The Palace
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June 2011

Dear All,

Well, what a year it has been. It is equally a joy and tragedy that we share with you this newsletter, which is at once both a celebration of all that has happened at the Palace during our tenancy and also a sad confirmation of our imminent departure.

Contained herein are some highlights of our Palace antics, with reminisces from all three Palace Residents, many a mention of Palace Feasts and Soirees, a full list of culinary triumphs, an abbreviated lists of honourable guests and a modest list of personal achievements.

To all those who have made the Palace what it is, was and shall always be, we thank you. Although we may be going our separate ways, we will always have a tiny turret of joy in our hearts.

See you in whatever Kingdoms doth follow,

Amy, Elsbeth and Helen x

PS apologies for the lack of pictures. Google docs was being a dick.

Achievements

No one could argue: the Palace ladies are a talented bunch. It's been a busy year for the trio with triumphs ranging from the theatrical to the musical to the rifled. Elsbeth and Amy's continued involvement in Bedlam brought success to both; Amy served as Business Manager throughout the year and received Life Membership (questionably) as well as working on the annual Panto. Elsbeth was an integral part of the critically-acclaimed production of Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* and as their stage manager travelled to Scarborough to the National Student Drama Festival, where Amadeus won five awards.

Helen meanwhile, as the Palace's resident songbird, sang with the University choir in Jenkins' *The Armed Man* at St Cuthbert's Church. She also served as the Rifle Club's secretary and received both Colours for her services. And it's not just within the Palace that she's considered The Best Woman at Shooting in Scotland (who can legally hold a firearm): Helen won medals in three categories of the SUS Rifle Grand Prix, in the individuals (she's a top female), pairs with Rob Morgan and in the "A-Team" of six (she pities the foo').

Amy's musical endeavours were less vocal and more rhythmic, whilst Elsbeth's sporting conquests were more team-based than trigger happy. Amy spent the year drumming with rock/pop outfit The Alibis, playing gigs across the city and recording an EP in early 2011. After her year's sojourn in warmer climates, Elsbeth was reunited with her teammates from the University basketball club women's B team and posed most graciously for the club's naked calendar as Miss May.

Academically and socially the year has not been lacking either, with all three ladies churning out excellent dissertations on a wide range of topics, from Liverpudlians' lenition to Arabic learners' motives to lesbians' lack of a socially defined speech form. Last week the trio graduated with aplomb and the odd teary-eyed parent in tow. Elsbeth was also privileged to win the Linguistics department's Be-A-Nerd-Competition. Helen and "two-eyed" Iain celebrated their one-year anniversary on 25th November: congrats!

Soirees

Each semester the Palace was delighted to throw a little party for its chums. The first, falling on the birthday of Miss E Helf, was the **Mad Hatters Tea Party**. A splendid tea-and-cake based occasion, with the addition of quirky headgear, this sugary afternoon marked the first of many eating-centric celebrations at the Palace. There was a prize for best cake and best hat; the former was awarded to Nicola Hazelton and Slaine O'Hallaran for a cake shaped like a hat, whilst the latter was awarded to Emily Simons for her hat shaped like cake. How pleasing.

At the start of our second semester the Palace held a **Burns Night Supper**. Some twenty-five people were in attendance and extraordinarily, comfort aside, all had a seat at the table(s). Haggis and cranachan were consumed in abundance and some excellent speeches were delivered, including the Selkirk Grace by Camilla Born, a Toast to the Mouse by Triin Kanne, the Toast to the Laddies by Zoe Brown and a particularly memorable Toast to the Lassies by George Sully. Special thanks go to Jamie McQuilkin for piping in the haggis.

The Palace's final soiree, more recently, was a charming **Cocktail Party**. It was undoubtedly a more sophisticated and chilled affair, lasting 'til the wee hours, the success of which ultimately lay with Helen's dab hand with the cocktail mixer. There's hope for the old girl yet.

Honoured guests

But the Palace would be nothing without its friends, to which the success and enjoyment of our parties is testimony. Similarly, throughout the year it has been our greatest pleasure to host for extended visits the following wonderful people:

Alison & Trevor Jones, Elly Brewer, Michael Brewer, repeat offender "one-eyed" Ian Rummer, Rich Jones, Kerry O'Herlihy, Alice Swift, Jesus Paul, temporary palatian Triin Kanne, Heather Uren & Dan Leach, Georgina Grant, Tim Foote, Tiana Rama & Guillaume Anthore, Anil Asokan, Stephan Bontekoe & the Dutch gang, Simon Helfer, Howard Dymock and Roland Powell

…as well as countless others, who have joined us for bacon, baking and many a cup of tea. Special mention should go to the 'F&L' crew, George Sully, Kirstie MacDougall and Gemma Burnside, for regular and devoted Palace attendance.

Lastly, we've also welcomed a new Palace Associate, Mr Raymond Davies, in to the fold. Raymond joins us to give long-standing Palace Associate Iain Hindshaw some male company, balancing out the girly hysteria that otherwise infects the Palace all too oft at weekends.

Culinary delights

Please see Appendix A for a summary of our favourite home-made treats from the year.

Departures Board

We all know there's no place like home, but also that absence makes the heart go fonder. The Palatians love to go abroad (but not as much as they like to come back to the Palace for a cup of tea), so here's a list of our globetrotting ladies' past and future adventures.

Amy	Elsbeth	Helen
Amsterdam (Nov 2010)	Scarborough (March 2011)	Liverpool (?? 2010)
Slovenia (Jan 2011)	France (June 2011)	Newcastle (?? 2010)
Croatia (March 2011)	Sheffield (June 2011)	Isle of Skye (June 2011)
Kenya (July 2011)	Iceland (July 2011)	USA (July-August 2011)
Uganda (July 2011)	Germany (August 2011)	
China/DPRK (August 2011)		

And where next? To be honest, we're not entirely sure. But we hope to see you there.

Love, the Palace xxx

Appendix A - **Culinary Triumphs**

Modern women though they may be the Palace residents still love to spend time in the kitchen. Since the Mad-Hatters Tea Party there has rarely been a time when their washing has not ended up smelling of some Palace delicacy. As we are sure you are all desperate to know what tasty treats have been prepared we include, for your delectation and delight, a veritable feast for the imagination (much as it was for our stomachs): a list of our favourite and most memorable Palace eats.

Semester 1

Waffles with bacon & golden syrup; brunches with BACON; best-fry-up-in-town; Palace roast with crispy roast potatoes; black forest trifle; cheesy fromage treats from our friendly neighbourhood French cheese man; beef stew; chicken & pasta pie in lemon pastry; lemon meringue pie; chicken casserole; ugly sticky toffee pudding; Helen's rainy-Monday chicken with roast beetroot; pork & apple fiesta; bread & butter pudding; lamb curry with pomegranate; cottage pie with parsnip mash; surf, turf & dauph; pidg'n a hole; lasagne; tartiflette; almond meringues

Semester 2

Hogmanay beefs; mushroom stroganoff; quiche with ‘special’ water; chicken Kievs with ‘Orange Stuff’ (sweet potato casserole) and green beans with almonds and bacon; Palace Burns’ Night Extravaganza; morning after the night before burgers; ‘Buchoforte’ 4-course feast; ethnic food night: bibimbap and sticky toffee pudding; soup fest; homemade pizza production line; sausage casserole; pre-diss hand-in roast beef; epic Castle Day quiche; pork (schnitzel) & cocktail fiesta; pesto beef exam kebabs with tiramisu; grand finale chicken