



Her Royal Highness with the Hon Sir Rocco Forte and Sir Colln Corness at the Netherhall Opening

Duchess of Kent opens new Netherhall

WINNING the hearts of all by her warmth and sincerity, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent officially opened the new buildings of Netherhall House on 30 May 1995, in the presence of numerous dignitaries, residents and friends of the hall.

On that day an enterprise begun more than 40 years ago came to fulfilment with the successful completion of the last phase of the Netherhall Project. The new buildings more than double the capacity of the hall, allowing over 100 students to benefit from the unique service Netherhall offers, and providing quality sporting and conference facilities.

“The intention of Netherhall since its inception has been to succour friendships worldwide,” the Duchess said in her speech, and friends there were in abundance to celebrate this historic day in the life of the hall.

These included some of the leading businessmen and captains of industry who have helped to make Netherhall’s dream a brick and stone reality.

Sir Bernard Audley, Chairman of the Netherhall House Trust, reminded the audience in his speech that “the works may be finished but the fundraising caravan rolls on”, adding humorously, however, that “those of us who are tied to the camel’s back from now until the millennium will face the task with courage.”

The other Trustees – the Hon Sir Rocco Forte, Chairman and Chief Executive of Forte plc, and Sir Robert

Clark, Chairman of Rauscher, Pierce and Clark – were joined by some Honorary Patrons of Netherhall House such as Sir Colin Corness, Chairman of Glaxo plc, and Sir Bryan Thwaites, former Principal of Westfield College. Other leading figures present included the Mayor of Camden; Lord Forte;

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Sir Bernard Audley and Neil Pickering show the development from the roof garden with detailed explanations from the design team



Grace hands over the bouquet as the Mayor of Camden, Sir Bernard Audley, Sir Robert and Lady Clark and Sir Bryan Thwaites look on



HE Costa Lobo, Lord Butterfield, and Messrs Radia, Madhvani and MacLean relaxing before the arrival of the Duchess

Lord Butterfield; Professor Andrew Rutherford, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London; Fr Richard Stork, Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Britain; and Mr Neil Clarke, the Chairman of the Coal Board, himself a former Netherhall resident.

These mingled with numerous diplomats, among them the High Commissioners of Australia, India, Uganda, and Mauritius; the Papal Nuncio; and the ambassadors of Fiji and Portugal, together with many present and past residents. For the latter, it was a day of emotional reunions. Old friends like Vincent Ang, Augustine Boon, John Henry, Bill Boardman and Neil Pickering, residents together in 1967, posed for a photograph - certain that whatever else has changed, their affection for Netherhall has remained undimmed.

"The last stone is of at least as much importance as the first," Neil reminded the public in the spacious new conference room, "and we can now look with considerable satisfaction at the finished product". It was good,

he added, that all residents would now have single rooms, some with en-suite facilities.

Referring to the new building at the Lakefield Educational and Catering School, that is also part of the Netherhall Project, he added: "The extension to Lakefield with its new training kitchen enables the Catering School to meet the increasing demands of modern educational qualifications with great confidence, and their service now extends even to taking care of the students' personal laundry. Netherhall itself offers the vital on-site work experience component of Lakefield's training programme."

But it was a day for more than speeches. From the moment the Duchess arrived, the young people whom the hall seeks primarily to serve soon found themselves at the heart of proceedings, as it became clear that she was principally interested in meeting the residents. As they were introduced to her, she had words of interest and concern for each. When four-year-old Grace, the niece of hall director Peter

Herbert, came forward to present a bouquet, and almost stumbled in her efforts to curtsy, the Duchess knelt down to steady her and speak to her at her level.

Then the tour of the hall began. On the roof garden, the project architectural and engineering team, Javier Castanon (a former resident) and George Rickman, explained the construction of the different buildings and their uses. Observing the all-weather pitch, the Duchess expressed pleasure that the project included a tennis court (she is the Patron of Wimbledon). "It's important that people can get rid of their pent-up energies", she commented. The Duchess also took a close interest in Lakefield and spoke to each of the trainees of the Catering School, while she examined the splendid spread of food which was awaiting those who were to stay for the buffet lunch.

From there it was down to the main lounge where the Duchess was shown the wall-hanging which dominates this room, with its representations of London monuments and the scriptural motto *Frater qui adiuvatur a fratre quasi civitas firma* (a brother helped by a brother is like a strong city). These words stress the ideal of service, a key aspect of Netherhall's spirit. The motto featured on the silver platter given to the Duchess at the close of her visit.

The tour moved into the multi-purpose hall for speeches and the official opening. Her Royal Highness' speech was imbued with deep confidence in young people who, if properly guided, "will be the creators of a better world for all of us." She reminded the audience that the Netherhall buildings also have a symbolic status, spurring on young people and others to face the 21st century as a challenge, not a threat. "We want the young people of the world to be united in their aspirations and their dreams for the future," she said, "and surely this meeting place must be a really healthy step towards fostering those ideals."

She praised the international flavour of Netherhall, where overseas students find courtesy and respect, remarking on how fitting it was that the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku, had laid the foundation stone for the new buildings in 1993.

She then transmitted a special

message from the Queen Mother, congratulating all those concerned in the completion of the project and sending "to all students who will reside here her best wishes for peace and happiness in the years ahead."

She concluded her speech by repeating those memorable words of the Queen Mother during the 1966 visit when she had said that she "could not imagine a better place to foster high standards than Netherhall House, where Christianity and service to others remain a way of life, a source of inspiration and a guiding light to all who follow."

After the unveiling of a wall-plaque the Duchess was able to meet some boys from Kelston Club, a centre for young people in South London which, though now independent, began as a Netherhall initiative back in the sixties. Both are owned and run by the Netherhall Educational Association. She chatted to the boys and devoted some time to hearing about their activities. Chris told her about the recent club trip to Rome while Adam explained a social service project in Brixton.

With the Duchess's desire to meet and talk to everyone associated with Netherhall House, it was little wonder that the visit went half an hour over schedule. She made a point of thanking Lord Forte for the help he and his son had given to Lakefield in recent years. She also had time to greet Mr William Tam, a benefactor who had flown over from Hong Kong, and thank him for the generous donation he had given. And then she left, with everyone reviewing with pleasure what the Duchess had rightly called "a momentous day - an occasion to be recorded for posterity." ■

Full house at the Wigmore

ONE of Britain's leading industrialists made his début as a concert pianist at the Wigmore Hall in support of the Netherhall House Project. Sir Trevor Holdsworth, a Netherhall patron and until recently Chairman of National Power, joined the international concert pianist Stephen Hough and American tenor Robert White in a charity concert on 27 May 1995 to help raise funds for Netherhall.



Robert White, Sir Trevor Holdsworth and Stephen Hough relaxing after the Netherhall Charity Concert

Sir Trevor, a former President of the CBI, is also a keen amateur pianist and has a superb Steinway grand at his home in Chelsea Square on which he practises daily before going to work. He is also chairman of the Wigmore Hall Trust but the idea to play there did not come from him. "The concert was the idea of the Netherhall trustees and it was they who suggested the Wigmore Hall," he told the London Evening Standard. It was to be his début at the Wigmore.

English pianist Stephen Hough, also a Netherhall patron, has emerged as a major presence on the international concert scene, appearing with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras and conductors. He has played at the Proms for the last three years and has toured Japan and Australia. He has made a number of

recordings for the Virgin Classics Label and one of his performances with the English Chamber Orchestra was named 'Concerto Recording of the Year' by *Gramophone* magazine.

Robert White's numerous achievements include participation in some of the world's major festivals, singing with the New York Philharmonic and a month-long musical tour with flautist James Galway, who himself attended the Wigmore concert.

The programme included pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Fauré and the contemporary British composer Stephen Reynolds. The evening ended on a lighter note with a special encore: a unique rendition of 'Danny Boy' with four hands and a tenor, arranged by Stephen Hough. The Netherhall trustees were delighted that there was a full house for the concert. ■

"I utter my gratitude for the honour you have bestowed on me by asking me to open Netherhall House. Very shortly I will be unveiling a plaque and I would like to repeat words used by the Queen Mother in 1966 - that she could not imagine a better place to foster high standards than Netherhall House, where Christianity and service to others remain a way of life, a source of inspiration and a guiding light to all who follow."



LAKEFIELD CATERING AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

Improved facilities cater for better training

As provider of catering and housekeeping services for Netherhall House, Lakefield's scope for on-job training has now doubled, with the completion of the new facilities, which increase both the volume and range of services required.

Lakefield was one of the first centres in the UK to be approved by the City and Guilds of London Institute to deliver the new Hotel and Catering National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in 1992. Since then, the centre has drawn repeated expressions of enthusiastic praise from the External Verifiers who have watched the steady development of the NVQ programmes from Basic Craft through to Management level.

The training programmes attract young school-leavers from all over Britain - access being made possible by the provision of in-house accommodation. These young people, whose ambition is to enter the UK's thriving hotel and catering industry, have the

opportunity of working towards NVQs, which give formal recognition to their skills. They also benefit from a varied extra-curricular programme aimed at stimulating the development of the personal qualities and interactive skills which are so important in this "people oriented" industry. Activities range from befriending elderly and isolated people in the local community to organising and hosting functions for friends and families.

Each year, young people from various European nations take part in the summer work experience scheme, combined with English language training and visits to London sites and other cities. In their turn, Lakefield's trainees spend a month in a European



The kitchen and servery of Lakefield have been completely refurbished including a new state-of-the-art training kitchen

capital. These exchanges have helped foster links with similar institutions abroad, providing new opportunities for trainees at the end of their course. ■

NETHERHALL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Learning English in England



Stephen Dowden teaching during a pilot course in June

A successful English Language programme took place in the new premises of the Netherhall International College over the summer of 1995.

Over sixty students from all round the world inaugurated the new buildings of the Netherhall International College with a summer programme which started in July 1995. Some came from as far afield as Japan. Thanks to the new facilities provided by the Netherhall 2000 development, English language teaching is now available at the College all the year round.

The English Language department is headed by Stephen Dowden, an English graduate from Oxford University with an MSc in teaching English for Specific Purposes and with 18 years' teaching experience. "We wanted to ensure that their stay in London was fruitful in more ways than one," he said, "so that not only did their English improve but also that they were able to make many genuine friends." He is joined by teaching colleague Jack Gibbard, a graduate from London University with seven

GRANDPONT HOUSE

Providing for town and gown

SEMINARS for professional people on how to cope with stress and 'language evenings' for students are among the new additions to the long established programme of academic activities at Grandpont House



The Grandpont Leftovers

years' experience of teaching English in Spain.

Plans for the future of the College include computing courses as well as courses on other foreign languages. ■



Between classes

Doctors and businessmen were among the speakers in a short series of evening seminars for professional people which examined practical aspects of coping with stress. Open discussion followed the talks, providing an opportunity to pool experiences of participants and invited speakers. Topics covered ranged from work-related stress to ways of combining work and family commitments in order to achieve a richer quality of life.

Also introduced for the first time this year have been the *soirées françaises* for students, mainly post-graduates, which have proved a great success. 'Language evenings' in other languages may be started in the next academic session.

Among the more traditional activities, evening seminars continued over the year with after-dinner talks, followed by discussions with the students attending. Of particular interest was an interactive seminar on questions of professional and medical ethics given by Professor Germain Grisez of St Mary's College, Maryland (USA). A seminar series on the foundations of moral philosophy was addressed by the eminent legal

philosopher Professor John Finnis, as well as by Dr Christopher Martin of Glasgow University, and Dr Fernando Cervantes of the University of Bristol. Other speakers included Professor E.A. Roberts on UN peace-keeping operations, and Robin Haig, the Chairman of the Association of Lawyers in Defence of the Unborn (ALDU), on British abortion laws. Many other senior academics from Oxford and elsewhere have given informal after-dinner talks on a wide variety of topics.

As usual, Grandpont residents have given papers at national and international conferences during the year. Residents this academic session have included academics from various parts of the world (Japan, Columbia, Chile, Spain, Germany and Argentina) undertaking research in Oxford.

The papers given at a conference held in Oxford under the auspices of Grandpont House on historical approaches to the past were published in *Grandpont Papers* volume I, entitled *The Past and the Present: Problems of Understanding*. A planned volume II of *Grandpont Papers*, addressing topics related to the population question, will present work based on a Grandpont seminar on the UN conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September 1994. The convenor of the seminar, Dr Dermot Grenham, is an actuary with a special interest in population statistics, and also a former resident of the house.

Community service projects over the year have included visits to an old people's home in the town, and hosting youth club activities. In keeping with recent custom, Grandpont fielded an 'occasionals' cricket team, the *Grandpont Leftovers*, in a number of matches against various colleges. Also popular among students have been hiking trips to the Lake District and North Wales. ■



Study Room at Grandpont House

DUNREATH STUDY CENTRE

Helping young people to fulfil their potential

FOR a group of young people in the deprived area of Castlemilk in Glasgow, the summer holidays was a good chance to revise English, maths and science. And it also brought an unexpected opportunity to meet the famous and become famous. Glasgow Celtic Football Club manager Tommy Burns visited them, and a book of their own poetry is to be launched in October.



Paul Dougan during the science session on electricity showing the youngsters the Van der Graf generator

Citywise was a two-week initiative offering informal learning and activities to young people from the Castlemilk area of Glasgow. Organised by Dunreath Study Centre, it was sponsored by the Castlemilk Partnership and the Glasgow Education Business Partnership.

The aim of *Citywise* was to encourage young people to raise their sights, helping them to take their formal education more seriously, and to see university or college education as a real possibility. Group leaders involved in secondary or university education were selected for the project so as to provide positive role-models. The project offered the children work sessions in the morning - English, maths and science being the staple diet - and activities in the afternoon.

One of the most popular science

lessons covered electricity. Paul Dougan, a PhD student of the Dunreath team, was in charge of putting together the equipment, on loan from Glasgow University. He explained how the Van der Graf generator creates small arcs of electricity, making your hair stand on end when you touch it. His audience learnt all these processes in an enjoyable way - a way which helped them remember and enthused them about learning more. "At school you never get the chance to do what you do here. They'd never let you touch the machines and try them yourself," said Robert Livingston, 15.

For Robert Paterson, 13, the key



Football coaching from Glasgow Celtic Manager Tommy Burns

was the style of teaching. "We've had the chance to learn different sorts of stuff from school and Paul and the others trust you. At school I've always kidded on a bit. I want to be a footballer but I think I'll be more interested in science and the other classes now." His early dream came a

little closer one afternoon when participants had football skills coaching from Glasgow Celtic manager Tommy Burns, one of the sponsors of the programme. Addressing the young audience he said "I wish *Citywise* had been around when I was a young kid. It would have done me a lot of good".

Weans Do Watch was a collection of poems about the conflict in Bosnia written during the English sessions by the youngsters themselves - or the 'weans' as they are called in Scotland. "The title was thought of by the participants and I think is very meaningful," said Des Dillon, an English teacher at St Moldan's High in Stirling, who led the sessions. "Weans of today watch TV and are well aware of the atrocities committed in Bosnia by adults, of which often the children are the innocent victims. We cannot push weans aside, they do care."

Brendan Torrance, 13, said he had seen the war unfold on the news. "I wanted to write about the trucks not being allowed to get through to help the people. I just wanted to say something to get the message across because nothing is being done - the UN seems to be sitting there", he said.

The authors themselves read some of the poems for BBC Radio Scotland and the collection is to be launched in October at a major bookstore in Glasgow city centre.

Encouraged by the success of this year's project, Xavier Bosch, director

of Dunreath and chief organiser of the *Citywise* programme, expects that a similar scheme will be started at weekends during the school year. In addition to lessons, it will provide an environment in which young people can do homework and study. He is also keen to repeat the summer exercise next year in Castlemilk and extending it to Coatbridge, a similarly deprived area of Glasgow. He added "In ten years' time, people who do not have a degree will be left out - we're trying to show young people from an area like Castlemilk that they have an opportunity to fulfil their potential". ■

A TIME OF WAR

by Kevin Clarke

Night into day,
day into night
All the time I see soldiers fight.
All I hear is women crying.
All around me people dying.

The Bosnian people
pray and plea
that one day soon
they will be free.

Different countries
in the world writing
to try and stop
all the fighting.

From *Weans do watch*, 1995

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welcome

NEA welcomes Ralph Gretton, FCCA, who joined the company a few months ago as Treasurer. Formerly Company Secretary of Electrothermal, he brings a wealth of accountancy and managerial experience. Ralph looks after the accounts of the company as well as dealing with all the statutory requirements of a registered charity.

In Memoriam

We mourn the sad loss of Monsignor Philip Sherrington, who died while hiking in the west of Ireland last February. A director of Netherhall House from 1968 to 1970 before he was ordained to the priesthood, Mgr Sherrington became Regional Vicar of Opus Dei in Britain in 1976, a post he held until his death. He will always be remembered by former residents and friends for his warm, gentle character, his great sense of humour, spirit of hard work and total commitment to his calling as a priest.

Guest Speakers

The programme of evening speakers at Netherhall House in the academic year included such distinguished figures as Edward de Bono, author of best-seller *Lateral Thinking*, Sir John Leahy, Chairman of LONRHO and former UK Ambassador to South Africa, Dr John Ashworth, Director of the London School of Economics, and Sir David Hancock, Director of Hambros Bank and former Permanent Secretary to the Department of Education.

A medical career

Medical students and recently qualified doctors gave an afternoon seminar at Kelston Club for those interested in taking up a medical career. Attendees included many sixth-formers and a few younger club members who have already expressed an interest in medicine. Similar events have taken place on law, philosophy, journalism and finance.

KELSTON



In July 1995 Kelston organised a Trans-Dartmoor expedition where club members stayed for two weeks on the moor practising various sports such as cycling, rock climbing and hiking.

Netherhall

EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Netherhall Educational Association aims to provide all-round formation for people of all ages, especially the young, to help them develop their talents to the full, and use them in the service of society. Personal development is seen as a harmonious union of different components:

Academic and Professional Development which enables men and women to do their work well, and to be more aware that study and work are principal means both of personal growth and of serving others.

Social Development which promotes understanding and empathy with others regardless of background, race or creed, and fosters friendship and co-operation across cultural divides. In all the centres individuals are encouraged to participate with personal initiative in social and welfare projects such as youth achievement schemes in inner-city areas or visiting the sick and elderly. In the context of the Association's long-established and ever-growing links with non-governmental voluntary bodies overseas, students and others are also encouraged to participate in social and educational projects in the developing world.

Character Development founded on human virtues such as sincerity, loyalty, self-discipline, service to others and a spirit of hard work, with a deep appreciation of personal freedom and the corresponding responsibility.

Spiritual Development which allows men and women to find God in their family and working lives and to practise Christian principles and ideals. This vital component of the Charity's overall objective is entrusted in all the centres to Opus Dei, a personal Prelature of the Catholic Church.

To achieve its aims it operates a variety of centres in Great Britain, including halls of residence for university students, clubs with study facilities for young people, and venues for conferences and seminars. Apart from Netherhall House itself, Elmore in central London, Grandpont House in Oxford and Dunreath in Glasgow, all offer accommodation and study facilities; Kelston in south London and Westpark in west London, are clubs and study centres for schoolchildren; Lakefield Educational and Catering School, based on the same site as Netherhall House, is a training centre for school-leavers entering the hotel and catering trades; Wickenden Manor is a conference centre in Sussex.

The activities of the Association are open to all who wish to participate, regardless of race, creed or social background, and their growing outreach means that participation is available to many more people than those who live in the residential centres.

NEA has a central Management Committee which meets regularly. Its Secretary is based at the Registered Office in Netherhall House. The directors devolve as much as possible to the initiative of local management committees which are responsible for the day-to-day running of each of the centres.

The current expenditure and budgets, subject to central approval, are the responsibility of the local management committees. These seek to raise funds locally for the development of activities and to meet operational costs. The policy of NEA is to work towards financial self-sufficiency for each of its established centres.

The central Management Committee holds itself directly responsible for major capital outlays, and for the establishment of new centres or projects. The Association's field of activity and the real needs it seeks to meet are very wide. There is always need of further development.

The Association, both centrally and locally, relies heavily on the donations of individual benefactors, businesses and grant-making trusts to fund expenditure, service mortgages and start new projects. The Secretary will happily provide further information on arrangements for receiving gifts, covenants and legacies. Brochures and literature on the individual centres are available.

Netherhall Educational Association was established in 1964 as a non-profit making company, limited by guarantee, and a registered charity (no. 236586).

nea

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