

Coniston Hall Newsletter 2011

Dear Resident,

This academic year has been absolutely buzzing with activity here in Coniston Hall. We've had lots of cultural and social activities. After successfully obtaining a grant application last year, managed to increase our volunteering activities. We now run the **Spanish Club** at one of the local schools in Manchester. The **Somali Homework Club** has also grown and has moved from Coniston Hall to a larger venue with computing facilities. We also run our regular visits to the elderly on Saturdays. These activities would not have been possible without your help!



Don't miss out on this year's BBQ on June 4th from 12 noon to 4pm! It would be great to see you again and catch up! Last year was truly fantastic! Here are some photos for those of you who were not able to make it and so that we can all reminisce about the good times spent at Coniston...

Events

In Coniston this year we had some entertaining lectures from a series of high-profile speakers within the Manchester area. Here are some of the highlights:

The first speaker was Dr. Conor Cunningham who gave a lecture based on his BBC2 program entitled *“Did Darwin Kill God?”* The lecture room was packed with many residents and students coming from several departments of the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. The lecture was extremely interesting with many questions and answers looking at the compatibility between faith, reason and science.

Later on in the first term Mr. Peter Mount, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Central Manchester University Hospitals gave a lecture in Coniston Hall entitled *“The future of the NHS”*. This lecture was about the current challenges the NHS is facing due to the current economic climate.

Next, the Vice Chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University, Professor John Brooks talked about *“The Future of the University”*. Students from the Manchester Universities participated in a lively discussion about the current changes and the challenges facing universities in the near future.

This year, we also took part in the National Science and Engineering Week. Dr Francisca Wheeler (MBE) gave a lecture on *physics in music*. Participants learned about the world of physics through practical and entertaining musical demonstrations.



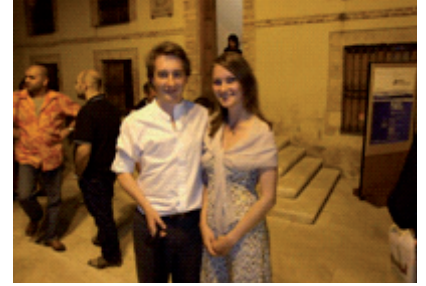
But Coniston has definitely not been all work and no play. This year we had a Chinese New Year Dinner and Movie and Mariela gave a session on fashion and make-up.

When it comes to food, every two weeks on Sunday, we have been helping Ashley Catering by cooking dishes from various countries, ranging from “Bollywood Night” to an “International Food Night”.

.....News Updates.....News Updates.....News Updates.

Well, the alumni newsletter is also all about catching up with what everyone has been doing since they left Coniston.....

Karolina, who works in the Alumni office, is getting married in August this year. The wedding will take place in Poland and she will be moving to London later this year. We will miss Karolina, but we wish her all the best.



Georgette graduated from Law last year. She is currently doing her Bar training in Bristol and is having a great time. She has also come to Coniston to visit and will hopefully be joining us later this year to attend the World Youth Day in Madrid.

Congratulations go to **Marialuisa** who completed her PhD thesis in Chemical Engineering at the University of Manchester. Marialuisa had her viva last September and obtained top marks for her PhD with no corrections! She is now working as a postgraduate fellow in the University of Manchester.



Tara Lee won an award at the Volunteer of the Year awards ceremony. Tara studies History of Art at the University of Manchester and also volunteers at the home work club run by students in Coniston. Tara is now in her final year of university. Well done Tara!

Malamati now has a permanent post in Greece and is lecturing in English at the University. She has also been volunteering for an ambulance service in Greece to help take care of emergencies at major public events.