities. The Christian Book Stall was given most of the books, although text books were sent to the College Book Shop for resale with the proceeds going to the Shooting Star Charity; the Besom Trust received food, kitchen equipment, bric-a-brac, cosmetics and electrical equipment; the Princess Alice Trust, which raises money for a hospice, received all the clothing; and The Shaw Trust were given a variety of items.

Royal Holloway's Sustainability Officer, Andy Hix, says, "This is a great scheme which not only supports local vulnerable and disadvantaged people but also saves good quality items from being sent to landfill."

Another project completed over the Summer was the College's Cycle to Work scheme. The government-backed project endeavours to coax staff out of their cars by allowing them to buy a new bike tax free. The College is committed to promoting the use of sustainable transport, and encouraging people to cycle to work is a key part of that initiative.

Pictured left: Student volunteers with some of the bags filled with donated items

### College news

A *Community Matters* postcard has been sent to all residents in roads surrounding the main campus as a continuation of our community liaison work. The postcards are intended to be displayed in doors or windows as a way to foster community spirit and also provide contact details for both student and non-student residents.

These postcards will be more widely distributed by the Community Liaison team during their welfare visits to student houses in the first few weeks of term and at Community Liaison Forums. Please contact us if you would like a postcard or to offer any feedback on this new initiative:

community@rhul.ac.uk  
T: 01784 443394

# Community Matters October 08

## Any Questions?



An audience of around 400 people, including local residents, members of local political parties, and College staff and students, filled the Windsor Building Auditorium on 1 August for a live broadcast of BBC Radio 4's 'Any Questions?', chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby.

Royal Holloway welcomed a panel comprising of Lord Hattersley, former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party; Iain Duncan Smith MP, former Leader of the Conservative Party; Lord Adebawale, Chief Executive of the charity Turning Point and Chair of London Youth Crime Prevention Board; and Ruth Lea, an economist and adviser to banking group Arbutnot.

Pictured above: Jonathan Dimbleby with representatives from Royal Holloway and the Egham Royal Show

## Garden Party success

The 15th annual Garden Party was a real extravaganza, with about 2,000 people attending.

The raffle raised £2,500 for Cystic Fibrosis, Thames Hospicecare and the charities supported by the Mayor of Runnymede: Homestart Runnymede, Runnymede Care Assistant Scheme and Eyes Right. £500 was donated to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

There was a wonderful atmosphere, fantastic weather, lots of excellent games and activities, as well as a barbeque and cream teas on the lawn.



## What's on 2008-09

### Lecture series highlights

- **Sex, Money, Power, Fame – and God? Does Morality Need Religion?**  
By the Rt Revd Lord Harries of Pentregarth  
Main Lecture Theatre (MLT), 5.30pm  
**29 October 2008**
- **Geopolitics: An A-Z Guide?**  
By Professor Klaus Dodds  
Windsor Building Auditorium, 6pm  
**25 November 2008**
- **Randomness and Communication**  
By Professor Simon Blackburn  
Windsor Building Auditorium, 6pm  
**10 February 2009**
- **The Magna Carta Manifesto**  
By Professor Peter Linebaugh  
Windsor Building Auditorium, 6pm  
**3 March 2009**

The College's 'What's On' guide provides full listings of forthcoming lectures and music performances. For a copy please contact [external-relations@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:external-relations@rhul.ac.uk) or 01784 443004.

### Volunteering

- **Make A Difference Day**  
(Volunteering in the community)  
**24 October 2008**

### Community Sports Days

- **13 and 20 November 2008**

### Community Liaison Forums

Community Liaison Forums are hosted jointly by the College and the Students' Union. They are an opportunity for residents to raise issues directly. These will be held on the following dates:

- **18 November 2008**
- **24 February 2009**
- **26 May 2009**

All meetings take place in the Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building from 7-8pm.

### Christmas Party Nights

#### Royal Holloway, University of London **12 – 22 December 2008**

Bar open from 7pm; Dinner at 8pm;  
Carriages at 12.30am

Two packages are available:

- Founder's Hall:  
£37.50 Mon-Thurs, £41.50 Fri-Sat
- Kingswood Hall: £32.95  
Prices include three course silver-service meal and disco. We can cater for groups of up to 180 people.

For more information or to make a booking contact the Sales & Marketing office: [sales-office@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:sales-office@rhul.ac.uk) or call 01784 414149

#### 2008-09 term dates:

22 September 2008 – 12 December 2008  
12 January 2009 – 27 March 2009  
27 April 2009 – 12 June 2009

We value your comments and suggestions.

Please write to:

Community Matters, External Relations,  
Royal Holloway, University of London,  
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX or  
email [community-matters@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:community-matters@rhul.ac.uk)

Royal Holloway, University of London  
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX  
T: 01784 434455  
[www.rhul.ac.uk](http://www.rhul.ac.uk)