



September 2008



Campus Developments

Sion Hill

The redevelopment of the Sion Hill campus is now underway. The £3.5m scheme for the home of Bath Spa's School of Art and Design will combine new build and refurbishment, ensuring the School has some of the best facilities and equipment in the country.

The work at Sion Hill will include new specialist workshops, new art studios, library, refectory, reception area, administration offices and art shop, while the existing ceramic studios will be re-modelled.

Main building work will start in late October, requiring many changes to access routes on and around the site throughout the coming academic year. Sion Hill staff will be kept fully informed of developments and every effort made to minimise disruption for students.

Vice Chancellor Professor Frank Morgan said: "The redevelopment of Sion Hill will confirm the status of the School of Art and Design as one of the UK's best and will provide the base for our long-term academic plans."

Newton Park

We plan a substantial enhancement to our academic, residential and social facilities for students. The new Director of Estates, Carolyn Puddicombe, will be driving this project forward and undertaking detailed negotiations with key stakeholders.

Colleagues should note, however, that whereas Sion Hill developments are already taking place, those at Newton Park will be over a timescale of several years and cannot take place without the approval of various official agencies.

Updates on progress will be reported in Online.

University Wins Powers to Award Research Degrees

Bath Spa University has won the right to award its own research degrees for the first time. The Privy Council has approved Bath Spa's application for research degree awarding powers.



Bath Spa is a modern teaching-led university and as such has, since 1992, had powers to award taught degrees. However, until now students working towards research degrees, normally a PhD, had to register with another university, although their work was supervised at Bath Spa.

This approval from the Privy Council has come after an exhaustive process of assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, which found that Bath Spa had satisfied all the criteria for maintaining standards and quality of supervision for research degrees. The QAA concluded that “exceptional human support” for its students was central to Bath Spa’s educational philosophy.

Vice Chancellor Professor Frank Morgan said the approval is an achievement of great significance for Bath Spa University: “It confirms the University as a fully mature academic institution and will give a timely fillip to our overall research strategy.”

Artist’s Impression of Beijing Olympics



Tim Vyner in Beijing

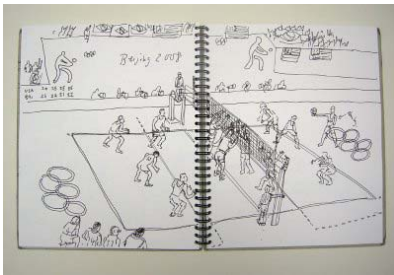
While the Beijing Olympics were attracting huge global audiences on TV, an illustrator from Bath School of Art and Design captured his own memorable images with the aid of a pen, sketchbook and camera.

Tim Vyner, senior lecturer in Graphic Design Illustration, spent three weeks in Beijing observing as many events as he could, ranging from boxing and cycling to athletics finals and beach volleyball. He also looked at ordinary people’s experiences of the Games away from the stadiums.

Tim gathered hundreds of sketches and photographs of the Olympics and how local citizens were affected by them. Now back in Bath, he has since been in the studio transforming his drawings into finished pictures for a book and exhibition.



He says: “At the risk of sounding like a Team GB prospect for 2012, the hard work starts here. While all the focus and attention shifts to London 2012, I will be concentrating on building a retrospective story of these unique Games in Beijing.”



Tim, who was in Japan for the 2002 Football World Cup and Portugal for Euro 2004, found the Games far more accessible for spectators than a World Cup tournament. He believes his artist’s eye has given him a different perspective from TV and other mainstream media.

Among the countless highlights for him in Beijing was a moment of fame when Tim was interviewed by Peter Allen for the BBC’s Five Live Drive programme, together with Darren Campbell and Dom Joly, outside the famous Bird’s Nest stadium after one of the sprinter Usain Bolt’s world record runs.



You can find more of Tim's Olympics drawings and photos on his website:
www.timvynner.com

Bath Spa Writers Line Up for Children's Literature Festival

Bath Spa University and writers associated with it are making a big contribution to this year's Bath Children's Literature Festival, which started on 19 September.

The University, whose creative writing courses are of national renown, sponsored the festival's special opening night event at the Guildhall in Bath, when Children's Laureate and poet Michael Rosen talked about his life and career in conversation with Sam Leith, literary editor of the Daily Telegraph.

On 22 September teaching staff and published authors from Bath Spa University's MA courses in Writing for Young People and Creative Writing shared some of their latest work with an audience, also at the Guildhall. They included Bath Spa graduates Sally Nicholls, whose first novel *Ways to Live Forever* won the 2008 Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and Ally Kennen, whose debut novel *Beast* also gained widespread critical acclaim.

The Writing for Young People event was chaired by Bath Spa Course Leader Julia Green. She herself has written three novels for children and young adults, *Blue Moon*, *Baby Blue* and *Hunter's Heart*. Julia also visited Hayesfield Girls School in Bath to give a talk about her own fiction and to lead a Creative Writing workshop.

Another of Bath Spa's Writing for Young People graduates, Marie-Louise Jensen, whose debut novel for teenagers *Between Two Seas* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize, is visiting Somervale School in Midsomer Norton to meet some of its pupils.

Many other current and former students from the Bath Spa University creative writing courses are working as volunteer stewards at events throughout the festival.

The Festival Director, John McLay, is a part-time lecturer on Bath Spa's Writing for Young People course. He says ticket sales for the ten-day festival are up on last year, when it was held for the first time.

Julia Green said: "Bath Spa University is really delighted to be supporting this fabulous festival for children, which is all about the pleasures of reading. We are especially pleased that poetry for young people has a higher profile during the festival this year."

To find out more about the festival visit its website:
www.bathkidslifest.co.uk



Prize-Winning Author and Bath Spa Graduate Sally Nicholls



Marie-Louise Jensen



Amy at Kichijo Orphanage



Kichijo Orphanage Children



New Volunteering: Just V

Amy's Mission to Buy African Orphanage

Amy Lambert is desperate for £13,000 – not to pay for her studies at Bath Spa University but to buy an orphanage in Africa.

Amy, who is starting the third year of her Psychology and Health Studies course, needs the money to save the Kichijo Orphanage in Tanzania from closure. She spent her summer break there, helping care for 100 children, many of whom have lost one or both parents to Aids.

Now the volunteer-run orphanage is facing closure in four months' time because it can no longer keep up with payments, leaving the children with no shelter.

To meet the target Amy is organising a glittering £100-a-head ball for 400 guests at the Rec, home of Bath Rugby Club, on 22 November. She hopes businesses, celebrities and other local people will contribute to her fund-raising event.

Amy says: "I became so attached to the orphans and knew I had to do something for them when I came home. It's not uncommon to see an 11-year-old with a baby strapped to its back, and when I was there they were so poor they lived on milk and porridge. Babies pick uncooked rice off the floor and eat it, and I saw one baby chewing on a metal nail because it was teething."

When the money has been raised Amy will return to Africa, buy the orphanage and hand it over to the volunteers. For more information about the ball or offers of sponsorship, objects to auction or other help, call 07531 545526 or email info@bathwintercharityball.com.

Overhaul for Volunteering at University

While Amy was in Tanzania over the summer, volunteering services here at Bath Spa underwent a complete overhaul. The name has been changed to 'Just V', there are brand new web pages and an extended range of services has been introduced.

Traditionally, volunteering at Bath Spa involved sending out individual students on placements. This still exists, but now other schemes have been added. They include ongoing student volunteer projects, both on and off campus; one-off volunteer activities through two Students' Union societies; advice on international and virtual volunteering; recognition and training schemes.

Just V Co-ordinator Ed Stevens said: "Last year over 230 Bath Spa students chose to volunteer in the local community. Just V's new services



should lead to much improved volunteer services for our students and recognition for the time and commitment many give to help out others. We would like to increase our number of volunteers to 300 for the 2008/9 academic year, which would put us on a par with far larger universities.”

Full details about Just V can be found at www.bathspa.ac.uk/justv

Enduring Love Stories Published



Enduring Love Team

In May BSU Online told you about ‘Enduring Love’, a joint project between Bath Spa University and Relate to mark the counselling organisation’s 70th birthday.

Creative writing students from Bath Spa’s School of English and Creative Studies were commissioned to find true stories about love and relationships between all kinds of couples – gay, straight and culturally diverse – since the 1930s. They carried out a series of interviews with older people across the UK who had an unusual, funny or moving story to tell from their own experience.

The fascinating results, edited by the Bath Spa students, have now been published in a booklet, ‘Enduring Lovers’. It includes Jean’s story of her marriage to a German prisoner of war, John’s experience of being gay in the 1940s and Joan’s tale about being pregnant and unmarried in the 1950s.

If you would like a copy of the booklet, which costs three pounds, please email Creative Studies lecturer Barbara Bloomfield, who led the project. b.bloomfield@blueyonder.co.uk



Kill It Kid

Bath Spa Band Signs Record Deal

Commercial Music graduates Kill It Kid have signed a deal with a leading UK record label, One Little Indian. The band formed in 2007 when students from the Foundation Degree in Commercial Music got together with students from the BA Music course.

After recording a demo with visiting producer John Parish, best known for his work with PJ Harvey, they toured their material as part of their second year project work. They left Bath Spa in July 2008 and signed for One Little Indian in September. The first album is due for release during mid 2009.



Head of Music Department Joe Bennett said: "This is great news for Kill It Kid. They are one of our more unusual bands because they combine students from our 'classical' and rock/pop courses.

"Having two vocalists, and a violin taking most of the solos, really makes them stand out. The Music team and I are delighted to have an indie label as prestigious as One Little Indian recognise the band's astonishing talent and sheer hard work." Find out more about the band via:

<http://bathspampa.com/view-news.php?location=%2Fnews%2Fnews40>

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