WYNG Freshers Threaten Independence

Only a few days into term, the WYNG freshers’ community is seeking independence from Central Site with which it has been historically unified. The movement - now known as ‘WYxit’ - seems to have gained momentum thanks to the success of the UK’s attempted withdrawal from the EU.

One spokesperson for the campaign commented that ‘Brexit is proving to be such a painless business that it will surely set a precedent for many future independence movements, hopefully leading to the eventual devolution of power literally ad infinitum!’.

Other freshers have voiced concerns with the existing union of WYNG Gardens and Central Site. One remarked that ‘it seems undemocratic that decisions about what goes on in WYNG should be made more than five whole minutes walk away from WYNG itself... Central Site is out of touch with what goes on at a local level’. Critics from Central Site observed the irony in this complaint, given the high levels of voter apathy amongst the WYNG community. Bafflingly, the original interviewee simply replied that ‘we want sovereignty! Now!’.

Another WYNG fresher bawled that any Central Site fresher found at WYNG should be made to ‘go home and stop stealing our oxygen!!’. The same source later confirmed that they would ‘quite like to carry on being able to use the Jerwood please’.

Whilst it still remains unclear exactly what the movement hopes to achieve by severing ties with the rest of college, some future plans have been rumoured. These appear to include encouraging Trinity Hall to relocate its main Plodge to WYNG, with ‘favourable air conditioning or something’. Such a prospect would purportedly entice many other colleges to relocate their own plodges as well. Another rumour suggests that the WYNG laundry facilities are a likely candidate for nationalisation, being an ‘as-yet un-tapped national resource’.

Despite the fact that most opinion poll participants will have graduated by the time anything happens, with a majority of just under 4%, the WYNG independence movement clearly has far too strong a mandate to ignore. A final interviewee pointed out that ‘with such a convincing majority, we would basically be justified in invading another college, or maybe America’.

Francis Brown
Agony Uncle*

Cambridge can be a daunting place. Luckily, Uncle Will - who founded Trinity Hall back in 1350 - is (still) on hand to help with your problems in a 100% anonymous environment.

"Dear Uncle Will, I'm sometimes worried that people aren't genuinely interested in my life story. When I'm recounting it to them at 3am, I often get the distinct impression that they're just a bit drunk and unable to come up with a credible reason to leave the plodge. Am I just paranoid?"

"I hear you. Being 668 years old my own life story is pretty long, and it can hurt when people don’t want to hear all of it. My advice would be to make sure you tell every single detail of the story, possibly several times, and speak as slowly as possible. If they’re drunk, they’re probably just having trouble keeping up, right?"

*The TitBit does not endorse gender-stereotypes. Why shouldn’t uncles have to be emotionally responsible as well, huh? Grow up.

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Are you still drunk for your lecture?? Here’s a sobering fact: Since 2000, the number of Hedgehogs living in the British countryside has more than halved. Now you’re good to go!

Emily Whittingham
Cam Dine with Me - Freshers’ edition -

Welcome Freshers! To the land of hall-cooked meals, where you WILL eat at 12:30 and 6 on the dot or face the dreary walk to Sainsbury’s in search of a microwave ready meal. After a week-and-a-half, your taste buds will inevitably grow numb to the unsalted vegetables and thickened microwaved curries and the beckoning streets of Cambridge will call you to satisfy your cravings in the multitude of diverse restaurants, cafes and fast food stalls. The variety of choice can be overwhelming. Fear not! In this edition I’m offering you the 101 on some of the most student popular places to eat in Cambridge. Because If you haven’t tried a Fitzbillies Chelsea Bun, or Cheesy chips from the Van of Life… then what are you really doing? (Probably focusing on your degree, huh).

Anyway, here are some suggestions to make you seem like you know what you’re doing on any occasion; from places to take your parents, where to go out for dinner, and of course, where to pile up on some salty fatty goodness after a wild night in Lola’s!

Fitzbillies: Whilst some people may say its overrated or over priced, Fitzbillies is a Cambridge tradition and a must visit at some point in your time at Cambridge. Renowned for their sticky Chelsea buns, Fitzbillies has been in Cambridge since 1920, offering a range of classic brunches, from full English’s to avocado on toast, classy afternoon teas and elegant cakes and treats. The food is fresh and comforting, however note that the portion sizes are modest and come in at above average brunch price - perfect for that weekend the parents visit to take you out for non-college food! The atmosphere is homely and traditional, with good-natured, attentive staff and the freshly made sticky Chelsea buns can be smelt and seen coming out the ovens all morning, filling the air with a warm, sweet doughy smell making you ready for breakfast as you wait. Even available to take away. Fitzbillies is very popular for its brunch, so expect to wait for a table for up to 15 mins on busy weekends.

Trailer of Life: Cheesy Chips. There’s noting else for it. All you want is a hot steamy pile of salty chips smothered in melted cheese. Where do you go? Van of life. Cheap, quick and satisfying, I can’t count the amount of times cheesy chips have been a staple on the walk home from a night out. Make sure to keep your change handy! Trailer of life keeps its menu short, so ordering is quick and easy- no stressful choosing bamboozled by options. Although predominantly selling burgers and cheesy chips, you can also find some of the best quesadillas available in Cambridge right here. Located on the market square, don’t get it confused with it’s opposition - the van of death! As many will tell you, and the crowds around the trailer of life indicate… You know where to go for the best cheesy chips at 3am.

Franco Manca: New to Cambridge this summer; a Franco Manca! Londoners, Cambridge has heard your prayers! (To anyone else; it’s a new pizza place.) Franco Manca prides itself in sourdough pizzas using seasonal ingredients, handmade each day. Located on the side of the market square, you can eat in or takeaway with pizzas costing from £5-£8.50. The range of pizzas is small, but varied, with thinner, crispier bases, however keeping the soft doughiness we all love. Whilst the site is small, the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, with warming lights and cheesy clean design featuring drawings from a Cambridge PhD Classics student on the walls! The kitchen is open and in the middle of the restaurant, allowing you to watch your food being made fresh as you order! Cheaper and more authentic than ordering a Domino’s and anticipating being a new favourite of Cambridge students, Franco Manca is a delicious option for a meal out- or in. (Would recommend booking beforehand for eating in).

Cambridge Market: Be sure to check out Cambridge market on a sunny day. Servings food from around the world, pop up stands are open daily, with food being cooked and prepared before you. The mixture of smells and cultures add to the hustle and bustle of the market, with odd trinket shops selling interesting bits and bobs. Many stands only appear sporadically; however, you’ll soon recognise the regulars - There’s so much on offer, making a choice seems impossible but look for the queues, and you won’t be disappointed!

P.S Sainsbury’s White Chocolate and Raspberry Cookies are the bomb.

Amy Johnston

MICROWAVE MEALS:

‘PUKKA’ PESTO PIZZA

Prep and Cook Time | 5-10 mins | Cost | Under £5

INGREDIENTS
- A jar of green pesto
- A loaf of bread
- A packet of Mozzarella
- Salt and Pepper for seasoning

DIRECTIONS
- Adjust the microwave to the convection setting at 200°c and place the spiraled metal tray on top of the rotating glass one.
- Using a breadknife or your hands, cut a slice/hunk of bread.
- Once the microwave is warm, balance the bread on the metal tray for three minutes or until it starts to go crisp.
- Remove the bread from the microwave and flip so the softer side is upward facing.
- Spread a layer of pesto on this side, then tear some of the mozzarella and arrange evenly on top.
- Place the pizza-bread back in the microwave for a further three minutes until the cheese has melted.
- Bish bash bosh, remove from the microwave, season with salt and pepper and tuck in!

TIPS
- A wicked accompaniment to Van of Life chips and a refreshing glass of water after a heavy night out.
- Minimal pesto is needed, and it keeps for two weeks so will outlive both freshers’ week and your will to go out during term.
- Properly cleaning out your food from the microwave will make you very popular with your staircase chums.
- You can add veg on top to catch up on your five a day and fibre.
- A bread roll is easier to cut and a cheaper alternative to buying a whole loaf.
Breaking the Bubble

Having worked relentlessly to get yourself into Cambridge, you may well find at some point that you would quite like to not be in Cambridge, even if just for an afternoon. This is perfectly normal, and it is very healthy to leave the bubble each term, and get a hearty dose of reality. It can be very refreshing to be around people who care about things other than tripos, and aren’t entirely sure what a pidge is. So, as someone who lives in Cambridge as well as studying here, I present to you the best non-studenty things to do to de-bubbleise yourself.

1. Get on a train
The station is a short walk (or even shorter taxi ride) from central, and just walking down Hills Road and seeing a Tesco (yes, really), some schools (ikr) and offices where normal people who did not, probably, wear a gown to eat a three course meal while at university, work. There are a variety of destinations, with direct services, such as London, Norwich, Ipswich, Saffron Walden, Birmingham, and, apparently, Brighton. A nice day out can be very fortifying to the soul. And then you can feel like the first person to ever be amused by the sign that says ‘Cambridge, Home of Anglia Ruskin University’. Excellent Snapchat fodder.

2. Grantchester
The much vaunted Grantchester, accessed in many student dreams via punt on a sunny summer day after exams, is a very beautiful place to walk to on one of those crisp, clear, Victorian-novel style autumn days that we are so blessed with in Cambridge. Afterwards, warm yourself up with a hot chocolate at the tea room, and then wrap up again before heading back.

3. Bonfire Night
The fireworks and fair on Midsummer Common attract gowfies and townies alike, so it can be a lovely way to do something normal without it requiring the effort of mentally leaving the bubble.

4. Mill Road Winter Fair
On Saturday 1st December, when many will be properly leaving the bubble for the Christmas ‘vac’, Mill Road holds its annual winter fair, with stalls and other festive things. Mill Road itself can be a really nice place to go to, with lots of independent restaurants, cafes, charity shops, Asian supermarkets, and shops that sell the bizarre ingredients like ‘asafoetida’ which Mainsbury’s hasn’t quite cottoned on to yet. It is becoming quite gentrified, so go while it’s still appropriately grungy.

5. Go to the cinema
It can actually be so nice to treat yourself and see a film, munch on popcorn and recline in the extreme of luxury that is the amazing armchair seating in the Grafton Centre Vue Cinema (definitely ex-bubble territory). They also show some live screenings of plays, operas and ballets there, so there’s something for everyone.

6. Go to the Grand Arcade on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon
There will be so many people there who are under university age but proudly ask for a ‘student discount’ on their crayons or whatever it is the youth purchase. It can be insanely refreshing to just mooch around the shops rather than guiltily online shopping in a tab next to the reading you’re meant to be doing in the library. And the Grafton Centre, although not as swish as the Grand Arcade, is being rejuvenated and apparently now has a free table tennis area. And Primark is fancy dress central.

7. Do a townie version of something you already do
Joining societies is such a great thing to do while you have the opportunity, but every once in a while it can be nice to go to, say, a townie yoga class, and just mingle with people who are stressed about adult things like which bin goes out tomorrow, or whether their children will want turkey dinosaurs or pizza for tea. It’s nice to do this every once in a while, but of course they can be more expensive or further away— but if it’s enough to just get you out of the Cambridge mentality for an hour or so, that can have a surprisingly strong impact, and doesn’t mean taking a whole day off.

8. Ice skating
On 17th November, the annual Winter Wonderland on Parkers’ Piece will open, boasting ice skating, a winter-themed bar and funfair rides like DODGEMS. It’s such fun and a nice way to round off the term.

9. Club on a townie night
You will see a different side to Cambridge altogether. Julia Davies

Obituary:
The Crescents

Tragically, Trinity Hall’s least-morally-dubious society was struck down in the prime of its life last term, after a short battle with the 21st century.

One observer lamented the passing of the men’s drinking society, highlighting the fact that ‘ex-members may now be forced to grapple with the problem of drinking in a mixed-sex environment’.
Horoscope

Mathmo- your future is prosperous and successful. You shall be cheered by crowds of adoring fans and live in wealth and comfort. Oh, hang on a minute, I thought that said Trinity Mathmo. Erm. You’ll do alright I guess.

NatSci- In the wake of its full phase, the moon started to wane. Spiritually speaking, the waning moon is associated with letting go, preparation, and overall sacrifice. This sacrifice comes in the form of Saturday lectures. You poor soul.

CompSci- the moon is void for compscis the next couple of days, which means that is it moving between two different star signs. This void means social interactions are put on hold, so just alt, control and delete your social life.

Engineer- typically a subject of passion, be careful that your passion does not extend beyond the acceptable, because engineers are prone to hallucinogenic tendencies. Bridges. Bridges everywhere. All you see is bridges.

English- The transition of Neptune into Jupiter’s orbit means a passionate romance is underway. Mr Darcy will come and sweep you off your feet in the next couple of weeks. Here he is, a tall dark stranger riding over the reverberate hills into your arms. Mr Darcy! Or is it Heathcliff? Dracula? George and Lennie? Oh dear, I can’t actually tell.

Linguistics- With the forward motion of mercury, your health and energy will be boosted, your friends and family will see an improvement in your communication, however are worried you constantly chant fish fish fish fish...

Geography- Mercury is in retrograde, meaning you may have to face your fears this coming lunar cycle. Though it may be a very frightening prospect, but in the coming months you will lose your set of colouring pens. Yes, you will still have pencils, but they’re just not quite the same, are they?

HSPS- You may experience some intense stresses in the weeks to come, but don’t worry, this is typical of HSPS students around this time of year. You learn some harsh world truths that may change your perception of certain social issues. Just remember, you are edgy, you are cool, you will inevitably switch to PBS.

PBS- Pluto is in sight, which changes the magnetic field of the brain. You will become more acutely aware of the people around you- maybe because that’s what you study... I don’t know, maybe you should’ve written this.

Philosophy- Full Moon is waning between 180 and 135 degrees. A veil of self-absorption is lifted and suddenly you gain access to an unbiased view of others. This is a rare moment when you can see yourself objectively, and you’ve found out you’re actually just a little bit pretentious.

History- During this Moon phase, there is a slight slowing down of enthusiasm due to an emerging desire to produce tangible results from the energy being expended. You discover that ABBA was in fact correct, and that the history book on the shelf is constantly repeating itself, meaning the energy expenditure was useless.

MML- Your year abroad looms threateningly in the horizon. But where will you go? Will it be exotic, exciting and inspiring? Or will you end up teaching in a primary school, getting food poisoning and forgetting travel insurance? Who knows?

Land Economy- The moon is waning, and so is your motivation, you hardly have any contact hours, and you don’t understand what you’re reading- Why am I doing maths? Maybe I should’ve done geography? Or even economics?

ASNAC- who?

Music- Do Ray Me Fah So La Tee Don’t even try.

Economics- If you counted all the stars in the sky, you’d have a lot of stars- maybe you could even start an economy with them. Given the state of things you might need to. Get counting...

Medic/Vet- a kind and selfless soul, dedicating their life to helping others. Be careful medics, your selfless tendencies may lead to you overwork and neglect your friends and family. A subject that does nothing by halves, treat yourself to a night out to reignite your relationships, but please, stick to 3 vodka lemonade, a bottle of wine, 4 gin and tonics and 3 jagerbombs. We wouldn’t want you to go too hard.

Amy Johnston and Nina Haket

New TitBit Logo designed by Kate Towsey. All uncredited articles submitted anonymously.
The TatiBit

I heard a vignette once: an American tourist was astounded by the Cambridge colleges. As he strolled through one he stopped the gardener and asked, 'how do you create such perfect lawns?' The gardener replied 'it's easy - you just mow the lawns in straight lines for over 500 years.'

Tit Hall’s gardens are a spectacle; one taken for granted mostly. The gorgeous roses that frame archways blessing every passer-by with their scent and the orange tulips that burst up above the flower beds in spring, nodding their heads to students hurrying past, give the place its warmth. The building is grand but its stark walls are undoubtedly softened by the gnarly wisteria that decorates the porters lodge. In summer the Wych gardens were a delight; a quiet secluded spot where blossom surrounded you and you could lie out on the grass watching the swaying beech leaves dance with the wind. A library seemed far away....

Have you ever thought why John’s looks so austere – where are the flowers on their walls!? The gardens make Tit Hall a home. I’m not usually a fan of perfectly tended gardens. As a florist in the summer holidays I spend a lot of time looking at the hedgerow, waiting for the old man’s beard to blossom and the dog rose to flower. My favourite time of the year is when bluebells coat the floor with their vibrant purple. The soft sun streams through the transparently fresh beech leaves giving the effect of the sunlight playing games amongst the individual bluebell heads. The Easter term muscari that is so beautifully tended to underneath the auburn leaves of the copper beech reminds me of this. It never fails to bring a smile to my face. I am so grateful for the glorious flowers that coat Tit Hall. The gardeners’ work does not go unappreciated; it allows Tit Hall’s character to grow. When life seems grey, the rain is pouring and there are 10 essays to write before the end of term, the little heads of flowers peeping out of the mist brings a little bit of happiness to that moment.

Tati Chapman

Join the dots!

[Disclaimer: It won’t make a picture, but it will take ages.]

PROCRASTINATION CORNER

THE TEN BEDDER’S COMMANDMENTS:

AND THY BEDDER SPAKE ALL THESE WORDS:

1) I AM THY BEDDER, AND THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER BEDDERS BUT ME
2) THOU SHALT NOT BE SICK ON THY BED AND EXPECT ME TO DEAL WITH IT
3) THOU SHALT RESPECT THY BEDDER AS THY FATHER OR MOTHER
4) THOU SHALT NOT ATTEMPT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ME WHILST I VACUUMETH THE FLOOR; LETS BE HONEST, NEITHER OF US CAN ACTUALLY HEARETH EACH OTHER ANYWAY
5) REMEMBER, THE BED LINEN DAY AND KEEP IT HOLY
6) THOU SHALT NOT MAKE FOR THYSELF FALSE IDOLS, SUCH AS UNTENDED ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
7) THOU SHALT NOT STEAL FROM THY GYP ROOM FRIDGE
8) THOU SHALT NOT FORGET THE NAME OF THY BEDDER, EVEN WHEN HUNGOVER
9) THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY WHILST I AM TRYING TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM
10) THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR’S BEDDER

Looking for another way to procrastinate? Write for the TitBit - email fb471@cam.ac.uk if interested.