

THE REPORTER



Milking It at the Edinburgh Fringe's Udderbelly

Fringe benefits

We hit the Edinburgh Fringe for a long weekend, and managed to squeeze in 10 weird and wonderful shows. At *Punderbolt* we caught the official "funniest joke of the Fringe" (don't ask). Not to mention an X-rated show by Martyn's ex-headmaster-turned-stand-up, after departing his school under a cocaine-tinged cloud. It takes all sorts. Unanimous fave of our group was *Austentatious*: improv Jane Austen in the Udderbelly.



Wimbledon: Yes of course that's Nadal behind us



Trinity Great Court Runners try to beat the chimes

A Room in Great Court

Henry's final undergraduate year at Trinity College Cambridge sees him ensconced in a prime room in Great Court, whose clock chimes twice, enabling fleet runners to make it round the perimeter in the Great Court Run at midday, once a year.



Henry and friends display maturity at his 21st party



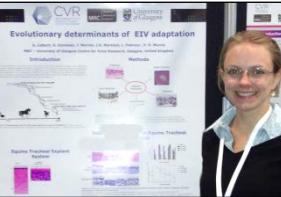
Henry at the Lebanese American University of Beirut

Henry in Beirut

Mr Coburn Jnr., spent his summer in Beirut doing immersive Arabic and meeting like-minded Levantophiles. Lebanon's population is swollen with Syrian refugees, and an amazing melting pot of cultures, as it has been since Biblical times.

Arabesque

He treated his visiting parents to Shanklish and other yummy Lebanese cuisine, the famous cedar forests, spectacular underground grottos, and rather fine Chateau Musar wines of Lebanon. He returned home safely to the bosom of his family, alleviating their worries about him living only 90 km from the seething ISIS caliphate.



Virus Research

Alice has entered the final year of her PhD at Glasgow and so has been handcuffed to the lab bench making her equine influenza viruses behave. She attended her first major conference in April, fresh off the plane from Costa Rica. Her research dissemination is going well, but it's a bit like blogging a dead horse.



Grimacing as she comes home under the hour

Run, Alice, Run

Much to her own surprise, Alice has taken to running over the past year, with two 10k races and a triathlon under her belt, raising over £600 for *Médecins Sans Frontières*. She enjoyed the glacial waters of Loch Lomond so much she's planning to go back next year. Cambridge residents may spot Alice pounding through the streets in February 2016 on a half marathon.

Obligatory sponsorship plug for Alice's 'mara' <https://www.justgiving.com/Alice-Coburn/>
(* Half mar-a-thon)



Scaling the Peaks

On their weekends off Alice & Martyn have conquered two of the UK's Three Peaks with Snowden in their sights for 2016 (once it's thawed out).



Bonny, bonny freezing cold banks of Loch Lomond



The Coburn & Mulligan Gazette

Christmas 2015
Ditton Corner, 5 Church Street, Fen Ditton, Cambridge CB5 8SU Tel: +44 (0) 1223 292066
Family Website: <http://www.dittoncorner.co.uk>



Let us spray: Carlos our raftsman getting us through the Class 3 rapids on the Pacuare River in central Costa Rica

Up a Costa Rican Creek Slothful Vacation in Central America

While the world fretted over terrorist attacks, Russian involvement in Syria, and last-minute climate change agreements, the Coburn-Mulligans suited up and headed for Panama and Costa Rica for some eco-tourism away from it all. First stop (after the canal and hat shop in Panama) was Lauren Sumner-Rooney's marine research institute on the coast where we helped her locate the photoreceptors (or something...) of her long-limbed brittlestars, in the warmest sea ever.



The only animal to give its name to a deadly sin, but Buttercup the sloth isn't that fussed



Daenerys feeds her dragons: Game of Thrones re-enactment by Alice with giant iguanas



Visiting the Smithsonian (Panama style) to drop in on Lauren doing her marine research

Higher up, along the volcano ridge, we reached the cloud forest, where exotic coffee blends are grown and served for breakfast. We bathed in geothermal pools and trekked to some of the tallest waterfalls in the Andes, across rickety bridges looking like extras from a hobbit movie. The lodge of 'El Silencio' did not turn out to be quite as monastic as we feared: all good food and local trout. We returned to sea level with batteries recharged for life back home.

COURT & SOCIAL



Umbrella fashion wars on the banks of the Cam for Bumps 2015

Watery Pimms

The Bumps rowing races between Cambridge colleges set several records this year. The final day was the very wettest we've ever experienced. Undaunted, we cheered on our respective colleges as the rain teemed down. Helen celebrated as her college and alma mater, Churchill,



Helen salutes the noble boys in pink – yet another Churchill crew covers itself in glory



Facelift: Andrew's grandfather's grandfather clock had a refurb and now chimes in when expected

Don't miss next year's event
Save the Date for
Bumps & Carnage Party
Saturday 11 June 2016



Our Bumps for Hearts fund to honour Edna & Ian Mulligan, Len & Sylvia Coburn now stands at over £15,000 after this year's Bumps Party. Thanks to everyone for generous donations to the British Heart Foundation.

Going Oke

Andrew and Helen found themselves with a weekend to kill in Georgia, USA. Moonshine? No way. We took the healthy option – a misty boat trip through the Okefenokee Swamp, replete with flesh-eating plants, alligators and the scariest baby owls you'll ever see.



40 years since they last set foot in the King's School Chester, the Three Brians returned for a reunion.



Keeping' an eye on 'em gators
Gator-ode
(by H. Mulligan, aged >17½)

Okefenokee
The gators all grin
You'll end up
Is not at all poky
And if you fall in
Quite soaky

Is not at all poky
And if you fall in
Quite soaky



Farewells

Edna Mulligan 1927-2015

Grandma Edna

We lost Helen's mum, Edna in February, after a couple of years of increasing ill health. She has been a constant figure in all our lives living round the corner in Cambridge, hosting us for Sunday lunches, and many will know her from her cheery presence at the Bumps parties.

We celebrated her life at Wesley Methodist Chapel, remembering her career in textile design and teaching, as well as the wonderful personal qualities that meant so much to her family and friends.

Later in the year, we returned her ashes to the family grave in Ramsbottom in an outdoor service attended by many members of the extended family, including her brother Frank - now 94.



Aunty Annie

Andrew's Aunty Anne passed away in November. She used to provide open house for Andrew and his brother Nick in Christmases past. We'll miss our Aunty at Christmas...



Anne Godwin 1945-2015

BUSINESS SECTION



Helen's Urbanism Workshop

CAR Lowdown

Helen's been kept busy at Cambridge Architectural Research, running environmental monitoring and user engagement programmes for a large academy school in Kent, and for specialised housing units in Cambridge. Then there's advice on upgrading the medieval-to-modern buildings of the University's Catholic Chaplaincy.

Cyber Naughts

Andrew has been leading an initiative at his company, Risk Management Solutions to develop new models to help insurance clients understand the risks of providing cyber cover to companies. Cyber hacks are forever in the headlines. Andrew is quantifying how bad it could get by dreaming up worst case scenarios, together with a band of like-minded troublemakers.

FinCats

Financial crises may seem to have receded from the headlines but they remain a key topic of concern for business professionals. Four new scenarios for future crises, such as a global property crash and a Eurozone meltdown (yup, still hasn't gone away) give them new nightmares.



Andrew helps Rowan Douglas mime an "EP" curve

The research helps companies become more resilient. Andrew is still looking to complete his holy grail: tracking all catastrophes everywhere. Then he'll be done. (For a while).

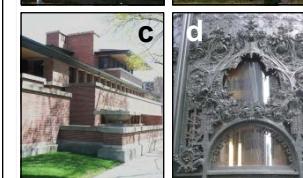
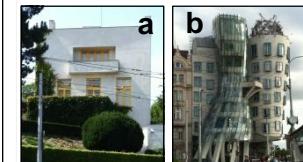
Czeching In

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an academic network must hold its annual General Assembly in an ancient and picturesque environment. So it is with SciRN, which Helen co-founded whilst at Berkeley. This year, the lucky location was Prague.

Further news on Shrinking Cities

In April, Helen gave a paper at the Association of American Geographers conference in Chicago, then snuck off to admire some more of the local architecture.

Guess the architect..?



Promenade architecturale: (a) and (b) in Prague, (c) and (d) in Chicago. Answers below, left.



Bamboo in Armenia? Yes, the Colombian one!

The South American Connection

The Department of Architecture bamboo project has flourished as rapidly as its subject, with numerous publications. In November, Helen headed to Colombia, to check out the structural use being made there of guadua, the local bamboo species.



Latest bamboo-roofed creation from architect Simón Vélez, being given a test run by his granddaughter

Risky Research

Andrew's University group, the Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies, has grown significantly in the past year, tackling a wide range of ground-breaking research challenges.



Keeping it in perspective: The expanding team of the Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies

a. Loos; b. Gehry; c. Wright; d. Sullivan.