



December 2008



Corsham Court

Study of Art Returns to Corsham Court

Part of the School of Art and Design is returning to Corsham Court after an absence of more than 20 years. The University has established a new Centre there for postgraduate, Masters and Doctorate level study.

Corsham Court Centre will also provide facilities for project work for undergraduate students and a conference suite for the use of academic and support departments across the University.

Corsham Court became the home of Bath Academy of Art (now the University's School of Art and Design) when its premises were destroyed in the Second World War. Many key figures in British fine art taught at the Court, including Kenneth Armitage, Terry Frost and Sir Howard Hodgkin.

The new Centre will build on these traditions to provide a focus for Higher Education in the wider region. Professor Ron George is moving from his post as Head of School to take charge of the Centre when it opens on 1 January.

Prof George said: "This is a special opportunity to restore and now extend the long tradition of higher arts education at Corsham Court. The new Centre will provide a stunning base for the University in the region and contribute significantly to its already rich cultural life."

Amy's Fundraising Saves African Orphanage

Bath Spa student Amy Lambert has reached her fund-raising target of £13,000 to save an African orphanage from closure.

Amy, who is in the final year of her Psychology and Health Studies course, has now flown out to the Kichijo Orphanage in Tanzania with the money, just in time to stop its 100 children being forced onto the streets. Many of them have lost one or both parents to Aids.

The 23-year-old student, who worked at Kichijo as a volunteer last summer, had pledged her help when its staff could no longer afford the rent. She has collected enough cash to buy a plot of land and build a new orphanage on it. Amy and a fellow Bath Spa student, Nicola Smith, will spend Christmas with the children.

Amy raised £13,000 despite having to cancel a fund-raising ball at Bath Rugby Club due to lack of support. She went ahead with a series of other



*Amy Lambert at Kichijo
Orphanage*



charity events in Bath – including an auction that alone raised £5,000, with the help of a rugby ball signed by the Bath team and an England shirt donated by player Matt Stevens.

Amy said: “It’s taken a lot of effort but has been so worthwhile. With this money, instead of having to share six to a bed the children will have a bed each and the orphanage will have enough land to grow food as well as provide a home.”

Kichijo Orphanage still needs thousands of pounds more to support it in future. You can donate by going to www.wearecollecting.co.uk.

Bath Spa Honours Composer Gavin Bryars

One of Britain’s most important contemporary composers, Gavin Bryars, has received an Honorary Fellowship from Bath Spa University. The award was presented to him by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Frank Morgan, at a special concert in Bath Abbey on 25 November.

The award is in recognition of Professor Bryars’ immense contribution to both contemporary music and to the vigour, breadth and depth of the arts in general. The Abbey concert, where Prof Bryars performed with his Ensemble, was just one highlight in *The Invention of Tradition*, a series of performances organised by the University to celebrate his work.

At the concert in Bath Abbey, *Lauda Dolce*, the Gavin Bryars Ensemble performed a programme of madrigals and settings of psalms and Petrarch poems. The three days of concerts and other events in Prof Bryars’ honour also included a performance of one of his best known early works, *Sinking of the Titanic*, at St Michaels Without in Bath. It was performed by the Bath Spa University Chamber Ensemble with children from St Saviour’s Infants School, Larkhall, conducted by Roger Heaton.

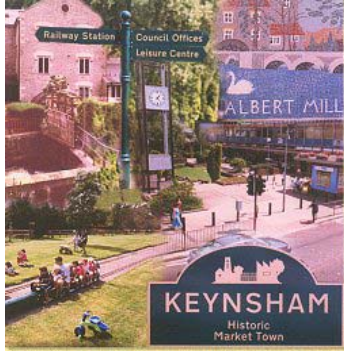


The Vice Chancellor with Gavin Bryars in Bath Abbey

Wanted – Memories of Keynsham for Oral History Project

The people of Keynsham are being given a chance to make their mark for posterity.

Bath Spa’s History Department is organising an oral history project to record the memories of older people living in the town. A senior lecturer from the Department, Dr Roberta Anderson, and four of her students, are liaising with a local community group, Keynsham South Forum, to make contact with residents.



The students – second year Will Beale and third years Rachael Buckley, Jo Kent and Vicki Thomas – will be carrying out interviews to gather people's reminiscences about the past. Rachael, who is a mature student, has the advantage of coming from Keynsham herself. She lives in the town with her husband and two children.

The oral history project is focusing especially on residents whose families moved to Keynsham at a time of major expansion in the 1950s. Their previous homes, mainly in the Redfield and Lawrence Hill areas of Bristol, were being demolished.

The students involved now are volunteers. However, the project is likely to run for at least a year and may be assimilated next year into an oral history module, for which students would receive accreditation, as part of the History degree programme at Bath Spa.

Anyone else interested in joining the Keynsham Reminiscences Group should contact Dr Anderson r.anderson@bathspa.ac.uk.

Greta's Poetry Shortlisted for Costa Book Award



Greta Stoddart

A poet and lecturer in Creative Writing at Bath Spa, Greta Stoddart, has been shortlisted for one of the UK's most prestigious book prizes, the Costa Awards. Greta is on a shortlist of four in the Poetry category for her second collection of poems, *Salvation Jane*.

The winners in all categories of the Costa Book Awards 2008 will be announced in January next year.

Greta Stoddart teaches on the University's Masters Degree in Creative Writing. Tim Liardet, a fellow poet and one of her teaching colleagues in the School of English and Creative Studies at Bath Spa, said: "*Salvation Jane* is a work of great alacrity, charm and originality and deserves to be widely read. This is a fitting recognition for a very fine poet indeed."

Greta Stoddart won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize in 2002 for her first poetry collection, *At Home In The Dark*. Her new collection was published in October by Anvil Press Poetry.



Innovation Award Winner Laura Kalbag with the Vice Chancellor

Innovation Award Winners Announced

The School of Art and Design has dominated prize-giving for Bath Spa's Innovation Awards 2008. The competition, open to all BSU students and staff, was aimed at budding entrepreneurs keen on developing their ideas into a business opportunity.

There were 28 entries for this year's awards, with the overall standard and volume of applications extremely high. The winners, chosen by an expert judging panel of Bath Spa academics and the director of the University of Bath Innovation Centre, were each presented with a certificate by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Frank Morgan, during a ceremony at Riverside Court.

Three winners will receive funding to support development of their concept: Laura Kalbag, a third year Graphic Communication student, for her technical device enabling young people to vote in elections by phone; Sam Pickard, an MA Design graduate and lecturer, for her laser-etched cork panels, decorative table runners and placemats; Penny Grist, an MA Interactive Multimedia graduate and lecturer in printmaking, for her interactive installation on a theme of Darwin and colour.



'Earthgrip (4)': Nick Lees' Exhibit for World Ceramic Biennale

Ceramics Staff and Graduates to Exhibit on World Stage

Bath Spa will provide more exhibitors than any other UK university or art college at the 5th World Ceramic Biennale in Korea next year. Entries by four staff and graduates from the School of Art and Design's Ceramics Department have been selected for the international showcase event in April 2009.

Ceramics lecturers Nick Lees and Conor Wilson are joined by recent Bath Spa graduates Matthew Chambers and Elke Sada among the 49 artists from Europe whose work has been chosen by an international panel of judges for the Biennale exhibition.

Jane Gibson, Head of the Ceramics Department, said: "This is a real tribute to the exceptionally high standards in our department, which will have the biggest representation from the UK at this prestigious event."

You can find out more about the Biennale from its website: www.wocef.com



*Award-Winning Embroidered
Jacket by Jan Knibbs*

Bath Spa Designer Wins International Embroidery Prize

Bath Spa Fashion and Textiles student Jan Knibbs has won an international embroidery competition, the Swarovski Prize. Her entry for the award, organised by the leading hand embroidery company Hand and Lock, included a military-style jacket based on the Napoleonic Empire and a wedding dress created from vintage fabrics.

Jan, an established designer who works from a studio in Bath, specialises in garments with intricate embroidery, made from vintage material. She is studying for an MA in Design: Fashion and Textiles at BSU to broaden her skill base and help market her work.

She is about to launch a new label creating ethical embroidered garments and accessories, including jewellery, from mostly recycled and vintage fabrics which she has collected for many years.

You can view some of Jan's designs at www.janknibbs.com



*Student Volunteers
at the Big Issue
(photo courtesy of Bath Chronicle)*

Student Volunteers Take Up the Big Issue

More Bath Spa students than ever before are taking part in volunteering activities. Co-ordinator Ed Stevens says there has been a massive growth in the past few months.

Around 200 students have joined in since September, when the University's new 'Just V' service was introduced in partnership with the Students' Union. This is providing a wider range of volunteer schemes, both on and off campus, and also training.

One recent highlight was a placement for 16 student volunteers with the Big Issue. They served hot drinks to homeless people selling the magazine on the streets of Bath and re-decorated the city's Big Issue office, which was in desperate need of a facelift.

According to Ed many other organisations are also benefiting from Just V: "In the past couple of months our RAG (Raising & Giving) Society has raised more than £2,500 for both national and local charities, including Bath Junior Gateway Club and Bath Area Play project.

"Teams of students have helped deliver much-needed projects for Hop, Skip and Jump and Radford Mill Farm, while many individuals volunteer regularly for a host of organisations."



One Stop Shop for Staff Development

Bath Spa University recognises the importance of providing professional development opportunities for members of staff. In response to employee feedback the three departments that deliver staff development events have launched a new website where employees can access IT training, academic staff development and personal and management development.

The project has been developed over several months by a team of staff from HR, the Library, and The Centre for Learning and Teaching Development, with contributions from Senior Lecturer: Business and Management, Flora Marriott, who has recently left the University.

It's now easy to book internal courses, read testimonials, make requests for learning and development, provide feedback on events, and much more! The team would like to encourage staff to take advantage of the learning opportunities on offer. So if you want development of any kind, or have a question such as what funding is available for a relevant qualification, your starting point is <http://training.bathspa.ac.uk/index.html>