



NEWSLETTER



Peter Oppenheimer, Chairman of Governors and Anne Dreydel, OBE, Co-Founder and Principal of St. Clare's 1953 - 1983 at Graduation 2003

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have been celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Clare's with events in both hemispheres. This has turned into a truly international year of celebration with an alumni reunion in Rio de Janeiro and a full weekend of events at the University of San Diego, including a fascinating address by former Senator Gary Hart.

The first event to be held in Oxford was a great success, with ninety people joining us for the reunion dinner for alumni here between 1953 and 1983, and over six hundred alumni and friends attending the 50th Anniversary Garden Party. One alumna from the 1960s described the weekend as "the inevitable St. Clare's mixture of style, informality and fun". More on all these events inside this newsletter.

While we have been thinking about the College's history, we have also been thinking about the way St. Clare's has touched people's lives. We estimate that at least 40,000 people have attended courses here since 1953. But it is not just a question of numbers. What has become apparent during each celebration is the depth of feeling and affection amongst our alumni - and their parents, and former staff - towards St Clare's. People value the quality of the academic education and teaching they received here. This is of essential importance. But people have also described their time here as changing their outlook on life or determining the future direction of their lives, while making life-long friends. In a year when we have embraced global citizenship as one of our 50th anniversary themes, it is wonderful to find so many alumni living their lives as global citizens. It is clear that the institution which Anne Dreydel co-founded with the late Pamela Morris fifty years ago has built international friendships across the globe. With our current students representing over 50 different countries, St Clare's continues its work of international education, developing and promoting international perspectives and understanding which, we hope, will deepen in their future lives.

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NEWS FROM ST. CLARE'S

CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

5TH FEBRUARY 2003

Our first year International Baccalaureate students began their research into Higher Education possibilities and further careers in February of this year. Ten speakers from top universities across the country were joined by an international careers advice expert, together with a company who specialise in advice for students wishing to take a gap year before entering university.

Several alumni came back for the day to talk to students, speaking of their experiences after leaving St Clare's, from university life through to their current jobs. All had very different stories to tell but the overwhelming message was that students do not need to worry that their choice of university course would restrict them to only one career later in life. We are very grateful to Asha Kirkby (IB 1992), Kerry Baker (IB 1989) and Joanne Gray (A-levels 1981) for taking part in this event.

The day proved to be highly successful and very useful for the students. We aim to repeat this event annually, and would encourage all alumni who might wish to take part in a similar event next February to get in touch with the Development and Alumni Office at St Clare's (alumni@stclares.ac.uk).

PAUL LENNON

CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISOR

GRADUATION 2003



The 25th International Baccalaureate Diploma class celebrated St Clare's 50th anniversary with their Graduation during the weekend of 23 - 25 May.

The Graduation Ball was held at Freud's, as it has been for the last three years. An excellent meal, with accompanying cool jazz, was followed by dancing and a disco - with Shalani Alisharan (Psychology teacher) as guest DJ. Students and staff attended the party and danced till the early hours.

The Graduation Day itself started with a lively concert which included a surprise appearance from Yashushi Tanaka (Class of 2002). Drinks and the usual excellent lunch were followed by the ceremony itself His Excellency Lode Willems, father of Mark Willems and currently the Belgian Ambassador to Germany, spoke for the parents. The keynote speech was given by Peter Oppenheimer, Chair of St. Clare's Governors and was wide-ranging and thought provoking.

Kamila Ilyumzhinova gave an affectionate and complimentary speech on behalf of the students in which, after speaking of the talents of her fellow graduates, she went on to thank their parents and staff at St. Clare's for their help, support and guidance during the time they have

been at the College. Kamila spoke warmly of her fellow students stating the main lesson she had learnt at St. Clare's was that she 'realised that while we all come from different parts of the world, we are very similar in our hopes, attitudes and aspirations'. Kamila went on to emphasise that one of the most important things about the St. Clare's experience is the enduring friendships students forge whilst at the College. Kamila paid tribute to this by reading a poem written by a fellow student:

Distance may keep us apart,
But you will always be in my heart.
England, Russia, Holland or Spain
It doesn't matter, if you need me I'll catch a plane,
For people like us life is too short.
But when I think of friendship,
You are my first thought.

St. Clare's awards were given to: Chris Durham (Dean of Students' Award); Grace Li (Director of Studies Award); Didde Bjerglund (Service); Camilla Lee (Activities); Sinem Dilektasli (ECIS Award for International Understanding).

As always, it is sad to say goodbye to another year group. We look forward to hearing news about the graduating students and welcoming them back to St. Clare's for a Reunion in October.

NICK LEE

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES IB, PRE-IB AND 16+

RIO REUNION

SOUTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ST. CLARE'S REUNION DINNER RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 5TH APRIL 2003



Boyd Roberts, Principal of St. Clare's and Kay Honner, Development Director, travelled to Rio de Janeiro for St. Clare's first International Reunion as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The Dinner and Dance, which was held at the Rio Internacional Hotel on Copacabana Beach, was attended by over thirty people including alumni, their guests, representatives from the British Council and the British Consulate.

Alumni spanning four decades sipped cocktails on the roof terrace of the hotel surrounded by wonderful views of Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Corcovado Hill with the famous statue of Christ. The group then enjoyed an excellent dinner, followed by dancing, with great music provided by the Pepper Band, a well known Brazilian Beatles cover band.

Thank you to all of our alumni who attended to make this a successful event. Thank you also to all of those alumni who could not attend but sent messages of support and goodwill from all over South America.

During the trip useful visits were made to the British Consulates and the British Council offices in both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Kay also visited Cultura Inglesa and several of the agents who work with St. Clare's.



"The dinner party on Saturday was very pleasant. Kay and Boyd were really nice and happy to be here with everybody that was present. I made two new friends in Rio and enjoyed myself. We even danced to the sound of the excellent band."

Denise Picorelli, English Course 1979

ST. CLARE'S IN SAN DIEGO

NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ST. CLARE'S REUNION WEEKEND

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 25TH - 27TH APRIL

We celebrated the second of the St. Clare's Jubilee weekends: this time at the University of San Diego (USD). The Reunion began with a Welcome Reception and Buffet on the Friday evening. Saturday morning we held a drop-in Open House session for alumni and their parents, and for others interested in coming to St. Clare's for the Liberal Arts programme in the next few years.

Lunch on Saturday was addressed by the President of USD, Dr Alice B Hayes, who talked about the close association between St. Clare's and her institution. Our main speaker,



former Senator Gary Hart arrived - a little late - but with a thought-provoking message about the restoration of the Republic. His warning: we must radically change the way in which we go about our daily lives if we want to make progress towards global citizenship. For more information read his latest book (Restoration of the Republic, OUP, July 2002).

This session, and the panel discussion that followed, were ably chaired by Dr Patrick Drinan, Dean of Arts and

Sciences and Professor of Political Science at USD. The panel consisted of Gary Hart, Peter Oppenheimer - our Chairman of Governors; Dr Thomas Wenzel, Vice Provost of Student Affairs at Marquette University; and Dr Joyce Neu, Director of the Joan B Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, which was where the afternoon events were held. Boyd Roberts then presented Senator Hart with a lovely framed line drawing of the domes of Oxford, drawn by our very own Liberal Arts Director, Paul Saville.

The evening began with a Reception in the Garden of the Sea, which overlooks Mission Bay, and was perfect until the sun disappeared along with the temperature. Then we moved to the beautiful Faculty Dining Room for dinner, at which Boyd spoke about St. Clare's and our plans for the future. The food was excellent, as was the after dinner speech from Dr Frank Lazarus, Vice-President and Provost at USD, on International Education. Dr Cynthia Caywood then made a moving presentation to Paul Saville, recognising his thirty years of involvement with USD.

This was followed by a short violin recital by Carolyn Dentler, a St. Clare's alumna, accompanied by Erin Cayabyab, who studies at USD. Closing remarks were given by Peter Oppenheimer. Overall the event was a great success, and we left with a feeling of tremendous goodwill from our alumni, their families, friends and all of the staff of USD. It was a wonderful weekend and left us in no doubt of the loyalty and affection felt for St. Clare's.



Boyd Roberts(Principal), Gary Hart (Guest Speaker), Peter Oppenheimer (Chairman, Board of Governors), Ken Jordan (Member, Board of Governors), Kay Honner (Development

1953 - 1983 ALUMNI REUNION

DINNER, 31ST MAY 2003



Jay Bosworth and Nicole Charlesworth (1953)



Ulf Bennetter (1956-1957) and Anne Cowan, Guest of St. Clare's



Boyd Roberts, Principal and Urte von Berg (1955)

Ninety alumni, staff, former staff and guests gathered together on 31st May for a 50th Anniversary Reunion for all those who were at St. Clare's from the early years, 1953 - 1983. Miss Anne Dreydel, co-founder and former Principal of the College, was the Guest of Honour and many other long-serving staff also attended. The evening started in New Place, 131 Banbury Road, where guests enjoyed the evening sunshine whilst sipping champagne and cocktails. Boyd Roberts welcomed guests in an opening speech before dinner in the marquee, outlining the progress the College has made in the last fifty years and its plans for the future. James Whitworth, who this year completed his International Baccalaureate studies, played the piano during the four-course meal.

After dinner, Miss Dreydel gave a wonderful speech during which she talked of her memories of the early years of St. Clare's. This was followed by short speeches from five alumni. Nikita Lobanov (1954) started the speeches and remembered how his time learning English and A-Levels at St. Clare's had led to him being accepted at Oxford University. Mercedes Palau-Ribes O'Callaghan (1964-1967) spoke next. She came to the Reunion with her sister, Ana, who also studied at St. Clare's and she spoke warmly of her memories of Miss Dreydel. Mercedes and Ana presented Miss Dreydel with a special book on Italian

Architecture. Elizabeth (nee Gough Cooper) Roberts (1965) spoke next and got everyone laughing with her memories of St. Clare's being the place where, amongst other things, she learned how to 'iron her hair'. The most recent alumnus to speak was Philippe Sabbe (1975) who mentioned many of the teachers whom he remembered. The final speaker was Ulf Bennetter (1956-1957), one of our more active alumni, who concluded the amusing memories of his time at St. Clare's by toasting the College and Miss Dreydel. Miss Dreydel was also presented with a wonderful book filled with photographs and souvenirs by Claudie Leclercq (1970) and a bouquet of flowers from the College.

The Dinner was a wonderful event and the alumni present spanned three decades, many nationalities and represented all courses: the London External Degree, A-Levels, English courses, Liberal Arts and the International Baccalaureate. What was very clear at the end of the celebrations was the warm feeling that many of our alumni have for the College.

It was wonderful to come back and find St. Clare's still thriving and expanding. It was also great to see Miss Dreydel and listen to her excellent speech. It was very interesting to meet other alumni and listen to their experiences. CLAIRE (CAWTHRA) MOLLART, 1972-1974



Pia Jensen (1983), Maryvonne Lafay (1968), Patrice Leclercq, Sylvia Lymbery, Claudie Leclercq (1970)



Andrew Metelnick (1975), Hilary Freeman, Sylvia Corrie, Tony Lurcock, Suzanne Marshall (1981), Charles Freeman, Fiona Millhinch (1981), Jennifer Kanbas (1981)

ART EXHIBITION

50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

16TH MAY - 1ST JUNE 2003



St. Clare's, Paul Saville

The Art Department staged this richly diverse exhibition to celebrate fifty years of art by staff and students associated with St Clare's. The great success of this venture was made possible by the generous support of artists of many different nationalities and generations who have been connected with the Department over the years and are continuing friends.

The exhibition was held as part of Oxford Art Weeks which is an annual festival celebrating visual arts. Being part of this meant that a lot of local residents and visitors to Oxford also came to see the exhibition, which was one of many being held in galleries, schools and private homes throughout Oxfordshire.

There were a number of alumni amongst the exhibitors who sent works from all over Europe. These included Viktoria Hallenius (1990), Françoise Goy (1969), Carla Hirst (1995) and Anne-Lise Frydenberg (1966), Laura Buxton (1971) and Claudie Leclercq (1970).

The exhibition had another important aim behind it, to support the St Clare's Tanzanian Education Project, known as STEP. Five guest artists contributed Art from Tanzania and all the exhibitors generously agreed to donate a percentage of sales towards STEP, which is raising money to renovate Kiboriloni Primary School in the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania.

A private view was held on the opening night of the exhibition and we were delighted to be joined by many of the exhibitors and also by Chris Ndlovu, a founder member of STEP. Last year Chris went out to the primary school in Tanzania to meet staff and students and to see the renovations that have been made so far.

Finally the exhibition was also a tribute to tremendous contribution that Paul Saville has made to the Art Department of St Clare's (as well as to the Liberal Arts

Programme) over many years long service. Paul and Jenny Saville (his niece) made a presentation to St Clare's of one of Jenny's lithographs entitled Separates. This will hang in the Academic Resources Centre (ARC) where it will be easy for people to see and enjoy it. I am delighted that we expect the 'Saville connection' to continue with Paul as an Artist in Residence and with Jenny running master classes in painting.

Paul Saville and I would like to thank all the people (too numerous to mention by name) who contributed to this exhibition. It was enjoyed by many visitors and proved a memorable way to mark the St Clare's Jubilee.

JOHN ROLFE
HEAD OF ART



Boyd Roberts welcoming people to the 50th Anniversary Art Exhibition and thanking Paul Saville for his long years of service to St. Clare's.



Jenny Saville presenting her lithograph to St. Clare's on behalf of herself and Paul Saville.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ITALY, 11TH - 18TH APRIL 2003

Nine students and three staff members embarked upon an adventure of a lifetime - a week-long tour of Italy. We stayed in the city of Fiesole, a comfortable residency in the mountains, overlooking the neighboring city, Florence with the most breathtaking sunsets. We mostly used Fiesole as a hub to transport ourselves to Florence and then onward to the other cities on our itinerary.

After missing our train due to odd timetables and tiredness we stayed in Pisa before going onto Fiesole. Pisa is built around and ultimately thrives on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. This architectural flop was amazing to see, but essentially is the city. Another place of interest was the Cathedral which consisted of amazing colored patterns and marble, and also the wondrous street market which proved to be a workout for my wallet.

After a wonderful nights sleep we went to Florence which proved to be full of sites and entertaining things to do. We visited the Galleria dell' Accademia to see Michelangelo's David sculpture, shopped like kings in the myriad of open markets and ate at a number of the fine gelaterias (Yum... ice cream)! Florence provided many resting spots to gaze in wild wonder at the beauty of this ancient city.

I can honestly say for the majority of us on this holiday, the Cinqueterre was amongst the favorites! The Cinqueterre is a hike through the beautiful paths of the awe striking mountains overlooking the baby blue Mediterranean Sea and takes you through five beautiful little Italian villages located high in the mountains.

We woke up early the next morning for a full day of exploring the famous canal-built city of Venice. The weather was a little dreary, but it did not stop

our group from enjoying the sites of this romantic city. Some highlights were taking a gondola trip throughout the intricate waterways and relaxing in the Piazza San Marco with a cup of coffee in hand. The most amazing site and favorite tourist spot of Venice is no doubt the Basilica di San Marco.

On the fifth day of our holiday we went to Rome, a magnificent city and which is impossible to see in one day particularly because being very close to Easter Sunday, the city was very busy with anticipation of seeing the Pope. Most people in our group visited Vatican City, which hosts St. Peter's Basilica and the phenomenal square where we ate a quick lunch. We then headed off to see the Sistine Chapel with the fantastic Michelangelo painted ceiling completed in 1484 and the Colloseum. Lastly, our group visited the Trevi Fountain - one of Rome's most famous monuments. After a couple more days of sightseeing around Florence, we got back to London late Friday night very tired, but it was all so worth it. Everyone had a wonderful experience but hopes to never ride a train again.

KEVIN J. DOWNING
LIBERAL ARTS 2003



50TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY

EVENT FOR ALUMNI, STAFF, STUDENTS, GOVERNORS AND FRIENDS OF ST. CLARE'S SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2003

Over 600 people gathered in the marquee and gardens behind 131 - 137 Banbury Road. Tea was served throughout the afternoon with a wonderful array of cakes, scones and sandwiches and of course, strawberries and cream.

The Garden Party was a chance for staff, former staff, students, alumni, parents, governors, neighbours and friends of the College to meet and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Clare's. Boyd Roberts made a short speech about the achievements of the College in the past fifty years. Miss Dreydel attended the event and enjoyed talking to the many alumni who remembered her. Barbara Knowland, Pamela Morris' daughter and her husband Tony Knowland (who both taught at St. Clare's) were also in great demand by the alumni.

Entertainment was provided for both adults and children. Stripey Joe wowed the audience not only with his balloon animals, but also by juggling with fire and knives over guests lying beneath him. The Magical Humorist mingled with the crowd and performed close-up magic for small groups of people. Current St. Clare's students helped by welcoming guests and the artists did face painting. Staff also entertained the guests by forming a small choir, the 'Just for Fun Singers', to sing for the guests. The entertainment concluded with an enthusiastic performance of a traditional Chinese Lion Dance with lots of audience interaction.

Towards the end of the afternoon glasses of Bucks Fizz were served, and the Garden Party was felt to have been a great success, and a fitting tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the College.



Anastasia Papageorgiu (1967) and Mathile Soler Amat (1963)



Chinese Lion Dance



Jack Scarr, Bea Scarr and Tony Knowland



David Ripley and Marzena Kochanska

It was interesting to be able to walk through the houses and to see all the dramatic changes: it brought the years flooding back. The gardens looked lovely and the tea was delicious - it was a typically English summer garden party and you captured the atmosphere exactly. But, most importantly, it was super to meet Miss Dreydel again, on such splendid form, looking remarkably unchanged too and as interested, as ever, in what one was doing. I was glad to have the chance to congratulate her on her huge achievement in the creation of St Clare's, its continuing success and its 50th anniversary and to thank her for the two very happy years I spent there.

JILL (HARVEY) ROSS-THOMAS, 1963 - 1965

NEWS FROM LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

PAUL SAVILLE RETIRES AND INES MOLINARO BEGINS

At the end of this term, we bid farewell to Paul Saville, after over 30 years at St. Clare's. Paul started teaching Art here in 1972, initially part-time, and from early on was involved with the three strands which have run through his whole career here - Art and Art History, summer study courses and the Liberal Arts programme,

In 1974, Paul became Head of Art, with responsibility for studio art, and subsequently for art history and theory also. In this capacity he developed the range of work, while continuing to emphasise drawing and painting, in which he is so skilled himself. More recently, Paul became Head of Arts - a department which includes drama and music, which have joined art as mainstream curriculum subjects.

Paul's interests in learning outside the classroom, and having "projects" to work on were brought together in the many summer courses he has run over the years. The programme in Cortona, in Tuscany, Italy developed out of Anne Dreydel's own connection with the town, where she has a house. The course included classes in art, art history and Italian, in which a strong contingent of St. Clare's students were joined by students from elsewhere. Paul always had a knack of balancing serious study with time for recreation. The result was that generations of students enthusiastically spent several weeks of their summer holiday without always realising how much they were learning because they were having such fun. Later the summer programme moved to Venice, and latterly to France. But the essential format was similar in each of the places.

Paul has also drawn into the art teaching visiting teachers with particular strengths and interests complementary to his own. Notable among these is the very distinguished young British artist Jenny Saville, his niece, who has contributed to the St. Clare's art programme over the years.

Paul's contribution to the development of the Liberal Arts programme began when he was appointed Dean of American Students in 1975, working alongside Tony Knowland. I particularly enjoyed working closely with Paul on re-shaping the programme in 1984-5, and in 1985 a revised Liberal Arts programme was launched with Paul as Director. Paul has visited the US once or twice each year to establish and maintain links with US universities. He has always run an extensive series of trips and visits, introducing students to places of interest in Britain and mainland Europe, and establishing an excellent rapport with them, which has been a key to the programme's success.

Paul's commitment and loyalty to St. Clare's has been exemplified this year by his involvement in the celebrations for the College's 50th anniversary. He took the lead in

arranging the North American alumni reunion at the University of San Diego, with his usual style and panache. He and John Rolfe, current Head of Arts, also organised the very successful 50th Anniversary art exhibition this year.

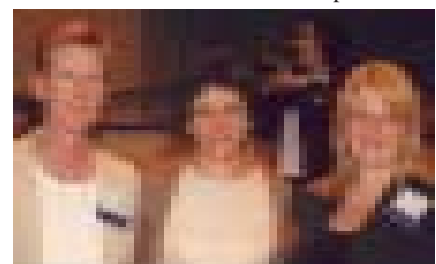
Although Paul's official position with St. Clare's comes to an end this term, we look forward to continuing connections in the future, when he will doubtless continue to find numerous outlets for his prodigious energy.

Paul's successor as Director of the Liberal Arts Programme is Dr Ines Molinaro. Dr Molinaro is currently Director of Studies in Social and Political Sciences at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where she was also, until recently, Fellow in the University of Cambridge Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Ines is Canadian, studied in the USA (Ph.D. from Notre Dame) and has lectured at the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick, in the UK, before moving to Cambridge. In addition to her role directing the Liberal Arts programme, Ines will also oversee all courses for adult students, now taking place at the Bardwell Road Centre. We are delighted that Ines was able to join the celebrations at the University of San Diego in April, and we look forward to working with her in her new role in the years to come.

BOYD ROBERTS
PRINCIPAL



Paul Saville making a presentation to Gary Hart at the North American Reunion in April 2003.



Ines Molinaro with Kay Honner (Development Director) and Katie Lewis (Member, Board of Governors)

THE BARDWELL ROAD CENTRE



Adult courses at St. Clare's are now based in Bardwell Road, a ten-minute walk from the Banbury Road campus. Bardwell Road is in a quiet, leafy, tree-lined residential area of North Oxford, a perfect environment for our dedicated adult Centre. By integrating our Liberal Arts students and our English Language students in one place we have created an adult community where our US undergraduate students can benefit from interaction with cultures from around the world and English Language learners can mix socially with native English speakers.

The Bardwell Road Centre is made up of two elegant and substantial buildings, one housing accommodation for students wanting the full-board option and the other is our teaching centre with classrooms, computer rooms, a library, a self-access centre and administration. A hot lunch is available for all students throughout the week as well as sandwiches and refreshments.

English language students do not just come to St. Clare's to improve their language skills. We have a one-year

University Foundation course and an Advanced Studies Programme, which combines English language and study skills with academic subjects at university level. These students often study alongside the Liberal Arts students. We also provide a wide range of English language examination courses.

The Bardwell Road Centre is also the springboard for our adult social and sports activity programme. Throughout the year a wide range of activities is organised by our dynamic team of full-time staff. Trips are arranged to local places of interest and further afield to London, Scotland, a weekend in Paris and even diving in Egypt and a safari in Kenya! Both inside and outside the classroom, students at the Bardwell Road Centre are being prepared for the next stage in their education leaving us, we hope, having had a rewarding and enjoyable educational experience and as good global citizens.

RICHARD GORST
BUSINESS MANAGER, ENGLISH COURSES

JUBILEE SCHOLARS

Blackfriars Hall and St. Benet's Hall, of the University of Oxford, are offering special scholarship opportunities for St. Clare's students of appropriate academic standing to join their community for one term. Students involved will receive intensive teaching in one course area and will contribute to the life of the community whilst remaining students of St. Clare's. These special scholarships are now open to up to four Liberal Arts students in each semester (the autumn semester corresponding with the Michaelmas term, and the spring semester corresponding with the Hilary term), increasing from three available during Hilary Term 2003.

The Liberal Arts Programme was pleased to welcome the first St Clare's Scholars at St Benet's Hall and Blackfriars Hall for the Spring Semester 2003. The three students Rebecca McClure, Kimberly Hutchings and Bob Steele were all from the University of San Diego - one of our oldest affiliated institutions. We wish to congratulate the Scholars on both their academic achievements and wider contributions during their time in Oxford.

We would also like to thank Father Henry Wansbrough, Master of St Benet's Hall and Fergus Kerr, Regent of Blackfriars Hall for all their help in developing these affiliations and the opportunities the Scholarships provide.

Details of these new Scholarships are available from the Liberal Arts Programme office at St Clare's.

ASHA KIRKBY, UK
IB 1992



Asha cannot believe that she has already been living in London for five years. However, having realised that the hum-drum of being a 9-5 woman was not her thing, she started a course in Shiatsu Therapy which, she says, has changed her and her life. When she wrote in she was nearing her final assessment (after three years training). During this time she met her partner Mitsutoshi who is also a Shiatsu practitioner. They live in Notting Hill and both work from home where they have their clinic. For those who know Asha they will not be surprised to hear that she has several strings to her bow and while training in Shiatsu, she also became an In-line (rollerblading) skating instructor. This business has boomed and she now employs five instructors and is very busy teaching people how to skate. She organises the London Street Skate (www.londonskate.com), where 1000 skaters take to the streets of London every Wednesday evening. She has recently qualified as an Examiner and instructor trainer and is now the British Representative of the IISA - International In-line Skating Association. About her work she says,

"I used to wonder whether I should be doing something more important in the world than teaching people to skate, but I have come to realise that through skating many of my clients start to change their lifestyles (eg skate to work instead of commuting). On a very basic level I manage people's fear and encourage them to surpass their expectations and limitations. This is extremely rewarding. People take sickies off work to spend the afternoon in the park skating, and I get paid to do just that!! I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to turn a childhood hobby into my career. The mixture with Shiatsu (more in winter when I skate less) is also working well."

Last but by no means least she is now a practising Buddhist and sees great benefits to her life from such spiritual practice. She is now fitter and healthier than she used to be and drinks a lot less which she finds ironic seeing that her mother, Trish Kirkby, who many will remember fondly from their time at St Clare's as a warden, is now running a pub near Banbury.

If you would like more information about Asha's Skating Company you can visit her website at www.skatefresh.com

ANNA BENETURSKA, POLAND
IB 2002

Anna received the Bishop Riches Bursary whilst at St Clare's and went to Mexico for her gap year project. She taught children at school and nurses at a hospital and loved every minute as well as learning to speak Spanish. Anna continues: "Education wise, there have been some major changes in my plans. I was offered places at three universities in London, to study Geography but have decided to stay in Poland and study in my own country. I will study economics at the Academy of Economics in Poznan for a year and then hopefully I will be able to begin a course of geoinformation, which is geography combined with information technology at Adam Mickiewicz's University, also in Poznan. I have so many things I want to do outside university, learning foreign languages, finding a part-time job, attending a ceramics course and doing some voluntary work, which to some extent is more challenging in Poland than in the UK. The biggest problem for me is that days only have 24 hours and weeks 7 days".

Please contact the Development and Alumni Office if you would like to contribute to the Alumni Profiles in the next edition of the newsletter.

ST. CLARE'S 1953 - 2003

THE STORY SO FAR

BY

PHILIPPA BOSTON

£ 5 PER COPY + P&P

Philippa Boston (IB 1982) has spent the last year working on the history of St. Clare's. Philippa spent a lot of time talking to former staff as well as alumni, students and current staff. She also worked through the College archives and information that she was given from lots of the people who have been involved with the College in it's fifty year history.

Anne Dreydel, Co-Founder and Principal 1953 - 1983, Peter Oppenheimer, Chairman of Governors and Boyd Roberts, Principal were amongst those involved in advising Philippa and commenting on the manuscript.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, please contact Helen Mair, PA to the Principal.
Tel: + 44 (0) 1865 552031 Fax: + 44 (0) 1865 31002
E-mail: principal@stclares.ac.uk

HOLD THE DATE

**27TH NOVEMBER 2003
OXFORD TOWN HALL**

**LAUNCHING THE NEXT FIFTY
YEARS OF ST. CLARE'S**

MORE DETAILS SOON.

MONDAY EVENINGS:

PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) Lectures *Autumn Term*

Rory Kelly and Andrew Young run this group for all students of the College. Guest speakers are invited to lecture on a variety of different subjects ranging from Global Warming to the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Crisis. Students are encouraged to discuss what they have heard both during and after the sessions.

THURSDAY EVENINGS:

St. Clare's Seminar Series

These sessions are primarily for Liberal Arts Students but are also open to all students in the College. The theme of the seminars for Autumn 2003 is now being finalised. For more information, please visit the Liberal Arts section of the St. Clare's website.

COMING UP

We are half way through our celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of St. Clare's.

We have two further reunions planned here in Oxford. The first is on the 20th - 21st September 2002 for all of those students who were here in the Eighties. The last reunion of this year will be held on the 11th - 12th October for those here from 1990 until the present day. Invitations to these events are now being sent.

We are also holding an event at Oxford Town Hall as the final celebration of this year: "St. Clare's - launching the next fifty years". This will take place on Thursday 27th November. Further information will be sent nearer the time, but please put the date in your diary now.

If you have not already reserved your place for the September or October events, please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming you back to St. Clare's. If you know of others who have not received information please put us in touch with them.

Look out for reports on these events in the next edition of the Newsletter. Your views and comments are also very welcome.



ST. CLARE'S NEWSLETTER

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