

Network

Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association

|

Autumn 2006



Inspiration

Alumni set high standards with their creativity and flair

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Front cover:

Paul Smith and Professor Simon Lewis

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Welcome

Welcome to another issue of *Network*, your alumni magazine.

July 2006 was hot, but it didn't stop 4,000 students attending their graduation ceremonies, and we are very pleased to welcome these new members to the Alumni Association.

This issue of *Network* is packed with alumni-related information and news, and inspiring stories about the creativity, entrepreneurship and flair of our graduates.

On page 23, you can find out about a new Alumni Reunion Pack which has been devised to help you plan an event, and, remember that you can announce reunion plans online when you join the Alumni Online community at: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni



Clare Oswin and Ceris Crow

We are always asking you to update your details, and now it's our turn – the Alumni Office has moved across campus and we have a new telephone number (see below).

Please keep in touch. We really enjoy hearing from you.

Alumni Office
Tel: +44 (0)115 848 8777
Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

This year's graduates can celebrate the fact that Nottingham Trent University has just been ranked joint first (at 97.7%) for graduate employability in the most recent survey undertaken by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

This is encouraging news for the new cohort of students who were welcomed this autumn by alumna Sue Stockdale. Sue was the first British woman to walk to the Magnetic North Pole, and her "can do" approach to life provided our incoming students with the perfect start to their time at NTU.

The Welcome Week event demonstrates our commitment to inspiring students, and as alumni you can play a similar role. You are the University's ambassadors, and the employers and motivators of those who follow in your footsteps.

I am also delighted to report that your contributions to the Alumni Fund are making a positive, practical difference to the lives and education of current students. Thank you to everyone



who has supported the Fund – I hope that we might be fortunate enough to count on the support of even more of you in the years ahead.

Professor Neil T Gorman
Vice-Chancellor

Week of fun inspires new students

When you arrived at university for the first time, did you expect to find yourself wanging wellies, racing space-hoppers, conserving woodland, taking self-defence classes or joining a coach trip to IKEA?

These were just a few of the delights of Welcome Week on offer to new students starting out at NTU this autumn.

Last year, in place of the usual round of freshers' fairs, the University came together for the first time with Nottingham Trent Students' Union to host Welcome Week. This series of events, fairs and information sessions was designed to make everyone feel equally involved and to kick-start their experience of student life on an inspiring and enjoyable note.

It was such a popular success that the format was used again this year. There were sport and leisure activities; fairs and sessions on themes including study skills, volunteering and personal safety; a wide variety of evening entertainments; a chance to get involved in woodland conservation; and trips to tourist attractions.

A particular highlight was the Sunday Funday at Clifton campus, with a barbecue, welly-wanging, a space-hopper race, men's cheerleading, and a bucking bronco, all set to the mellow tones of the University Swing Band.

Welcome Week also featured one of our high-achieving alumni – motivational speaker Sue Stockdale (Quality Management and



Sue Stockdale

Improvement 1995), director of Mission Possible Ltd. She was invited to act as master of ceremonies at a series of welcome receptions hosted by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall. Last year, the job went to alumnus Stephen Barker (Business Studies

1989), the Reputation Manager at Nottingham City Council, who also returned to speak at this year's events.

Sue Stockdale is a compelling individual, a people development specialist and author who helps top business leaders and entrepreneurs achieve high-level performance. She is well qualified to provide inspiration. She has many significant achievements to her name, including an MBA in Entrepreneurship and an MSc in Quality Management through which she won the GPT Quality Prize.

She has also written numerous articles on motivation, as well as two books – *Kickstart Your Motivation* (published 2001) and *Secrets of Successful Women Entrepreneurs* (2005).

In 1996 Sue became the first British woman to walk to the Magnetic North Pole. Since then, she has participated in expeditions to the Geographical North Pole, Antarctica and Greenland. A keen runner, she has also represented Scotland in 3,000-metre and cross country events.

She appears regularly in newspapers and magazines, and finished runner-up in the Channel 4 TV show *Superhuman*.

Superhuman indeed! An inspiring person to welcome new students to Nottingham Trent University.



Elizabeth sets scene for the movies

Since graduating, Elizabeth Loach (Television Design 1999) says her career has taken off in ways she could never have imagined.

“I hoped that I would be designing for TV continually by now”, she says, but having designed only two programmes to date, she has found herself carving out a freelance career building model sets for a string of mainstream movies.

Her first major film project, and her favourite so far, was *Phantom of the Opera* where she had the opportunity to work as a model-maker for designer Anthony Pratt. Elizabeth says: “He was a fantastic designer and a gentleman as well – talent at its best.”

“Seeing the magic on the big screen, and knowing that I’ve played a part in that makes it all worthwhile.”

Elizabeth followed up this inspiring role with a job as model-maker on the 2005 hit remake *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, starring Johnny Depp.

Her remit was to make models for discussion between the designer and director



Elizabeth Loach working on sets for Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Tim Burton. Elizabeth comments: “Because it was a Tim Burton film, it was full of imagination, which dictates wonderful sets. The best thing was working with the people in the art department, who were talented in many different ways.”

Elizabeth worked on the early stages of set design for *Charlie* for around seven months. She says: “Sometimes the work was very exciting: for instance, when I visited the sculptors or watched the plasterers pour the resin into the chocolate river model. Other times, it could be quite repetitive and detailed – the prop model of the chocolate factory was made out of toothpaste caps, and I made three versions, each one with the caps cut to fit exactly.”

Although she wasn't involved in the filming process itself, Elizabeth did manage to get on set briefly, and enjoyed the overall experience: “I loved the finished product and am very proud to have been involved.”

Elizabeth's latest excursion into the world of film was as the junior draughtsman on forthcoming biopic *Miss Potter*, starring Renee



“Every designer I come across offers me different advice and a new kind of inspiration.”

Zellweger as children's author Beatrix Potter and Ewan McGregor as Norman Warne, her publisher and fiancé.

Elizabeth says: "The film's designer, Martin Childs, is very well known and I really wanted to work with him. At the interview, I expressed how much I wanted to draught and he gave me the opportunity I'd been craving."

Elizabeth enjoys the constant variety of freelance work because it enables her to develop diverse skills and meet interesting people from a wide range of backgrounds. When she's not working on a film project, she sometimes does standby for television, where she can be more involved in the filming process, altering sets and props to shot.

She has found draughting most enjoyable, and her work in the film industry has taught her a great deal: "You learn a lot about construction and a little about budgeting, and no two jobs are the same – some productions are done on a shoestring and others involve huge American companies like HBO and Warner Bros, which gives you more to work with.

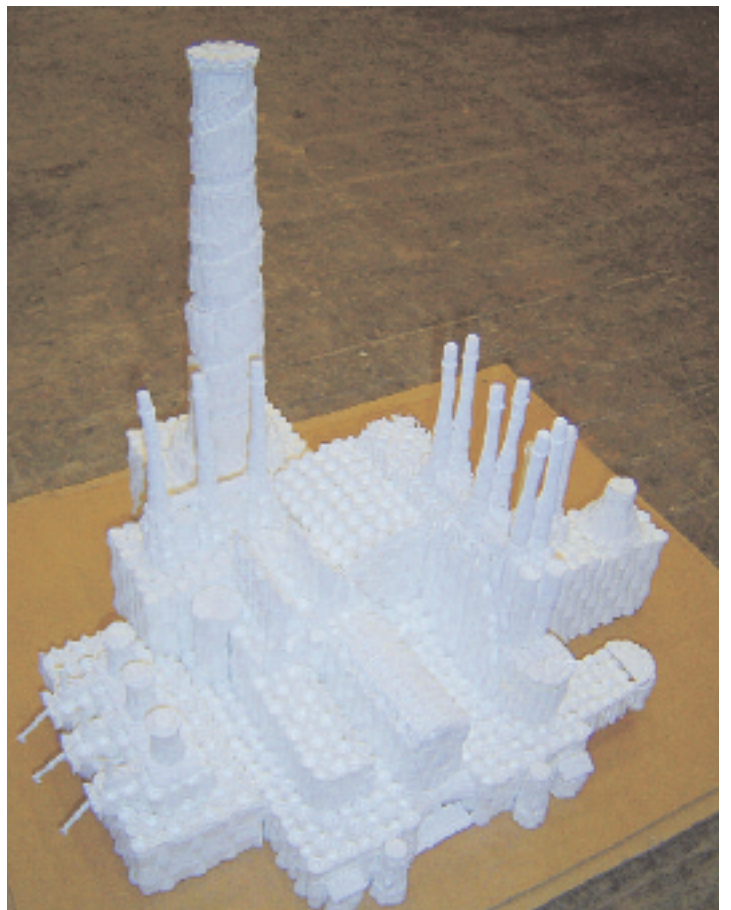
"Every designer I come across offers me different advice and a new kind of inspiration. I learn new things with each job, and it's all relevant to the next one."

The worlds of movie-making and freelancing can both be fickle. Elizabeth says:



"So many films collapse at the development stage and I've had many interviews for films that have folded, but I cross my fingers and try not to let myself be demoralised.

"Working with truly talented people, seeing the magic they create on the big screen, and knowing that I've played a part in that makes it all worthwhile."



Malaysia reception proves popular

The Alumni Office was pleased to welcome more than 100 alumni and guests to a reception this summer at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The event was timed to coincide with the University's graduation ceremony for Malaysia-based graduating students.

The reception was the second such event held in Malaysia and it was hosted by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman. He said: "Alumni travelled from all over Malaysia to be at last year's reception and I was delighted to see some familiar faces again at this year's event. It was a pleasure to welcome them all and I am glad that we can continue to involve them in the University's future."

Alumni Officer Clare Oswin travelled to Malaysia to help host the event. She commented: "I always enjoy meeting up with alumni so it was great to have this rare opportunity to meet graduates living in Malaysia."

She also extended a special thank you to Zunaina Mohd Saifulbaha (Accounting and Finance 1995) for volunteering to greet guests as they arrived.

Professor Gorman gave a presentation in which he updated guests on the University's latest developments and spoke about the Alumni Association. He explained how much NTU values continued contact with graduates, and demonstrated how alumni can play an active role in supporting the University as NTU ambassadors, or by submitting a



career profile to the Alumni Online community.

A gallery of photographs taken at the event is available on the NTU alumni website at: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni/galleries

Luxury weekend break for two – winner to be announced soon!

As *Network* went to press, the Alumni team was preparing to make the prize draw for this year's Update Your Details promotion.

The promotion, which closed on 8 September, offered all Nottingham Trent University alumni the opportunity to win a weekend break for two at Nottingham's fabulous Lace Market Hotel, just by updating their details online.

The winner of the competition will be announced soon on the alumni website, and in the next issue of *Network*.

Last year's winner, Peter Myers (Humanities 1999), lives in Bangkok, but he made the trip over to Nottingham to claim his prize and see in the New Year with friends. He said: "The Lace Market Hotel is a perfect base for a weekend break treat. The bar is very chic and I found it was a great venue for meeting up with some of my old classmates. We had a great meal there before hitting the town and celebrating the New Year Nottingham-style!"



To find out more about the hotel, visit their website at: www.lacemarkethotel.co.uk

For more details about what to see and do in and around Nottingham, go to the Experience Nottinghamshire website: www.visitnottingham.com

Update your details

Updating your details can sometimes win you a great prize, like it did for Peter, but it's also a great way of keeping in touch with us and continuing to be a part of the rapidly expanding Nottingham Trent alumni community.

Whenever you move on, let us know where you are and what you're doing in your life and career. We'll keep sending you all the latest news about the University, alumni events and promotions.

Wherever you are in the world, with Alumni Online it couldn't be easier for you to keep in touch. Membership of our online community enables you to update your details, search for friends, post a business card and get involved in reunions, all from a secure site with password protection. We hope to be able to offer you new services in the near future, too, so if you haven't registered already, get online! It's easy – just visit www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni

We look forward to hearing from you.

The alumni advantage

At Nottingham Trent, we are always keen to continue our relationship with you long after you graduate, and we offer a wide, ever-expanding range of benefits and services to our alumni.

Alumni Library Readership

You may have graduated, but you can still make the most of the University's excellent library holdings, including books, journals and non-book material across a wide range of subject areas, and at a 50% discount on the usual rate.

For an annual subscription of £25, you can become an Alumni Reader. This entitles you to borrow up to four books, videos or DVDs at one time from any of our campus libraries. It also gives you access to all NTU libraries, where you can find a place to work and study, locate the Telegeneration WiFi hotspots to link into the Connect Nottingham network on your laptop, or make use of colour photocopiers. You can search the online catalogue to find what is in stock and get help from one of the staffed service points in using it, or you can just browse the reference collections or read the daily papers.

To register as an Alumni Reader, you need to fill in an application form, which can be obtained from the Alumni Office on **(0115) 848 8777** or by email at **alumni@ntu.ac.uk**

Once you have completed the application form, it should be sent to the address given on it or taken to any of the University libraries, and you will be given a card that provides access to all three NTU libraries.

Associate Readership includes book and audio-visual borrowing rights only, and does not apply to inter-library loans, reservations, electronic information services or slides.



Legal Advice Clinic

The latest addition to the range available is a free Legal Advice Clinic that has been established by Nottingham Law School to provide initial legal advice and a referral service for the local community, University staff, students and alumni.

The service is staffed by volunteer students from the School's highly regarded Legal Practice, Graduate Diploma and Bar Vocational Courses, under the supervision of academic staff and the Clinic Solicitor, alumna Stephanie Wootton (Legal Practice Course 1999).

Advice and assistance can be given on a wide range of legal problems in areas including employment, housing, welfare benefits, contracts and consumer issues.

Enquiries can be made by telephone and email or via the Web, and if help can be provided, a face-to-face appointment will be arranged at their base in the Taylor building on the University's City site.

As alumni, you may now be based outside of the local area, in which case a telephone appointment can be substituted for a face-to-face meeting.

To take advantage of this free service, contact:

Tel: (0115) 848 4262
Email: nls.lawclinic@ntu.ac.uk
Web: www.ntu.ac.uk/nlslawclinic



Stephanie Wootton pictured with Attorney General Lord Goldsmith during National Pro Bono Week in June.

Other benefits and services for members of the Alumni Association

- *Network*, the alumni magazine, mailed to you free of charge
- News about events, lectures and careers-related opportunities
- The Alumni e-Newsletter
- Access to the Alumni Online Community
- Helping you to keep in touch with old friends
- Associate membership of the Nottingham Trent Students' Union
- Helping you retain links with your University School or department
- Online alumni career profiles
- Keeping you up to date with University news
- Postgraduate and professional study opportunities
- Professional will-writing service at discounted rates
- University Careers Service

For further information about any of the benefits and services available to Nottingham Trent alumni, please contact the Alumni Office or visit our website:

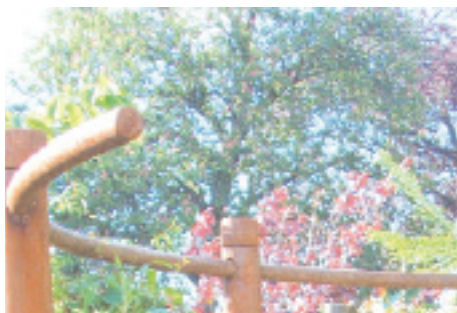
Tel: +44 (0)115 848 8777
Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk
Web: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni

Gifted Gabb reaps gold

Caspar Gabb (Interior Design 1995) has reason to celebrate.

A first-time exhibitor at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, his garden, The Green Room, yielded an impressive crop of accolades. It was awarded a gold medal, as well as being judged best in the Small City Garden category.

Caspar describes The Green Room as "compact, urban, lush – a design vision bringing about the synthesis of glass and driftwood with hosta and fern – mirroring the instance of stepping through the wardrobe into Narnia." Inspired by places he visited while travelling through New



A clever contemporary twist on two of gardening's biggest clichés.

Zealand, Australia and Madeira, the garden was designed to recreate the atmosphere of a clearing in a sub-tropical forest, using hardy plants.

The design lent a clever contemporary twist to two of gardening's biggest clichés – the hanging basket and crazy paving. Caspar's 1.3m "tower baskets" were suspended from a sweeping pergola made of rusted steel, while the paving was created using reclaimed York stone, arranged to suggest the texture of natural ground.

Work began on The Green Room in November of last year, the moment Caspar heard that his design had been accepted for the show. The preparation was hard work, and he says, "there were times when I thought it just wouldn't be ready in time". So, he couldn't be happier about his win: "Getting gold was totally brilliant, but getting best in category went the extra mile! After the hours my team and I invested in every detail, we were more than satisfied."

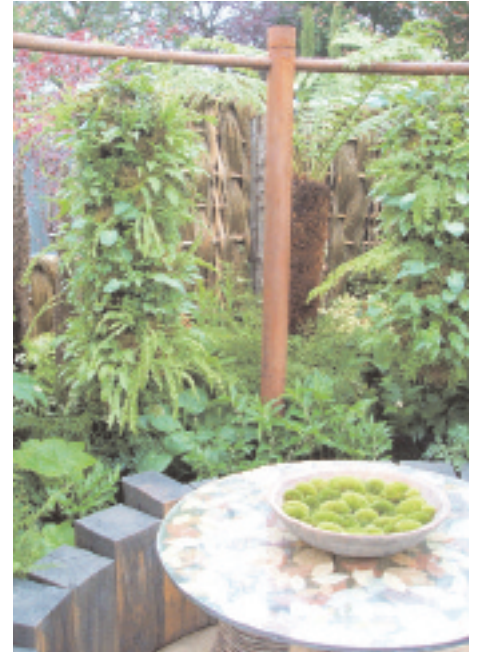
Caspar's road to Chelsea has taken some interesting turns since he left Nottingham Trent. He has designed for TV art directors and architects, and even had a spell selling sandwiches from the boot of his car. After taking some time out for travelling, he needed to earn some money while looking for his next job in TV set-building. He went to work for a large garden design and construction company in London, and soon realised that he enjoyed learning about plants and applying his design skills to gardens. This inspired him to set up his own garden design company, Natural Elements, in 1997.

The company is doing well, and even counts a few celebrities among its clients – including Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Robbie Williams. So, Caspar is a busy man, but it's good to know that he still finds time to work on his own garden: "The front is an oasis of green with mature trees and reclaimed York stone paving; the back is more private with

"Getting gold was totally brilliant, but getting best in category went the extra mile!"

overlapping circles of child- / football-friendly lawn, a deck with a hidden sandpit and swing, and trees with the tastiest cherries in town!"

For more information about Caspar and Natural Elements visit:
www.naturalelementsdesign.co.uk



Green fingers dig for bronze

A team of 40 students from the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences won two bronze awards at this summer's BBC Gardeners' World Live show.



Their *Gardeners...for Life* design – sponsored by retirement property builders McCarthy & Stone and supported by Perennial: the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society – incorporated three gardens created for a typical retirement housing complex.

The gardens were put together with a view to easy maintenance for people with restricted mobility and agility due to old age, illness or injury. Raised beds were created for plants and vegetables to eliminate the need for bending, with "perch" seats to enable gardeners to take regular breaks from their work.

Other features included a low-maintenance chamomile lawn; a sustainable planting scheme incorporating drought-tolerant species; surfaces that promote ease of access; mulches to reduce the need for maintenance; and self-cleaning glass to provide shelter.

The design team carried out research using a simulation suit developed by ergonomics consultants at Loughborough University's Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute (ESRI). The suit incorporated joint restrictors, enabling the students to experience the effects of restricted movement and devise suitable solutions.

Alison Evans, Academic Team Leader for Landscape Management, was full of praise for the award-winning students: "Everyone worked their socks off, producing fantastic designs they should all be extremely proud of. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time and are delighted to have come away with two bronze awards."

NTU's School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences offers a range of further and higher education courses within the field of Landscape Management, including Foundation (FdSc) degrees in Garden Design, Landscape and Heritage Horticulture, and Social and Therapeutic Horticulture.



Award-winners pictured with TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh at Gardeners' World Live.

Making a difference year by year

Thanks to your generosity, the Alumni Fund is making a difference all over the University and enabling NTU graduates to continue to play a part in the University's future.

In 2005, you helped to raise over £50,000 for the fund, and this year a team of current students will be making contact with more of you to hear your views and ask for your support. Please take the opportunity to talk to them and ask about your University.

The Alumni Fund was established to add value to the learning experience of NTU students. With your help, we can continue the University's proud tradition of ensuring that our courses are relevant to tomorrow's society and professional world, and that we give students the additional resources and opportunities they need to fulfil their potential.

Here we report on some of the projects currently being supported through the Alumni Fund.

Health bonus

As part of their course, students studying BSc (Hons) Health and Environment are required to plan, run and evaluate a health promotion campaign within the University to increase awareness of health issues specific to students.

Dr Linda Gibson, Senior Lecturer, said: "Money from the Alumni Fund will help students kick-start their campaigns while seeking extra sponsorship, and will provide essential production materials for them to work with."



Virtual kit now a reality

Final-year computing students will now have the use of two head-mounted virtual reality display units for use in project-work. Students will be able to demonstrate the headsets at University open days and at events such as Nottingham's GameCity festival.

James Lewis, Senior Lecturer, said: "The headsets will enable students to gain experience at the cutting edge of 3D technology, empowering them to undertake real research of national significance."

Getting the balance right

Recently, the fund has provided significant support for equine studies at the Brackenhurst campus, and now the indoor riding school is set to benefit again, from the purchase of a Balimo chair. This special chair will allow students to improve their balance and co-ordination, enhancing their horse-riding ability.

Heather Owen, Academic Team Leader for Animal Science, commented: "This chair will enable some practical riding sessions to proceed without the need for a horse."

Other projects supported by alumni donations

- Students on the BA (Hons) Geography and BA / BSc Geography courses can now prepare their own maps and gain experience using Digimap database technology.

- A high-resolution and sensitivity CCD camera was purchased for the new observatory on Clifton campus.
- The NTU SIFE team (Students In Free Enterprise) develops community projects that enable students to enhance their skills and learning experiences. Funds will be used to raise awareness of their work.
- New digital recording equipment in the School of Education will give trainee teachers the opportunity to incorporate ICT into school-based activities.
- A facility will be established to enable collaboration between students conducting technical project-work in textiles.
- A laboratory pack for new chemistry students will include a personalised lab coat, safety glasses and other "tools of the trade" required for laboratory work.
- A transportable box of key texts and other resources will support independent study for part-time and distance-learning students in the School of Education.
- The Hub, which allows students on the BSc (Hons) Multimedia course to upload their work to a "portfolio" website, will benefit from further development.
- Old office space will be used to create more quiet study spaces for students at Clifton campus.
- Trainee teachers will be able to develop their web design skills with the purchase of DreamWeaver software and licences for 20 computers.
- NTU students will be given an opportunity to train to become qualified basketball referees.

The Alumni Fund 2006

Make a difference – make a gift

Support from our alumni community is vital for providing extra resources and opportunities that make a difference to the future lives and careers of our current students.

In addition to continuing to fund projects like those featured here, the Alumni Fund is seeking to establish a student scholarship scheme.

You can help to make this possible. Please consider making a gift to the Alumni Fund. Thank you.

For information on how to make a contribution, including how to give shares and make provision for the University in your will, visit the website at: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni/fund/ways_to_give or contact the Development Office on 0115 848 8775 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk



1940s
1950s



1960s
1970s

1980s
1990s



2000s



My gift £25 £35 £50 £100

I enclose a cheque payable to Nottingham Trent University I wish to make my gift using the following:

Switch/Maestro Visa MasterCard Delta Charity Vouchers

Credit/Debit/CAF card number

Start date - Expiry date -

Signature

Date / /

Issue number (if present)

I wish Nottingham Trent University to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all future donations I make hereafter (please tick if appropriate)*

giftaid it

*Please note that for your gift to qualify for tax relief, you must be paying at least 28p in UK income tax for every £1 you donate.

Date / /

Signature

Address:

Title:

Subject(s) studied:

Forename(s):

Telephone (home):

Surname:

Telephone (mobile):

Year(s) of graduation:

Email:

Please return this form in the freepost envelope provided

Shelley finds her way in the art world

Shelley Jacobs (Fine Art 2006) has a fascination with issues of identity.

One day, she was sitting in a parked car in Stratford-upon-Avon when she glanced out of the window and spotted a sign that read "Shelley Road". She took a photograph which sat on her mantelpiece for two years, until she embarked on an MA in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University.

The photograph gave her the idea for a project that would enable her to explore her self-confessed obsession with her own name and reflect the journey of self-exploration she has taken since childhood.

Finding Shelley is an ongoing project that has already taken Shelley all over the UK in search of street signs bearing her name. She exhibited 231 images as an installation at the School of Art and Design's 2005 MA exhibition, representing 100 of the 288 locations she plans to visit around the country.



Shelley says: "Whenever I see my name I have to photograph it – or if I find an object bearing my name I have to buy it. I need to document that I exist in the world and am waiting to be found."

"The title *Finding Shelley* is both literal and metaphorical. I trawled countless copies of the A-Z and the Internet to find all the streets

called Shelley in the UK, but it is also about finding myself."

The installation – which included numerous repetitions of names like Shelley Street, Shelley Close, Shelley Drive, Shelley Avenue and Shelley Way – demonstrated the popularity of "Shelley" as a road name as well as the effectiveness of repetition as a tool of artistic expression. Shelley's work struck a chord and attracted a great deal of media attention, both nationally and overseas.

MA Fine Art Programme Leader Andrew Brown said: "I have been greatly impressed by Shelley's imagination in conceiving the project and I'm looking forward to what she does and where she goes next."

You can find out more about Shelley and her work at www.findingshelley.com and www.shelleyjacobs.com

New Deans join NTU

Three of the University's Schools have recently appointed new Deans.

Ann Priest has taken on the role in the School of Art and Design. She has experience of working in the industry for fashion houses including Mulberry and high-street retailer Wallis. She also has expertise in higher education management, having held the post of Dean at the London College of Fashion for the last 13 years, prior to which she was Head of Fashion Design and Marketing at the University of East London.



Ann Priest

The School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences has promoted Professor Jenny Saint from the post of Associate Dean.

Her long working relationship with NTU began when she took on a lectureship in rural home economics at Brackenhurst College in the late 1970s. In 1989 she became Head of Rural Enterprise at the college, later becoming Director of Studies with responsibility for developing the college's portfolio of courses.

When the college merged with NTU in 1999, she became Programmes Manager for the Department of Land-Based Studies, gaining the title of Professor in 2002 and becoming Associate Dean of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences in 2004.

Nottingham Business School has appointed Professor Baback Yazdani as Dean in view of his extensive leadership experience on a global scale in both industry and higher education.

Professor Yazdani is a chartered engineer and has a PhD from Warwick University in automotive product development.

During his career, he has set up and run design centres for the Ford Motor Company in the USA and had responsibility for product



Professor Jenny Saint

development operations at Land Rover and Jaguar.

His academic experience includes being a Principal Fellow of the Warwick Manufacturing Group, where he established and led the Product Design and Development Centre.

His understanding of the interface between the business world and the world of business schools makes him the ideal person to take Nottingham Business School forward.

Winners!

Nottingham Trent has a great track record for award-winning graduates. The latest batch of high-achievers have scooped up an impressive array of national and regional awards in recognition of their professionalism, determination and drive.

Exhibiting raw talent

Veejay Lingiah (Business Studies 1995), Managing Director of The Art Lounge in Birmingham, has been recognised as one of the most entrepreneurial men in the UK by winning the O2 Entrepreneur of the Year award at the prestigious *Arena O2 X Awards*.

A product of Veejay's mission to "demystify contemporary art and make it more accessible", The Art Lounge is changing the way people view and buy art, by providing exclusive representation for some uniquely

gifted artists such as Willard Wigan – creator of the world's smallest sculptures – and Temper, possibly the UK's most collected graffiti artist; and helping corporate clients to use artwork more successfully.

Peter Rampling, Head of SME Marketing at O2, said: "Veejay Lingiah is the perfect example of emerging raw talent in this country."

Veejay has been involved in a number of other projects, including a charitable art auction that raised money to rebuild houses and shops in Sri Lanka following the 2005 Tsunami.



Veejay Lingiah

The bicycle wheel of fortune

James Steward (Product Design 2004) netted the Shell Livewire Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Cyclepod, a revolutionary new bicycle-storage system which he developed as part of his degree.

James and business partner Natalie Connell beat off competition from 900 entrants and attended a ceremony at Claridges in London to receive their award.

James Steward says: "Winning was a massive pat on the back for myself and Natalie. We both worked so hard to turn a final-year project into a commercially desirable product and business."

The winning pair and their business, Built

from Scratch Design Ltd, received praise from the judges for developing a product with commercial potential on a global scale. You can find out more at www.cyclepods.co.uk



James Steward's Cyclepod

An asset to teaching



Zoe Bidmead

Science teacher Zoe Bidmead (Equine Studies 1999) was nominated by her own pupils and colleagues for a National Teaching Award. Her creative, innovative approach to teaching led to her becoming the 2006 *Guardian* Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School in the East Midlands.

In her six years at North Kesteven School in Lincoln, Zoe has injected new life into the science classroom. She says: "We try to make the curriculum broader by looking at it outside of the box."

When interviewed by the judging panel, pupil Amy-Jayne Hutchings (14) commented: "They asked me what word I would use to describe Ms Bidmead and I said 'perfect'. She always makes lessons interesting and it makes science easier to understand."

The judges praised Zoe for being a "tremendous asset" and a "beacon of excellence".

In response, Zoe made a point of saying that she gets her inspiration from her sister, Naomi, another NTU graduate (Primary Education 2000). She added: "I love getting up in the morning to do my job – every day is different, every child is different, and they can always make me smile."

Author's UnLtd gift

Fiona Whelpton (Humanities 2003), whose first book *The Cycle Path* was reviewed in the Spring 2005 issue of *Network*, has received a Milleneum Award for social entrepreneurs from charity UnLtd. The award consists of a grant of £4,500

towards publication and distribution costs for Fiona's second book, *The Musical Paintbox*. The grant has enabled Fiona to give away copies of the book, released on World Mental Health Day, to Nottinghamshire-based mental health organisations and charities.

Fiona, a sufferer of conversion

syndrome disorder (CSD), will become a Fellow of UnLtd at the end of the project, and, along with her publisher Jason Pegler, she is helping to establish an online support group for other CSD sufferers. The pair are also applying for further funding to set up a quarterly magazine aimed at mental health service users in the Nottinghamshire area.

Playing a Rare game

Earlier this year, alumnus Nick Burton (Computing Systems 1994) returned to NTU to give a lecture to students from the School of Computing and Informatics.

As Lead Graphical Software Engineer at video game developer Rare Ltd, part of his role is to encourage people to seek employment in the video games field, and he enjoys this “academic relations” aspect of his work.

He says he loves his job too much to even consider a career change, and he’s very serious about encouraging potential graduates to join the industry, particularly young women, as he’s all too aware that the industry is a highly male-dominated environment.

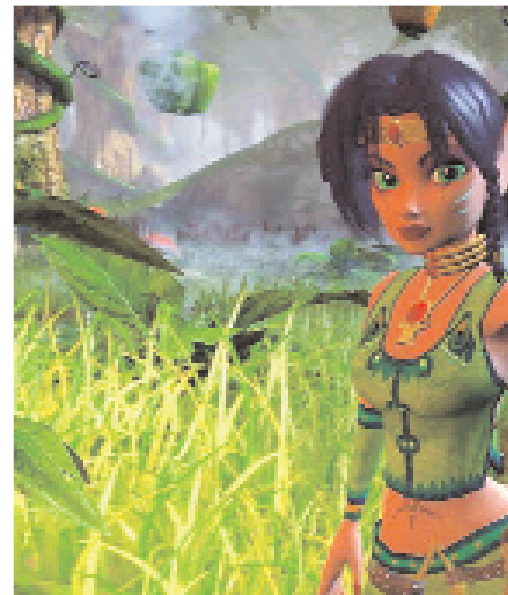
Nick is also a games graphics specialist with a strong background in research. He stayed on at Nottingham Trent after his first degree to study for a PhD in 3D volume visualisation and surface reconstruction. He completed three and a half years of research before deciding to accept a job offer from Rare.

He says: “I loved computer games as a kid. Jetpac on the Sinclair Spectrum is what started it all off. When I joined Rare I met the studio heads who had created Jetpac years ago, and was absolutely in awe of them.”



Rare (formerly Ultimate Play the Game) has won many awards and maintained a strong reputation for quality over the last 20 years. A recent highly publicised alliance with Microsoft Game Studios has enabled the company to define a clear future course within

the video games industry, and they are now developing software for the XBOX and its hugely popular successor the XBOX360.



Nick recently completed work on a new game called Kameo: Elements of Power for the XBOX360, and is now working on his second, as yet undisclosed, title for the same system.

By the time Nick gets to work on a new game, it is already laid out. He works with the art department at Rare to create the game’s look, decide how it should “behave”, and design the graphics.

Most of Nick’s work focuses on the “tween-to-teen” market. He says: “For me, the highlights are getting the game published, getting it to the top of the charts, getting good reviews and watching it sell worldwide, but I also love getting fan mail from kids – I’ve even got a letter pinned to my office noticeboard.”

New talent: apply here

The UK is a world leader in games production, exceeded only by the US and Japan in terms of output, and there are currently 9,000 people working in the rapidly growing UK games development sector.

NTU's School of Computing and Informatics is building a strong reputation for innovative, cutting-edge course design that responds well to the needs of industry. Two new undergraduate courses – Computer Science (Games Technology) and Interactive Systems (Games Design) – have recently been added to our portfolio.

The School's excellent record for graduate employment is due to our commitment to close consultation with industry, and our proactive approach to providing work placements.

Overall, among all UK universities, NTU has the third highest number of students taking year-long work placements, and students in the School of Computing and Informatics regularly secure top placements with salaries of up to £30,000.

Five recent graduates from our computing courses landed top jobs as software developers in city finance organisations as a result of our work-placement initiative and success in developing industry contacts in the UK, Europe and worldwide.

The games industry can offer serious career prospects to computing and art graduates, as well as experienced individuals wanting to change profession.

Companies like Rare and Microsoft Game Studios are committed to attracting new talent. If you are interested in a career in this sector, get your questions answered at www.rare.co.uk or by emailing recruitment@rare.co.uk



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Nottingham: game city

Recently designated a Science City, Nottingham has just received an appropriate boost to its vibrant cultural calendar.

GameCity is a pioneering international video game and interactive entertainment festival – the first of its kind in Europe.

Supported by Nottingham Trent University, this “street-level” celebration of gaming is set to stage a temporary takeover of high-profile venues including the Broadway Media Centre and Angel Row Gallery from 25 to 29 October 2006. Local bars and cafés will play host to live games, while art associated with gaming will be on show at Waterstone's bookshop and the Council House.

The event has been organised with the intention of having a positive impact on both the industry and the city. Festival director Iain Simons commented: “GameCity will entertain, inform and educate individuals, industry and the public sector on the value and potential of interactive entertainment for everyone.”

Students from Nottingham Trent undertaking relevant courses are actively being encouraged to participate in the festival, which is due to become an annual event, as part of their studies.

Professor Yvonne Barnett, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Science and Technology at NTU, said: “As a university we are excited by interactive technologies because they impact on so many aspects of modern life. Supporting the festival will provide us with opportunities for student recruitment, course design, developing industrial links and undertaking research.”



Esther's song for Saint Mary

Esther Stapleton (Business Studies 1994) is a talented woman with strong vision and a voice to match it.

Since graduating from Nottingham Trent University, she has achieved recognition as the first female artist in the UK to set up her own gospel music label – Adosia Records. The Nottingham-based company's most recent release is a charity single, written by Esther and performed by her and her sister to raise funds for the restoration of St Mary's Church in the Lace Market.

The single – *Walking with Angels* – was launched at Nottingham's Djanogly City Academy in April. Esther and her sister, Julianne, performed the song, along with a selection from their new album. They were accompanied by a group of dancers from a local school, including Esther's ten-year-old niece Charlotte.

Esther says: "St Mary's is a beautiful church, and I really wanted to do something to help raise funds for its restoration. Julianne and I are absolutely delighted that so many people turned out to support the launch."

The site of St Mary's is the oldest Christian Foundation in Nottingham, and the church which now stands there is an excellent example of early English Perpendicular architecture. As with all medieval buildings, restoration is a continuous task, and a project is currently underway to ensure that St Mary's remains the jewel in the Lace Market's crown for many years to come.

Businesses in the Lace Market have been showing their support by displaying copies of Esther's single at their reception desks, and one company is making arrangements to feature it on their website. The single is also on sale at Castle Gate Bookshop at a cost of £5, with all proceeds going to the St Mary's fund.

So far, Esther's venture has raised over £700. She says: "We are happy with the record sales and we continue to get support from businesses and churches that have been promoting it."



Esther Stapleton (right) with her sister Julianne.

Success comes gift-wrapped for Jenny

Alumna Jenny Keogh (Photography 1999) has turned her art into a successful business by taking her own photographic images and reproducing them on high-quality and bespoke gift wrap for special occasions.

Her wholesale company, The Gift Wrap Shop, is supplying luxury wrapping paper to a number of retailers in Ireland and the UK, and interest is growing as far afield as Europe and Australia.

For the general market, Jenny uses macro photography to produce papers themed around special occasions, using abstract close-up images of Christmas cake, luxurious ribbons, chocolate sweets and holly, for example.

As a design-led, Irish-made product, Jenny's paper stands out from others on the market. All the photographic images are produced in her Dublin-based studio, and the paper is printed in Ireland.

Keen to provide something very special for the home market, she says: "At present, most of the wrapping paper sold in Ireland is imported from the UK and elsewhere. My aim is to provide a guaranteed Irish product and introduce my wrapping paper as a new concept to specialist gift shops who will advertise it at point of sale as 'Made in Ireland'."



Jenny came up with her entrepreneurial idea while working for specialist paper shop and stationery designer, Daintree. She says: "I was finding it difficult to make a proper living from photography as it is fine-

art based imagery that I specialise in. Working for Daintree introduced me to the public's interest in specialist paper, so I came up with the idea of combining my style of photography with a type of paper product that could be sold regularly and reach a wide audience."

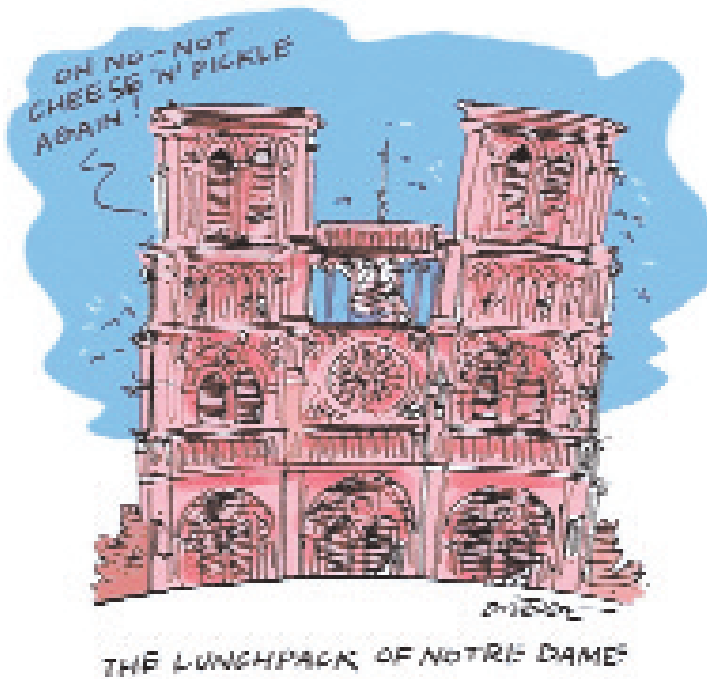
In the longer term, she plans to introduce gift tags, greeting cards and gift bags to her range, and is also offering a design service for corporate clients interested in having their own branded gift wrap and bags.



One of Jenny's colourful designs.

Drawing inspiration

Cartooning is a specialist art, and the full-time cartoonist a rare breed, but throughout his teens and student days, Pete Dredge (Graphic Design 1975) had one ambition – to join the cartooning club, and he dreamed of getting his work into the pages of satirical magazine *Punch*.



He was introduced to the magazine in the early 1960s. Pete says: "I used to read *Punch* as I waited for my short back and sides at the barbers' shop in the Black Boy Hotel in Nottingham. I was fascinated by the cartoon drawings and although the humour probably passed over my head, I was hooked."

It's been 30 years since Pete graduated with a Diploma in Graphic Design in 1975 from the then Trent Polytechnic, and not only did he achieve his dream, he has enjoyed a long, successful and varied career in the world of cartooning.

A brief spell working in graphic design indirectly launched him as a cartoonist when, in 1976, feeling frustrated with doing paste-up, he decided to submit a selection of gags (single cartoon drawings) to *Punch*. Three of them were accepted, and from that moment, which Pete describes as "life-changing", there was no stopping his meteoric rise as a freelance cartoonist.

He became a *Punch* regular, remaining on their books until the magazine folded in 2002, and even getting his cartoons onto the cover in 1980 and 1982. Another long-standing gig began with *Private Eye* in 1977, and in the first few years of his career Pete had work published regularly by high-profile publications including *Radio Times* and the *Times Educational Supplement*.

He decided to branch out for a while by submitting comedy sketch ideas to BBC

Television's *Not the Nine O'Clock News*. Some of his material was accepted and he says: "It was a thrill putting words into the mouths of Pamela, Mel, Rowan and Griff."

Since then, Pete has continued to work freelance for magazines and newspapers including *The Spectator*, *Church Times* and the *Solicitors' Journal*, as well as taking on commissions from corporate, PR, advertising and information media clients.

The world of cartooning has changed a lot in 30 years. Pete says: "The type of openings that were

around when I first started out are no longer there, so getting your foot on the bottom of the cartooning ladder is much trickier. Unless you're the next Gary Larson [of *Far Side* fame], you're unlikely to make a fortune – cartooning is very much a vocational calling."

Pete's passion for cartooning as a vocation led him, in 1995, to set up a home-study business with a group of fellow artists. Due to the demand of other projects, the plug was pulled on this venture in 2003, but the College of Cartoon Art Home Study Course has a number of graduates who are now working professionally.

More recently, Pete did a stint as Artistic Director of Nottingham's first cartoon festival, The Big Grin, which took place from 2002 to 2004. It was a popular addition to the city's cultural calendar, and Pete is now hoping that funding will become available to appoint a full-time festival director to take it forward as a regular event.

To see more of Pete's work, visit his website at www.petedredge.co.uk



Pete at Shrewsbury Cartoon Festival, 2006.

Open to progress

The move to create a more inspiring learning and working environment at Nottingham Trent University, in line with the University's Strategic Plan, is making great progress with the recent opening of two important campus buildings.

The official launch of the refurbished Bonington building – home to the School of Art and Design – took place in early May. The occasion attracted students, University staff, and VIPs from all corners of the design world. Internationally renowned entrepreneur and designer Sir Paul Smith CBE presided.

A local lad himself, Sir Paul commented: "I am delighted to be asked to launch Nottingham Trent University's new Bonington building. We need to continue to develop design talent to compete in the world market. It is great to see a centre such as this which offers students an inspiring environment where creativity can thrive."

The distinctive glass and steel addition to the building gives it a striking new entrance into a modern coffee bar that's been immediately popular with students and staff. The rest of the interior has been designed to complement the University's international reputation for excellence in art and design education, providing state-of-the-art computing suites, photographic facilities, exhibition areas and multi-functional design studios.

Clifton campus was also witness to a sense of occasion when a new building, which



Sir Paul Smith inside the refurbished Bonington building.

currently houses the School of Computing and Informatics, was officially opened by Bill Rammell, Minister of State at the Department for Education and Skills with responsibility for lifelong learning, further and higher education.

The building has been in operation for a full academic year, and is proving its worth by enabling new courses to be added to the University's portfolio as well as allowing for a significant increase in research activity. It has



Professor Adrian Hopgood, Professor Neil Gorman, Bill Rammell and Professor Yvonne Barnett.



New building at Clifton, currently home to the School of Computing and Informatics.

also had a role to play in attracting new students.

In his welcome speech, Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Gorman stated: “This new building is having a real impact on young people who attend our open days. It’s the ideal environment in which to learn – it’s a place they want to be.”

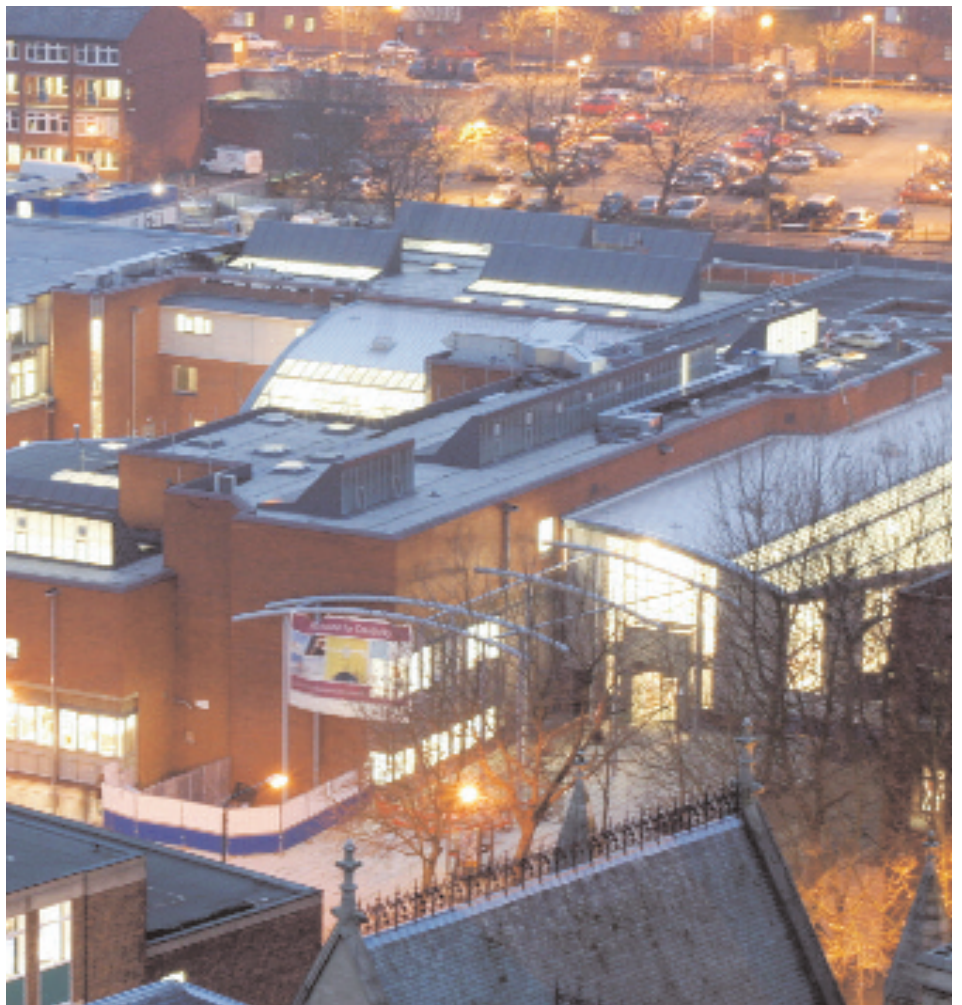
The Minister said that he was impressed with the building. He also took the opportunity to acknowledge Nottingham Trent’s excellent graduate employability rate and to congratulate our work in widening participation, which has created links with 75 schools and colleges across the five counties of the East Midlands region.

He said: “Students make the decision to go to university when they are young. The best way to bring the idea of university to these students is when they are at school.”

He also expressed his hope that “places like this will challenge the anti-science culture that exists.” No doubt he would approve of another development currently taking place at Clifton – the construction of the new Astronomical Observatory.

The observatory, a five-metre dome, will contain an 18 to 20-inch optical telescope with full computer control. A radiotelescope will be located nearby and a range of portable Meade telescopes will also be available.

The new observatory will facilitate outreach work with schools and other interested external groups, as well as being used for teaching purposes with undergraduate students.



Bonington building

Artful celebration marks end of an era

This summer was a time of new beginnings for the School of Art and Design, whose refurbished Bonington building was officially opened by local fashion luminary Sir Paul Smith. It also marked the end of an era as the School's widely respected Performance and Live Art, Contemporary Arts and Creative Arts degree courses came to an end.



Patricia Dean: *My Victoria Studios*

The occasion was marked by a special two-day celebration – an opportunity to show work by students past and present, to reunite people who have experienced and been influenced by these courses, and to engage in debate about education and creativity.

The celebration was called CACAPALA (Creative Arts, Contemporary Arts, Performance And Live Art) and the venue was Victoria Studios on Shakespeare Street.

A final-year degree show for this year's graduating students formed the first part of the event, and the second day was dedicated to the exhibition of work by previous graduates. The celebration did clash with the World Cup (including England's opening match!), but that didn't prevent around 80 people, three quarters of whom were alumni, attending.

Lecturer Andrew Brown, who organised the event, is himself a graduate of the Contemporary Arts degree (1997) who came back to Nottingham Trent to do a PGCE in Further Education (2001) before taking a job as a lecturer.

He said: "I would like to thank all those who took part in the celebration. It was great that current final-year students could meet



Musician Rachel Loshak

and see the work of former students as they can see that their degree holds value and that graduates are still working in the field of creative arts."

A number of professional artists returned to support the School in saying goodbye to the courses that helped them launch their careers.

Among them was Rachel Loshak (Creative Arts 1994), a musician now based in New York, who submitted a CD for exhibition at the

CACAPALA event. Currently working on her fifth album, she is a bass-player and singer-songwriter whose sound takes a unique, sophisticated approach to traditional pop music.

Rachel has been on a number of tours and performed with high-profile artists Norah Jones and Moby. She says: "It has taken 12 years (since I graduated), but I finally feel like I'm achieving a certain amount of success. My creative heart was nurtured by my degree, which is why I felt I wanted to contribute something to the celebration of the course."

A more recent graduate, Patricia Dean (Performance and Live Art 2005), said: "I was very excited at the prospect of not only seeing other work but also having the opportunity to celebrate the course and show some work of my own."

Currently studying for an MA in Film Studies at the University of East Anglia, Patricia submitted a video installation consisting of still photography accompanied by a voiceover, entitled *My Victoria Studios*.

The piece comprises around 200 separate images of Victoria Studios, the venue in which the CACAPALA celebration took place. It forms a cartographic representation of spaces inside and outside of the building.

Patricia explains: "By using images of the building devoid of people, I attempted to convey absence. Then, through monologue, I attempted to fill each of the empty

spaces, highlighting their role as containers for feelings, thoughts and memories, thus creating an intimate portrayal of Victoria Studios."

Artist and documentary film-maker Jeanie Finlay (Contemporary Arts 1995) chose to take part in CACAPALA because she felt her course had made a lasting and significant contribution to the cultural and artistic life of the city of Nottingham, and further afield.

Her new film, *Teenland*, is about “four bedrooms, four teenagers, and four portraits of life behind the closed bedroom door”.

Jeanie’s interactive artworks incorporate digital media and documentary. She often works in collaboration with members of the public, gathering opinions and stories through interviews and online questionnaires.

In *Teenland*, she has developed this way of working to create a distinctive style of film-making that is informed by an intimate connection with her subjects and the spaces they inhabit.

Jeanie has exhibited her work at key gallery venues across the UK and shown her films around the world.

Jeanie, Patricia and Rachel were joined by another group of artists who have also achieved worldwide attention: international contemporary arts group, Gob Squad.

The group’s founder members Sean Patten, Sarah Thom, Alex Large (all Creative Arts 1994) and Liane Sommers (Theatre Design 1994) met at NTU when the School of Art and Design had a link with a University in Geissen, Germany. Through this link, Johanna Freiburg and Berit



Still taken from Jeanie Finlay’s *Teenland*.

Stumpf came to NTU as ERASMUS students. They joined Gob Squad, and were later followed by Simon Will (Creative Arts 1991)

and most recent member, film actor Bastian Trost.

Liane and Alex left Gob Squad to pursue a successful career in music video, leaving the group with six members: three Germans; three English; three female; three male.

Gob Squad is based in the UK and Berlin and performs all over the world in theatres and galleries. They produced a video installation for Expo 2000 entitled *Where do you want to go to die?* which was submitted for the CACAPALA celebration.

Member Sarah Thom says: “We knew immediately that we should contribute to the show. The course meant such a lot to all of us – it has great prestige throughout Europe and some amazing people and groups have been developed from it.”

The great tradition of live and contemporary art will continue to thrive within the School. A Masters degree in Performance and Live Art is in its second year and builds upon the strengths of the undergraduate degree. BA (Hons) Fine Art and BA (Hons) Theatre Design also support various practices for which the CACAPALA courses were celebrated.



International arts group Gob Squad

Two leading lights head for pastures new

2005-2006 saw the retirement of two leading academics who have made a significant mark on the University.

Both have given more than 30 years' service, beginning their careers as lecturers at Trent Polytechnic, and moving into key management roles as the University went through its gradual metamorphosis to become NTU.

Prolific writer won't slow down

Professor Trevor Palmer had been Pro Vice-Chancellor since 2002 when he left for a well-earned retirement in December 2005.

He began his career as a clinical biochemist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children after graduating from Cambridge University in 1966. He carried out research for a PhD on inherited disorders, which led him to develop the two main interests of his academic career – enzymology and evolution, the latter stimulating a further interest in examining how natural catastrophes influence the course of life on Earth.

Trevor began working at Trent Polytechnic in 1974 as a lecturer in biochemistry. He became Head of the Department of Life Sciences in 1987, Professor of Life Sciences in

1990, Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1992, and the University's Senior Dean in 1998, prior to becoming Pro Vice-Chancellor.

He has been a prolific writer throughout his career, and has had almost 100 research papers and review articles published. His first textbook, *Enzymes*, ran to four editions before he wrote its successor, and it is still considered an important text for students and researchers in the field of biosciences. Trevor has written four other books, the most recent being *Perilous Planet Earth*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2003.

Retirement for Trevor won't mean slowing down, and he has been hard at work on the new edition of *Enzymes* with colleague Phil Bonner from the School of Biomedical and Natural Sciences. However, he is relishing his newfound freedom to indulge other interests, including cricket, his beloved Nottingham Forest football team, and his family: wife Jan and two children, both of whom have been inspired by their father to pursue careers in academia.

OBE marks high point for Jean

Jean Williamson, Dean of the School of Art and Design, departed on a high note as 2006 was also the year that she was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Jean was a knitwear designer when she began her academic career at the University in 1972. She took on the role of lecturer in design, specialising in knitwear. She was given the brief of developing a new degree programme within the Fashion



Jean Williamson

and Textiles Department. This led to the inception of BA (Hons) Knitwear Design, a course which is still running over 30 years later, though in a slightly different guise as BA (Hons) Knitwear Design and Knitted Textiles.

In 1978, Jean received a promotion to principal lecturer, and then took on responsibility for all courses within the Fashion and Textiles Department as Curriculum Director. She later became Associate Head of Fashion and Textiles, then Associate Dean of the School of Art and Design before being made Dean of the School in 2004.

On accepting her OBE, Jean said: "It's a real honour to have the opportunity to help young people develop and go on to become designers that contribute to the economy of this country and the world. I'm delighted – it's tear-jerking that people would think so highly of my contribution."

Jean was not the only member of NTU staff, past and present, to have made it to the Queen's List this year.

Parking Control Officer Melvin Fletcher was awarded an MBE, and Sally Mellors, former Head of Widening Participation, received an OBE. Both were recognised for services to higher education. George Buckley, former Principal Lecturer in Pharmacology, also received an MBE, for services to local government in the East Midlands.



Professor Trevor Palmer

It's all for charity in the long run

Running 26 miles in three-to-four hours is not everybody's cup of tea, but marathons seem to have become a popular pastime among Nottingham Trent alumni.

This year, Richard Hutchings (Civil Engineering 1977) and Chris Taylor (Accounting and Finance 1985) both completed the London Marathon, and Mark Pawlett (Applied Biology 1992) has just completed the Robin Hood Marathon and will run the New York Marathon in November.

Mark wasn't exactly planning to run two marathons in the space of two months. He says: "It happened by accident, really. I agreed to run the Nottingham marathon with a friend, then was contacted by the charity Refuge who asked if I wanted a place in the New York Marathon. I couldn't really refuse!"

Mark had run for Refuge before, when he completed his first ever marathon in London last year. He clocked up just four hours and seven minutes and collected around £1,800. "Not bad for a first attempt", he says.

According to Mark, the feeling of achievement on crossing the finish line is hard to beat. He adds: "I also enjoy the training. The hard part is doing the long weekend runs, but finding friends to train with keeps the motivation up. In some ways, collecting the money for the charity is

almost as hard as the event itself."

The fabulous atmosphere of the London Marathon is something Mark will remember for a long time, and Chris Taylor agrees. He finished this year's race (his tenth marathon) in three hours and 21 minutes. He comments: "It was far from my best time. I went a little slower this year so that I could take in the atmosphere, which I thought



Richard Hutchings



Mark Pawlett

was the best ever. I laughed a lot – the band playing the theme from *Hawaii 5-0* on such a miserable rainy day was particularly amusing."

Running marathons has taken Chris all over the world. He says: "I enjoy everything about marathoning – the preparation, the challenge, the experiences and the big day itself," and he encourages others to follow in his footsteps: "If you think about it, if only for a second, you might not do it and that would be a real shame – it's so very

rewarding."

Richard Hutchings agrees: "Don't hesitate! If you don't get a ballot place then get a gold bond place through a charity – it's an experience not to be missed."

Richard's motivation for running this year was the sad death of close friend Stan Brewster (Civil Engineering 1975), who was killed in the London terrorist bombings on 7 July 2005. The Nottingham Trent alumni community lost two members – Stan, and Laura Webb (Humanities 1998) – in the shocking attacks on the capital last summer.

Richard was devastated and decided to pay tribute to Stan. He said: "Running the London Marathon for Stan is a fitting way to remember him, as we spent many of our lunch hours jogging through the Derbyshire Dales together."

He completed the race in four hours and 37 minutes and received a tremendous amount of support on his way round the course. He even met a fellow runner who had known Stan, and as he crossed the finish line, was handed a crumpled £10 note by another runner who said: "I read your T-shirt. Please have this for the charity you ran for."

So far, Richard has raised more than £2,000 for four charities, including the London Bombing Charitable Relief Fund.



Chris Taylor

Planning a reunion?

Are you thinking of planning a reunion but don't know where to start?

Ask for an Alumni Reunion Pack today!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our new Alumni Reunion Pack, designed to help you with your plans, no matter how small or large your group may be.

The pack, put together in association with Experience Nottinghamshire, contains tips on arranging your reunion and explains how the Alumni Office can help you to get in touch with some of your "old" friends. It also provides information on venues and hotel accommodation in Nottingham. Packs are free – all we ask is that you let us know about your reunion, and maybe share some photographs with us after the event. Request your pack now by emailing alumni@ntu.ac.uk or phoning **0115 848 8777**.

If you have a reunion planned, and would like to let others know, don't forget to contact us so that we can advertise it on our website at: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni

You can also use the Message Board in the online Community Area [<https://alumni.ntu.ac.uk/themessageboard.cfm>] to let all your old friends and classmates know about any forthcoming reunions.

If you are planning to return to Nottingham for your reunion, Experience Nottinghamshire can advise you on what's hot and happening in the city around the time of your event. Their dedicated team of venue



location specialists can help with any reunion. Contact them on **0115 962 8313**, visit their website at www.visitnotts.com/conferences or email:

conferences@experiencenottinghamshire.com

Whether or not you are planning a get-

together, Experience Nottinghamshire exclusively provides Nottingham Trent University alumni with information and discounts on hotel accommodation, venues

and events in the city. For more details visit: www.visitnotts.com/alumni

For more information about planning a reunion, and to obtain an Alumni Reunion Pack, contact us at alumni@ntu.ac.uk or **0115 848 8777**.

Ten steps for reunion success

1. Submit details of your proposed reunion to: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni (don't forget to add a message to the Message Board in the online Community Area).
2. Check out the availability of possible venues and decide what type of event you want.
3. Plan at least six months ahead.
4. Ask the Alumni Office to forward your invitations on by email or post.
5. All replies received by the Alumni Office will be forwarded to you.
6. Send out further information to those who have expressed an interest in attending.
7. You might want to think about asking people for photos of your time at the University in order to theme your event.
8. Don't forget to ask all of your reunion friends to update their contact details at: www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni
9. RELAX AND ENJOY, but don't forget to send in news and photos from your reunion to www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni
10. Do it all again next year!

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www.visitnotts.com for more information
or call **0115 915 5330**

Wedding news

Marc Lancaster | Chemistry 1999
Melanie Platts | Human Services 2005

Married Saturday 20 May 2006 at Risley Hall Hotel in Derbyshire. The couple met while studying at NTU. Other alumni who attended the wedding were Matt and Helen Foulger, Chris Furber, Matt Lister, Leanne Storey, Alana Riley, Preethi Perera and Laura Gilbert. The couple had a fantastic two-week honeymoon in Sri Lanka. Marc is currently a police officer in Nottingham and Melanie works for the Placement and Employment Service in Business, Law and Social Sciences at NTU.



Marc Lancaster and Melanie Platts

Mark Riches | Accounting and Finance 2003
Ewa Szpak | Accounting and Finance 2003

Married April 2006 at St Michael's Church in St Albans. Other alumni who attended were Maid of Honour Rebecca Warner (Fashion Marketing and Communication 2002), Kate Russell and Paul Steels (both Accounting and Finance 2003), and Jon Wilkinson (Civil Engineering 2003). The couple spent a week-long "mini-moon" in Italy and a longer honeymoon in Dubai and the Maldives. They met while on their placement year and are expecting a baby in December.



Mark Riches and Ewa Szpak

Gibson Chang | Management and Marketing 2005
Jennifer Lin | Management and Marketing 2004

Married 7 January 2006 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Taipei. The couple met at NTU during the 10-week professional course during 2003-2004 and stayed together throughout their time at Nottingham Trent.



Gibson Chang and Jennifer Lin

Stephen Porter | Mechanical Engineering 2003 and Engineering 2004
Laura Williams | Interior Architecture and Design 2004

Married 8 October 2005 at St Peters Church, Petersfield in Hampshire. Other alumni who attended were Neil Mitchell (Best Man), Oliver Butcher (Usher), Richard Kelly, Caroline Porter, Jill Pyrah, Tim Moon, Verity Hayes, Miranda Illiffe, Rachel Uttley, Andrea Gaines, Ben Jardine, Jo Matthews, Becky Ambrose and Steve Wynne, Gemma Hampton, Amy Wormald, Karen Lees, Nicci Setchell and Kirsty Owens. The couple met in 1997 at sixth-form college. They spent their honeymoon in Madeira and now live in Sutton, Surrey.



Stephen Porter and Laura Williams

Claire Hebdon | Social Sciences 1998
Richard Robinson | Estate Surveying 1999

Married 17 August 2005 at St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley in Essex. The couple met during their first year at university as next door neighbours in Sandby hall of residence. The wedding was attended by NTU graduates Joanna Aldridge (née Chapman), Clare Flynn (née Richardson), Elaine Hicklin (née Collier), Emma Denson and fellow Sandby resident Jo Rowlandson (née Parrish). The couple now live in London with their first child (born August 2006).



Richard Robinson and Claire Hebdon

Alice Duncombe | Modern Languages with Communication Studies 1999
Tom Gainsford | History 1998

Married 9 July 2005. The wedding took place at Alice's father's farm in Buckinghamshire. Friends who attended included Sarah Pollard (Humanities 1998), Emma Prince and Dave Enser (both Modern European Studies 1999), Caroline Howlett (Modern Languages with Communication Studies 1999), Preeyaa Verma and David Fairley. The couple spent their honeymoon in Bali.



Alice Duncombe and Tom Gainsford

Past and present

Fifties, Sixties and Seventies

Michael Grocock | Agriculture 1950

I took early retirement from Unilever at age 55 and shortly after Unilever shut up shop (not suggesting that my leaving had anything to do with the decision!). Until I reached the official retirement age of 65 I was employed selling books to schools, and for the last seven years I have been a CDT technician at the Sir Christopher Hatton School in Wellingborough.

Robert Mills | Mechanical Engineering 1958

Now retired and enjoying travelling to Africa and Turkey, I have two children and three grandchildren – my son is a doctor in Mansfield and my daughter teaches in Warwick.

Derek Wildgust | Mechanical Engineering 1962

I spent most of my career as a mechanical engineering design draughtsman for various companies, but have been self-employed for the last 12 years.

Roberta Szourou | Education 1972

I am just completing house renovations and hoping to set up “chambres d’hôtes” (bed and breakfast) for British and American visitors to local companies.

Eighties

Rosemary Tinker | Building (Building Services Surveying) 1982 and Quantity Surveying 1985

Currently National Chair of the Association of Women in Property, I am also a project manager at AYH plc, construction and property consultants.

Victoria Backhouse | Business Studies 1987

I worked in sales at Britvic Soft Drinks until 2000, then left to start a family. Now I am back working, for my own consultancy firm. I would love to hear from anyone from our graduating year and anyone else that I knew in Nottingham.

Kirsteen McCrory (née Robinson) | Primary Education 1989

Having taught in primary schools since 1990, along with my family I joined the many Brits flocking to Perth in Western Australia in search of a better life, especially for our two children – Mackenzie (7) and Ella (3). The move gained me a new career as research assistant to Dr Len Sparrow who once graced the School of Education on the Clifton campus. This part-time position could lead to a PhD – probably something I would never have even considered in the UK. Australia truly is a land of opportunities!

Nineties

Jasdeep Singh | Applied Chemistry 1991

I’ve spoken to Mac, Cham, Hari, Iain, Rob and Keith so far about a reunion next year – 20 years have flown by! It would be good to see you guys.

Anders Timms | Manufacturing Systems Engineering with Management 1993

On March 11 2005 my wife Elizabeth gave birth to twins – Annalise (5lbs 9oz) and William (6lbs 14oz). We are well and enjoying life in Macclesfield.

Andrew Rushton | Engineering Surveying 1994

I joined GRS Contractors in St Helens for two years after leaving University, then spent two years running pubs. Currently in my eighth year at Initial Surveys Ltd, I am married to Claire and have a beautiful son, Lucas. I am working towards my partnership.

Rachel Harrison (née Stones) | Textile Design 1995

I have now been teaching in primary schools for almost 10 years – in Yorkshire and in Hackney, London, for six. It’s hard work but I wouldn’t do anything else! I am married to the lovely David Harrison, who gained a BSc Building in 1997. We have two children – Stanley (5) and Esme (18 months).

Tony Salinas | Contemporary Arts 1995

I married Kazuyo Miki in January 2004 in Seville where we had a flamenco choir. Another alumna and great friend, Sarer, came with her family all the way from the UK. Nobody made it to the Japanese wedding three months later, but we welcome any old mates from the University to visit us in Osaka, where we now live.

Wilson Fung | Engineering Surveying 1996

Fellow members of the 1993-1996 Tae Kwon Do Team, please contact me. I would especially like to hear from Master Farhard, Michael, Emma and Jane.

Matthew Owen | Humanities 1996

I am currently settled and happy living near Bath, and working as Web Editor for the University of the West of England. In October 2004 I finally married alumna Helen Cowood (who I met on the Humanities course in 1993) and we had our first child, George Thomas Owen, in February 2006.

Roger Griffiths | Civil Engineering 1997

I manage a 180-strong maintenance team for 360 miles of track. I recently married Jo and we are expecting an addition to the family very soon. I would love to catch up with anyone from my year.

Neil Fineberg | LLB Europe with French 1998

I am currently Company Director for a financial and executive recruitment consultancy called Fine Green Associates which I started with my business partner on 1 August 2005. I got married in May 2006 to the lovely Sarah McIntosh and we honeymooned for 14 nights at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel in Dubai.

Emma Moores (née Martin) | English and Environmental Studies 1998

I became an English teacher in 2000, have since worked in schools in Birmingham and Gloucester, and am currently in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. After leaving Nottingham Trent (which I loved!), I went back-packing round South-East Asia, etc (the usual route). I got married two years ago, and we have a little boy who’s gorgeous and hard work, all at the same time! We recently moved to Cheshire to be nearer to family. I’ve stayed in touch with a few people from University, and we often reminisce.

Paul Andrews | Law 1994 and Equal Opportunities 1998

After graduation, I knew that I had the skills and confidence to do something with my life – I was just not sure what. However, in 2002 my partner Diane Doran (MBA Health 1997) and I, influenced by many TV programmes, decided to get into the property development business. In the first year we bought five houses. Diane started an online supply company last year and has built it into a market leader that imports and exports all over the world. Next year we will move into the construction industry, and already have our sights firmly fixed on development land.

Noughties

Joanna Cartledge (née Garratt) | Business and Quality Management 2001

I have just launched www.thebagboutique.co.uk which is a site offering handbags and accessories designed by up-and-coming UK designers.

Cinthya Franco | Television Journalism 2001

I work for the Spanish Section of UN Radio in New York. After completing my Masters degree at Nottingham Trent I was offered some very good positions in the media in my home country (Paraguay), as well as this vacancy at the United Nations.

Claire Hamilton | Television Production Design 2001

Having worked for Stone and Walter for three years, I left the company for a short while. Then I received a call from the owner to see if I would like to take over the business. I purchased it in May 2005. I design, sell and install bespoke designer kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms. Our first year was very hard work but the referrals are just starting to roll in. I just got engaged to my partner, who was an Economics student at Nottingham Trent. We are getting married in December 2007.

Paul Mills | Biochemistry and Microbiology 2002

I recently gained my PhD at the University of East Anglia where I have been researching the role of nitric oxide in salmonella infection. I am now a post-doc at UEA, and still working in the lab where I did my PhD. I am currently engaged to Colleen and we are getting married in May 2007.

Audrey Pryce-Davy | Humanities Accelerated Intensive Route 2002

I am currently studying at Derby University after working for the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, and am hoping to become an occupational therapist. Thanks to NTU for giving me the confidence to pursue a new career and for the opportunities it has opened up, and hi to all the staff – you're BRILLIANT!!!

Sam Plumbe | Construction Suite 2003

I'm enjoying life: living in Fulham, work is going well, enjoying skiing holidays with old Ski Club friends. Recently scared myself by buying a flat!

Amie Garner | Broadcast Journalism 2004

Worked at Star FM in Cheltenham for 10 months before landing a new job in Bristol in January – really enjoying it. I often have reunions with people from the Broadcast Journalism course and also see old housemates – they all remain close friends.

Nicola Morris | Theatre Design 2005

I am working at a prep. school in Dorset with 350 children, and was promoted to the job of Assistant House-Parent to two boarding houses after one term. I am living at the school and loving it – I find it extremely interesting. The pay and long holidays are great – I highly recommend the school for theatre design placements.

Lucy Wills | Primary Education 2005

My fiancé and I have fulfilled our dream of moving onto a narrowboat and are currently cruising around Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire while both working full-time!

Nicholas Wiltshire | Conservation and Countryside Management 2005

After graduation in July, I went on a few holidays. I got a job at Centre Parc as a conservation ranger, working with people and doing practical conservation, etc. I am hoping to travel next year with my girlfriend.

Why not go online at www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni and tell your friends what you are doing now or see what your friends are up to, all in a safe, password-protected area especially for Nottingham Trent alumni.

Obituaries

Mike Caldwell | Legal Studies 1975

Much loved husband of Kathie and father to Helen, Emma and David, Mike passed away on 6 June 2006 following a year-long battle with cancer. At the time of his death, Mike was the Director of the Vodafone Group Foundation. Nottingham-born and bred, he met wife Kathie in the Students' Union bar during his time at Trent Polytechnic. He often reminisced about the good times he'd had at school, university and work, and his family hope that all his friends will remember him with a big smile. Following graduation Mike continued to show great support to NTU as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board and a regular visitor to the University. Mike is sadly missed by all who knew him.

Wilfred Herbert Kibble | former Brackenhurst student

Much loved father to Simon, Martin and Giles, Wilfred died suddenly on 12 February 2006 while walking the fields he loved so much. He is sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Russell Kirk | Integrated Engineering 1998

Much loved brother to Robin and Sharan, Russell died on 28 February 2006. Russell had worked in engineering since the age of 16 until 1994 before returning to study for his HND in Integrated Engineering. He was also a member of the Institute of Incorporated Engineers. Russell is sadly missed.

Ann Pratley | LLB Law 1990

Much loved wife of Steve and mother to Lachlan, Coral, Guy and Amber, Ann died on 26 January 2006 aged 66. After graduation Ann worked at Dorian's Solicitors in Derby for two years before taking early retirement. She also qualified as a housing practitioner for the Chartered Institute of Housing. Ann moved to Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, in 1997 and used her qualifications to give free help and advice on homelessness and law. She became a councillor for Mablethorpe Town Council, and later for East Lindsey District Council. Known affectionately as "The Beast of Mablethorpe East", she was very much a public figure. She always had time for the people of her community and saw it as part of her Christian duty to do her best to improve Mablethorpe. Ann will be very sadly missed by her family, friends and colleagues, her church and the women's section of the Mablethorpe British Legion.

Matthew Watkins | Quantity Surveying 1997

Much loved son of Rita Watkins, Matthew died tragically on 22 April 2006 in a fall while climbing Snowdon with friends. He was an experienced mountain climber, having reached the peaks of Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scar Fell. Matthew's family are fundraising for the Llanberis Mountain Rescue team who worked so hard for over nine hours to rescue him. Matthew's death has left a big void in lots of people's hearts and he is sadly missed. For further information on Llanberis Mountain Rescue, and for details of how to make a donation, visit their website at: www.llanberismountainrescue.co.uk



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