



The Bugle, Issue number 5, Summer 2024

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer 2024 issue of The Bugle.

I must apologise for the brief hiatus in publications, but we are back now. In this newsletter we will review some of the Club events from the last quarter, including a telephone canvassing project, an Agatha Christie Literary Lunch, some Club improvements, and the re-silvering of the Club cutlery.

You will by now be familiar with the structure and format of The Bugle, which essential remains as before, but please provide me with any thoughts, ideas and feedback which you think may help shape future publications. Are there any topics or areas of club information you would like to see covered in The Bugle? And, as always, we would welcome any written contributions, should there be anything you'd like to share with other members through this newsletter.

With best wishes,

Paul Knight (Editor)



**CITY
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Clubhouse News

Club Opening Times – The Club is open between 12:00 and 17:00 from Tuesday to Friday but is usually closed on Monday. If, however, a member would like to book a lunch or dinner event on a Monday (attended by a minimum of 8 persons), then Hasita would be very happy to try to accommodate this.

In addition, the Club continues to be open for dinner on Thursdays, and for the younger members' evenings at the end of each month, which continue to be well supported.

Please also remember that the Club can serve breakfast (from 7:30 a.m.), but please try to let the Club know before you come, so that Hasita can expect you and prepare for your visit.

The Club offers members a fantastic space for private events, which you can hire any day of the week, whether for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. It is always a great way to introduce your Club to friends, showcasing the excellent food, wine, service and fellowship available.

For any enquiries, please contact Hasita by phone on 020 7167 6682 or via email at the following address: secretary@cityuniversityclub.co.uk

Dress Code – We would like to clarify that a jacket and tie are **not** required of men who wish to use only the bar, the business area or any room *other than* the principal dining rooms on the 1st floor. In these areas the dress code is more relaxed for both men and women, although for men a collared shirt is required (no T-shirts, polo shirts, trainers, shorts or jeans, please). Smart dress is, however, still required if you intend to use the dining room, including jacket and tie for men and smart attire for ladies.

Club Improvements – Our thanks to Gina Youens and our Club Chairman, Charles Williams, who took the time to make some improvements to the appearance of our Club. I asked Gina to write a few words to explain what they had done, and she responded as follows:

"I was approached by Hasita to help hang some pictures in the Club. As I enjoy rearranging other people's rooms (rather than my own), I duly accepted the task.

"I arrived early on a March day and waited for Charlie Williams, our Chairman to arrive. The brief was to rearrange some existing pictures into meaningful groups and to hang two new ones which had been gifted to the club.





“After gathering our tools: hammer, nails, hooks, duster and the new picture hanging system which I brought with me (which I mistakenly called ‘the commando system’ it’s actually the command system), we were ready to begin.

“First, to remove the existing pictures on the walls, lay them out and decide how they should be grouped. Charlie has an art curators’ eye which was invaluable and together we decided how to rearrange them to provide the best effect. Subjects of similar interest or colour were grouped together and any with no connection to the club were removed.

“This involved a lot of dusting, measuring and standing on chairs. However, this was helped by a glass of the club wine – only one I must add, or the result could have been very different. Just

when we were beginning to flag, we were joined by Committee member Carl Brompton who was brilliant at calculating the correct height to hang the pictures with his own unique method of calculation.

“The finishing touches were some new cushions and bright orange kalanchoe plants which added a pop of colour on the windowsill. The prints near the bar show two local wards and are well worth studying when you next visit the club. The details on the maps are quite fascinating depicting the history of the area. These were a generous gift from a member.

“We hope you enjoy the new arrangements. Our intention is to move on to another area in the Club soon. We would welcome any thoughts or suggestions to improving the atmosphere of the Club.”



Business Area – We are pleased to report that this area is being used much more now, enabling the Club to serve breakfast when requested, with some members having lunch while there. Just a reminder that the business area is on the 3rd floor at Crutched Friars and is available for the use of all members. It provides high-speed internet connection and a comfortable working area, plus a more relaxed dress code.

Fabric Fund – as you will doubtless remember, this was established to pay for improvements and acquisitions to the ‘fabric’ of the Club. The amount held by the fund was largely raised through the auction of certain items – such as the holiday to Sri Lanka and Margarita Zhang’s Pearls – held during the Club’s 125th Anniversary Dinner.



We are pleased to advise that some of the money has been used to re-silver the Club cutlery, together with the addition of the CUC logo to the items. Hasita commented that, “from the time I joined the Club I wanted to re-silver the cutlery, and that was 7+ years ago!”



(Thank you to Marli for providing me with the photographs showing the setting of the renewed cutlery).

Club Communications and Social Media – I’m sure you are all by now familiar with the Club Website www.cityuniversityclub.co.uk, but just a reminder that we also have a page on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), which you may also like to join. The Communications and Social Media sub-committee is chaired by Nick Johnson, who continues to update and boost the Club’s social media presence and the ability to more readily share all content with you across these platforms.

Club Table – The Dining Room continues to maintain the tradition of a Club Table, which is always available to all members, whether lunching alone or with others. I use it frequently when visiting the Club so please feel free to join the Club Table where you can meet and enjoy the company of fellow members (including Club House members and Reciprocal members who are alone). The Club dish is available on the Club Table only.

Other News

Literary Lunch – On 22nd March, Adam Baxter and I hosted an informal discussion on *Murder on the Orient Express*, one of Agatha Christie's most celebrated works, and featuring her Belgian detective – Hercule Poirot – in one of his most captivating cases.

My thanks to Adam, not only for co-hosting the occasion, but also for his contribution below, providing a brief but entertaining account of the event.



“More than 20 members convened first in the bar to enjoy a cocktail made from the Club's award-winning gin, before heading upstairs to the dining room for a delicious fish lunch.

“Aided by lashings of the club wine, and Paul's literally incredible costume moustache and pince-nez, we cantered over a brief biography of Agatha Christie, and an account of the book itself.

“Each course was then paired with a discussion of a key theme from the novel. To start, Christie's magnificent inversion of the classic murder mystery set-up in *Murder on the Orient Express* (although to avoid spoiling, they are left for the reader to ponder). This was followed by conversation on the use of national stereotype to confound and distract the reader; and concluding with the important questions of justice which come about through the novel's resolution.

“Those blessed with no further commitments then reconvened in the bar long into the afternoon, in the finest traditions of the club.

“For those who missed out, rumours are that Richard Fynes has already talked the two of us into hosting another talk. We might even attempt French Belgian accents this time.”



The Literary Lunches are proving popular, with members taking an active part in presenting these events. If you would to be involved in hosting one, please contact Hasita. From personal experience I can vouch they are both fun and rewarding. The Next Literary Lunch is on Friday 7th June, when CUC member Dr Julian Critchlow and Lucy Critchlow will host an informal discussion on John Buchan's *Greenmantle*.

Telephone Canvassing – in November of last year several of the CUC committee, led by Carl Brumpton, conducted a telephone survey of members. We explored several topics, asking questions surrounding how frequently members visited the Club, how satisfied they were with the food and other aspects of the Club, and whether they thought any general improvements could be made. The responses were very constructive and helpful and our thanks to all who took the time to speak with us. A summary of the responses was forwarded to the Secretary, and these are now being discussed and considered at committee level.

Reciprocal Clubs – The Committee must stress the importance of our reciprocal club arrangements and remind members that it is essential to maintain and promote the high standards of the CUC whenever visiting another club. The City University Club is justifiably proud of its excellent reciprocal agreements, available to us not only in London but around the world. As CUC members, we have a duty to be gracious and respectful whenever representing our Club.

Club History – As some of you may know, one of our members, David Hesketh, is in the process of writing the history of the Club. David would like to enlist the help of the current CUC membership to research some of the potential notable historical members of the club. If you have time to look up a few people and scribble some notes and links, he would be very grateful if you could let him know by email at davehesketh@yahoo.co.uk.

This is the last major section that is left to do so any help here will enable the Club history to reach publication.

Housekeeping

Club Rules – We are pleased to report that the Club Rules, together with the Articles of Association, have been thoroughly revised and updated. The drafts have been presented to the Chairman and Secretary and will now move to the Committee for endorsement and/or amendment prior to formal adoption at the next Annual General Meeting of the Club. Our very great thanks go to Alasdair Shaikh for all his time and effort in undertaking this huge project.

The Committee

The Committee meets throughout the year and are in regular communication with each other to help the Club progress, improve, and evolve (as is hopefully reflected in several of the stories covered in this newsletter). We are justly proud of the City University Club and with its history, traditions and ethos. The Club is there for us all, and the Committee would always welcome any feedback or suggestions.



The CUC Committee currently consists of the following members:

Charles Williams (Chair)

Laurence Nicolas (Chair of the CUC Young Members)

Hasita Senanayake (Club Secretary)

Nick Johnson (Chair of the Communications Sub-Committee)

Paul Knight (Editor of The Bugle)

Prof. Stephen Gilmore

Andrew Gammon

Carl Brumpton

Edward Fane

Colin Ferguson

Ben Ridley | Alasdair Shaikh

Margarita Zhang | Grace Zhu

Forthcoming Events

Just a reminder of the forthcoming Club events to look forward to. Where possible, it would be helpful if you could please try to book well in advance, so that Hasita and his staff can plan ahead. You are, however, always welcome to drop in as Hasita always puts our members needs first whenever possible.



Wednesday 5th June – Surf and Turf Lunch (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

Friday 7th June 2024 – Literary Lunch Reception 12.15 with lunch at 12.45 (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

CUC member Dr Julian Critchlow and Lucy Critchlow will host an informal discussion on John Buchan's Greenmantle. We'll gather firstly over a welcome cocktail made from the club's internationally award-winning gin, before sitting down for our discussion over a delicious lunch and wine.

Thursday 13th June 2024 – Crusaders Wine Route Dinner (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

Wednesday 26th June 2024 – Club Gin and Spirits Tasting (20 tickets available).

Thursday 27th June 2024 – Younger Member Evening (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

Friday 28th June 2024 – Summer Fish Friday Lunch (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

Following the success of the Spring Fish Friday in memory of Brian Iverson and in aid of Cancer Research UK, and in response to the requests of many of those present, the Club has decided to make these Fish Fridays a regular event in the Club's calendar.

Friday 12th July 2024 – Bastille Day Lunch (for the menu please see the link in the Secretary's Summer Newsletter email of 10th May).

Wednesday 24th July 2024 – Sea Food Lunch

