

## Notes for Clare Environment Committee Annual Report 2022-23

A generally positive year. Much still to be done, but progress this year helped by a tremendous cohort of student representatives (Haley Huang [UCS], Shreya Patel [Clare Goes Green], Izzy Greenhalgh [MCR]), and an early planning meeting to identify priorities for year before the start of Michaelmas term. Main achievements:

- near-halving of the GHG footprint of meat we buy in Michaelmas thanks to removal of ruminant meat from evening Buttery menus
- designing new, lower-price room contracts for undergraduates so rooms needed in vacations are clustered together – which means heating for others can be turned right down
- Clare winning Platinum Green Impact Colleges Award, the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row of winning gold or platinum

### Catering

1. Following a proposal developed by the 3 students reps and committee chair in consultation with the Senior Tutor, the Catering Advisory Committee agreed to withdrawing beef and lamb from evening menus in the Buttery. This led to near halving of the GHG footprint of college-wide meat purchases for Michaelmas term (compared with 2019, the last year before the pandemic). There were no recorded complaints from students.

2. With the monthly footprint of remaining meat purchases roughly three times greater last July and August than during Michaelmas term efforts are being to make changes to reduce the impact of conference catering. Sally Murray and Lee Corke recently met with the team running the EF summer school (our biggest conference clients). They were supportive of the initiative, so this summer's offer of ruminant meat will be reduced.

3. Clare Goes Green ran a successful VeganuClarey challenge, hosted a University-wide potluck event and ran a sold-out plant-based formal hall.

### Buildings

4. UCS and the Accommodation team joined forces to run a highly successful Lent Term staircase competition in Memorial Court. Housekeeping staff

checked for lights and appliances left on in student rooms, with the most conscientious staircase winning formal hall tickets. Even though the competition ran for just 3 weeks it resulted in a 10% cut in January and February energy use compared with the most recent pre-COVID year.

5. Following up trials run in 2021-22, the Tutorial Office, Accommodation and Buildings teams got together to devise a new, lower-price "eco-licence" housing contract for students who don't need to occupy their rooms during vacations. This will mean that from next year students needing to stay up over vacations will be housed nearer to one another while the heating in other rooms can be cut to a minimum. Undergraduates appear happy with the new system.

6. There's been further progress with plans for replacing the Memorial Court boilers with a series of heat pumps. More trials have been run lowering running temperatures across the existing system, confirming that heating Memorial Court with heat pumps is feasible. The current most likely option is a combination of ground-source heat pumps to get water to 20-30°C, supplemented by a secondary system to raise the temperature to further. As part of plans to de-gas Old Court the College is also actively involved in a cross-college study examining the feasibility of installing a series of water-source heat pumps in the River Cam.



## Gardens

7. Plans are underway to redesign the river bed area of the Fellows' Garden to reduce future requirements for fertilisers and water by planting more drought-tolerant hardy perennials. The new scheme will also use leftover crushed aggregate from the Old Court building works as a growing medium. It is hoped the new beds will serve as a living illustration of some of the adaptations we can make to cope with climate change.

8. After great success in recent years, Kate and her team have further extended the area of unmown lawn around Memorial Court.



## Green Impact

9. Jo has once again spearheaded College's submission to this annual University-wide competition, in which Clare has been given a Platinum Colleges Award. This is now the tenth year in succession that Clare has won Gold or Platinum awards – one of the strongest runs of any college.

## Committee members, 2022-23

Lizzie Ashworth (Catering)  
Andrew Balmford (Chair)  
André Cabrera Serrenho (Fellow)  
Lee Corke (Catering Manager)  
Jo Costin (Secretary)  
William Foster (Fellow)  
Andrew Friend (Fellow)  
Izzy Greenhalgh (MCR Rep)  
Kate Hargreaves (Head Gardener)  
Sally Hodges (Communications Manager)  
Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)  
Haley Huang (UCS Rep)  
Aardarsh Khimasia (UCS)  
Artur Markiewicz (Housekeeper)  
Shreya Patel (Clare Goes Green)  
Molly Richardson (UCS)  
Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager)  
Terry Staton (Housekeeper)