



CLARE COLLEGE
C A M B R I D G E

Alumni Council

At a meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2008 at 6.00 pm
in the Latimer Room

Present:

Dr Ian Hill (Deputy Chairman), Professor Alison Sinclair (President of the Fellowship), Dr Patricia Fara (Senior Tutor), Dr David Hartley (Secretary of the Clare Association & Fellow), Dr Peter Knewstubb (Editor of the *Clare Association Annual & Fellow*), Mr John Appleton (1943), Dr Duncan Poore (1947), Professor Alan Gillett (1950), Mr Michael Leggatt (1951), Mr David Kirkman (1953), Mr Michael Sullivan (1955), Mr Stephen Jakobi (1956), Mr David Brighty (1958), Mr John Biggs (1960), Professor Hugh Macmillan (1961), Mr Robert Wootton (1961), Dr Christopher Hindle (1962), Mr John Clare (1963), The Revd. Roger Stokes (1965), Mr Norman Dawson (1966), Dr Dennis Sherwood (1967), Mr Peter Jones TD (1971), Professor Paul Austin (1972), Lady Jackson (1973), Mr Andrew Stott (1973), Ms Yvonne Jerrold (1974), Dr David Livesley (1975), Mr Harvey Brough (1977, Choir Representative), Mrs Jocelyn Miles (1977), Mr Simon Sammons (1978), Dr David Smith (1981), Dr Neil Raha (1982), Mr Robert Damms (1984), Mr Christopher Withers (1992), Ms Sally Hotchkin (1993), Dr Anna Dempster (1994), Mrs Anna Forrest (1995), Dr Richard Flower (1999), Mr James Bench-Capon (2000), Mr Richard Eyre (2001), Mr Joshua Alexander (2003), Miss Lisa Barrington (2005), Mr Jonny Austin (2006), Mrs Sarah Harmer (Development Officer), Miss Nancy Childerhouse (Development Associate) and Mr Johnny Langridge (2005, Development Assistant).

Apologies:

The Master, Dr Toby Wilkinson (Development Director & Fellow), Mrs Alice Worth (Head of Alumni Relations), Mr Alan Swindells (1942), Mr Andrew Stuart (1949), Mr Michael Woods (1954), Mr Robert Whitfield (1964), Dr Laurence Gerlis (1968), Mr R J Croucher (1970), Dr Theo Zemek (1977), Mr Martyn Smith (1978), Mr Derek Sweeting (1979), Mr Dominic Haigh (1980), Mr Aylmer Johnson (1981), Dr Ratul Roy (1986), Mr Fabrice Ward (1987), Mr Prem Sundaram (1988), Mr Benjamin Rigby (1989), Dr Matt Walpole (1990), Miss Melanie Gerlis (1993), Ms Jessica Spence (1994), Dr Thomas Counsell (1996), Mr David Evans (1997), Mrs Kristin Byng Nelson (1998), Dr Neal Morgan (1998), Miss Alison Tattershall (1998), Mr Peter Marshall (1999), Mr David Doupe (2002), Miss Ilana Bergsagel (2004), Mr Matthew Clifford (2004), Mr Calum Davey (2005) and Mr David Williams (2006).

1. Welcome

The Deputy Chairman welcomed members to the fourth meeting of the Alumni Council and conveyed apologies from the Master who was in Hong Kong to host the College's first alumni gathering in the territory.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2007

Mr Peter Jones TD (1971) asked for his name to be added to the list of apologies.

Dr Peter Knewstubb asked for Minute 3 to be amended for clarity, replacing 'Dr Hartley also reported that the last edition' with 'Dr Hartley also reported that the 2005-2006 edition'.

3. Matters arising

Lady Jackson asked if the Clare Association Bursary had been awarded. It was subsequently confirmed that the first Clare Association Bursary has been awarded to Mr Kaiwen Zeng (2008), a first-year undergraduate studying English. Details of his progress and of future Bursary recipients will be provided to the Alumni Council each November.

Mr Andrew Stott (1973) raised some concerns from his year group about Telephone Campaigns and the opt-out process. He was assured by the Development Officer that all who were called were given an opportunity to opt-out in advance.

4. Calendar of alumni events for 2008/2009

It was noted that the MA Lunch would henceforth be organised by the Tutorial Office, as befitted a graduation ceremony and as had been the case historically.

Dr Hartley raised the issue of moving the date of the Alumni Council to late September, for example the Saturday after the Reunion Dinner in September. Reactions were mixed and members were asked to email the Head of Alumni Relations with their thoughts.

In response to a question about the College's involvement in the University's 800th Anniversary events, the Development Assistant reported that the Choir would be involved in concerts in 2009. Mr John Clare (1963) asked that these concerts be added to the Alumni Events Calendar and advertised in the e-newsletter.

Action: Alice Worth

5. Alumnus of the Year Award

The Deputy Chair opened the floor for comments on the Alumnus of the Year Award proposal; Mr Stephen Jakobi (1956) left the room as he was one of the nominees.

Mr James Bench-Capon (2000) asked if there would be a physical award. The Development Officer confirmed that the winner would receive a bronze sculpture by Clare alumna Angie Harlock Wilkinson (1974), which she was kindly donating to the College. It would be presented to the winner on the occasion of the Half-Way Hall for second year undergraduates, at which the winner would give the key-note address.

It was agreed that the notice for this year's award had been very short, and that much more notice would be given in future years, to enable Council members to canvass their contemporaries.

Action: Alice Worth

The Council discussed the voting procedure and the possibility that voting should be opened up to the general alumni body. Mr Michael Leggatt (1951) expressed reservations about the current procedure and noted that he would abstain. Other members expressed concern that the vote might not be a true reflection of the Alumni Council's wishes, as not all members were present. It was agreed that the voting procedure should be reviewed before the next meeting.

Action: Alice Worth

There was some discussion about the criteria for election, reflecting concerns that these might be too subjective. It was agreed to review the criteria and refine them if necessary.

Action: Alice Worth

Mr Stephen Jakobi (1956) was subsequently announced as the winner of the Alumnus of the Year Award 2009.

6. Alumni website

The Development Assistant gave a presentation on the new alumni web site, currently in the final stages of development, looking at its functionality (especially interface with Facebook) and

design. Members were keen to ensure that alumni would be drawn back to the site for repeat visits. It was also suggested that email alerts be sent to alumni each time the site is significantly updated. Comments were made about design and ease of use, while some members found the informal language inappropriate. Changes would be made accordingly.

Action: Johnny Langridge

Dr Richard Flower (1999) asked when the money raised from visits to Amazon had been switched from the Library to the Ambassadors' Fund. It was subsequently confirmed that this had taken place in 2007, in response to the success of the Family Book Fund and the growth of the Ambassadors' role.

7. Enhanced role of the Alumni Council with formation of advisory sub-committees

The proposal for formation of advisory sub-committees was met with approval. It was agreed that the sub-committees should meet once a year, operating for the most part via email/online.

8. Procedures for the re-election of Year Group Representatives

The Deputy Chair opened the floor for discussion of the re-election process. Although it was agreed that the YGRs should be changed periodically to avoid stagnation, it was also agreed that a YGR should be allowed to stay on after their term, if there were no other candidates. It was agreed that the procedures for election would be clarified and publicised widely to the alumni body to give others the opportunity to be involved.

Action: Alice Worth

9. Appointment of a Trustee of the Lady Clare Fund

Professor Paul Austin (1972) was unanimously elected a trustee of the Lady Clare Fund.

10. Any other business

The Deputy Chair gave a brief report on the Novice Regatta which was a great success with over 1,000 students on the river over three days.

The Deputy Chair also mentioned that he had spoken to the Cambridge Alumni Relations Office (CARO) regarding the availability of accommodation for alumni attending events in Cambridge. CARO was working on a system to make more rooms available.

Mr John Clare (1963) urged fellow alumni to make themselves available for careers advice to Clare students, especially in the current economic climate.

Mr James Bench-Capon (2000) asked if the Ambassadors included any graduate students. Mr Jonny Austin (2006) responded that the Ambassadors were currently recruiting from the MCR.

Lady Jackson (1973) noted that she had received no responses from her year group and wondered if the Council was 'harvesting' the most important items for the agenda.

The Secretary of the Clare Association and the Senior Tutor reported on the College's index-linked borrowing.

Mr Michael Leggatt (1951) requested that more space be given in *Clare News* to overseas alumni.

Dr Anna Dempster (1994) and Mr David Livesley (1975) both expressed their thanks to the Development Office and staff of Clare, and gave a vote of thanks to the Development Office.

11. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed

Action: Alice Worth

The Deputy Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 pm.