

Alumni Council

At a meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2009 at 6.00 pm in the Elton & Bowring Rooms, Lerner Court, Clare College

Present:

The Master (in the Chair), Dr Ian Hill (1966, Deputy Chairman), Professor Alison Sinclair (President of the Fellowship), Dr Patricia Fara (Senior Tutor), Dr David Hartley (1956, Secretary of the Clare Association and the Alumni Council & Fellow), Dr Peter Knewstubb (1950, Editor of the Clare Association Annual & Fellow), Dr Toby Wilkinson (Development Director & Fellow), Mr Alan Swindells (1942), Mr John Appleton (1943), Dr Duncan Poore (1947), Professor Alan Gillett (1950), Mr Dermot Hoare (1951), Mr David Kirkman (1953), Mr Michael Sullivan (1955), Mr Stephen Jakobi (1956), Mr Brian Hughes (1959), 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 (1971), Professor Paul Austin (1972), Lady Nicola Jackson (1973), Ms Yvonne Jerrold (1974), Dr David Livesley (1975), Mrs Jocelyn Miles (1977), Mr Simon Sammons (1978), Mr Derek Sweeting (1979), Mr Anthony Davis (1981), Dr David Smith (1981), Mr Robert Damms (1984), Mr Fabrice Ward (1987), Dr Matt Walpole (1990), Mr Christopher Withers (1992), Dr Anna Dempster (1994), Mrs Anna Forrest (1995), Dr Richard Flower (1999), Mr James Bench-Capon (2000), Mr Richard Eyre (2001), Mr Calum Davey (2005), Mr Johnny Langridge (2005, Development Associate) and Mr Charles Cook (Development Assistant).

Apologies:

Mr Andrew Stuart (1949), Mr Michael Woods (1954), Mr John Biggs (1960), Dr Hugh Macmillan (1961), Mr Robert Whitfield (1964), Mr Martyn Smith (1978), Mr Dominic Haigh (1980), Dr Neil Raha (1982), Mr Prem Sundaram (1988), Miss Melanie Gerlis (1993), Ms Sally Hotchkin (1993), Ms Jessica Spence (1994), Dr Thomas Counsell (1996), Miss Alison Tattershall (1998), Miss Ilana Bergsagel (2004) and Mr Jonny Austin (2006).

1. Welcome

The Master welcomed members to the fifth meeting of the Alumni Council.

He referred to the resignation of Mrs Alice Worth who, as the College's Alumni Officer, had led the transformation of Clare's alumni relations activities, helping to launch the Alumni Council, the system of Year-Group Representatives, the Family & Friends Programme and the Clare Ambassadors. The Council agreed to record their appreciation of Alice's contribution to the College and its alumni.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting (paper AC2009-02) were received and accepted.

The Secretary reported that all actions recorded in the minutes had been completed and that many matters arising would be dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

Constitutional & Procedural issues

3. Deputy Chairman

The Council noted that the Deputy Chairman is nominated by the Council, serves for three years and is eligible for re-election. Dr Ian Hill had served three years. The Master reported that Dr Hill, having served a first term of three years, had expressed his willingness to serve for a further three years. The Council agreed to re-nominate Dr Hill *nem con*.

4. Secretary of the Alumni Council

The Council noted the proposal that the constitution of the Clare Association be amended so that the Secretary of the Association, who is nominated by the Governing Body, would be Secretary of the Council *ex officio*. Details of the proposal, including a revised constitution, were set out in paper AC2009-03 which had been circulated to members for consultation. The changes had been approved by the College, and were formally accepted by the meeting.

In view of the revised procedure for the appointment of year-group representatives (Minute 5 below), clause 3.1(b) should be amended to read *each year-group representative*.

5. Appointment of Year Group Representatives

The Council noted the proposed procedure for the appointment and reappointment of Year Group Representatives (paper AC2009-04), which had been circulated to Council members and had received general support. It was suggested that it was desirable to achieve a good gender balance, and that were advantages to having more than one representative in any year. It was agreed that the procedure should include a general statement to this effect.

The Council approved the procedure.

6. Alumnus of the Year procedure

The Council noted that there had been extensive consultation among Council members on the procedure to be followed in the nomination, short-listing and election for the Alumnus of the Year award (paper AC2009-05). Questions and concerns were raised about the name of the award, the nomination of candidates and the voting procedure. There was a general view that the procedure should be left unchanged for a further one or two years but kept under review. The Council formally approved the procedure.

Reports

7. Alumnus of the Year 2010

The Council noted that following the withdrawal of one of the nominees, there had been a shortlist of three nominees for the Alumnus of the Year 2010 (paper AC2009-06). The Development Director announced that following the ballot in accordance with the procedure agreed under the previous item, Mr John Thompson (1959) had been elected by a clear majority of first preferences votes in the first round of counting.

8. Annual Fund Committee

The report of the Council's Annual Fund Committee (paper AC2009-07) was presented by Mr Chris Withers. It was suggested that greater publicity for fund-raising messages should be given in *Clare News* and the *Clare College Annual Report*.

9. Events Committee

The report of the Council's Events Committee (paper AC2009-08) was presented by Dr David Livesley.

The Council was pleased to note that suggestions made by the Committee for events that engaged younger alumni and alumni with families had been included in the programme for 2009-10 (paper AC2009-09).

Year-group representatives were asked to consider the proposal for a different schedule of Reunion Dinners (allowing each group to be invited every 5 years) and to feed back comments to the Development Office.

10. Clare Ambassadors

Davy Evans introduced his paper on the recent activities of Clare Ambassadors (paper AC2009-10). A suggestion that the ambassadors should concentrate on funding awards rather than the raising of money for a bursary was accepted.

11. Clare Alumni website

The Development Associate, Johnny Langridge, presented a progress report on the development of *ClareAlumni.com* (paper AC2009-11). In addition to matters mentioned in the written report, the Council noted the development of a Clare Alumni 'App' that enables iPhones to contact the website, this being another 'first' among Oxford and Cambridge Colleges.

12. Secretary's report

The Secretary, Dr David Hartley, reported the following:

(a) *Clare Association Bursary*

The Bursary for 2009-10 had been awarded to a second-year student reading English. With the recession affecting family incomes, there has been a marked increase in the eligibility for bursaries among Clare students. The provision of bursaries, such as the Clare Association Bursary, has never been more vital.

(b) *Alumni Council support*

With the Alumni Council now well-established, the College is concerned to improve support for the role of Alumni Council members. Toby Wilkinson, Sarah Harmer and Johnny Langridge will be responsible for an enhanced level of liaison, and one of them will personally contact each Council member at least once a year, preferably for a face-to-face meeting.

(c) *Alumni Council Annual Report*

The Constitution of the Clare Association requires the Council to publish each year an Annual Report in the Clare Association Annual. A draft Report for 2008-09 will be circulated for comment and approval to all Council members immediately following this meeting.

(d) *Meeting dates*

At the 2008 meeting, the question of the most suitable date to hold Council meetings was raised. Given the congested state of the College calendar there are only two practical dates: (i) the Wednesday before Christmas as now, and (ii) a Saturday in late September following one of the Reunion Dinners. Those present had a clear preference for the *status quo*, which might have been predicted. Some members have since stated that the present arrangement is generally impossible for them. A poll among all Council members will be held to discover what support exists for option (ii).

13. Date of next meeting

Subject to the outcome of Minute 13(d) above, the next meeting of the Council will be held at 18:00 on Wednesday, 15 December 2010

DFH

20 December 2009