

Mr Roy Lucas

Roy Lucas joined the college staff as a PE lecturer in 1966. He was enthusiastic and energetic, and inspired many of the students under his tutelage to reach for the stars and go that one step further in their teaching of PE, so that they, in their turn, could be either inspirational, or could teach well against all odds.

One such student was Jane Halle, who was chosen, much to her surprise, to be a member of Mr Lucas's twelve strong 'dream team' of top notch PE teachers. She clearly remembers her first teaching appointment at a Sheffield girls' comprehensive school, where she taught:

'...history, geography and religious education and, once a week – PE. My mentor was lazy and incompetent, and thus it was due to Mr Lucas's faith in me that I was able to teach 120 year 7 girls all together, once a week, on my own! This covered hurdling, high and long jumping and long distance running. Mr Lucas gave me confidence; he showed me how I could do things I never thought I would be able to do and I owe him a lot.'

Jane was able to tell Mr Lucas just how much he had inspired and helped her when they spoke at the 2006 Reunion and she says: 'Although he didn't remember me, he beamed with delight.'

Mr Lucas died on 27th November 2006, not so very long after that last Reunion, and we inform you of his passing with great sadness. He was a great support to John Hopkins and the organising team, and came to each Reunion with the joy and enthusiasm he imparted during his time as a lecturer at the college. He loved the idea of getting together again and keeping friendship and memories alive, and gave several talks during the course of each Reunion.

We will miss Mr Lucas's presence next year, and as a memorial to him we will be making a donation to The British Heart Foundation after the 2008 reunion, when anyone who wishes to will be able to make a contribution as well.

John Hopkins, the Chairman, writes:

My friendship with Roy Lucas started when he arrived in 1965 and we maintained regular contact until his death last year. He was one of the first people I consulted when Keith Mantom and I were planning the 2001 Reunion. Roy has been a mentor, father figure and inspiration throughout my career and more recently in organising our reunion weekends. He is greatly missed.

Kesteven Training College / College of Education

Newsletter - Autumn 2007

Plans are coming on well for the 2008 Grand Reunion, which is being held to mark the 60th anniversary of the opening of the college and the 30th anniversary of its closing. We have been looking back to the last Reunion, and perusing the feedback forms which so many of you sent in – thank you – so that we can organise the best possible event for next year.

In this newsletter you will find a brief resume of the comments participants made about the 2006 Reunion; an update on the current state of the renovations to the Mansion, and information regarding accommodation for next year; a glimpse of the planned programme for 2008, some reminiscences, and some general information.

Membership Forms and Booking Forms for the Reunion are enclosed – please send in your bookings as soon as possible to avoid the Christmas rush!

Some comments from 2006

I feel there was something for everyone and if people didn't want to join in, the surroundings offered other options. We enjoyed walking round the grounds.

The room was very comfortable – worth going for the full board, en suite option! Also enjoyed the facilities in Gym and Tonic.

I enjoyed the friendliness of everybody – not just my own year and I joined in the events – including the rounders match

The programme offered a good balance of activities and free time to talk – well done!

So many people said they enjoyed meeting people and talking about past experiences, and many more said they appreciated the lovely surroundings.

The various musical activities and the talks were also very much enjoyed. Thank you to all of you who responded to the questionnaire. There isn't room to include more of your comments, but the organising team have read them all, and will endeavour to act on your suggestions for next year.

It's Cracking On!

So said Bob Stewart, the Historic Buildings officer involved with the Stoke Rochford Hall reconstruction project. Many of you will remember the highly detailed and fascinating talk Bob gave about the building work at the Reunion last year, and he has promised to return and tell us more in 2008. Meanwhile, he has given us this update on how things are going.

The Hall is still under wraps, with the scaffolding still in place, so someone viewing it from the outside would not be able to see the huge amount of work that has already been completed. They would notice, however, that most of the numbered stones which we saw laid out by the side of the building have gone. This means that they have been replaced in their proper positions, and that the gables of the Halls of Residence are now reinstated. Work is progressing on the chimneys, and much of the stone work is done.

The roof has been replaced with Westmorland slate, which was the original material, and the first and second floor levels have been reinstated.

The decorative ceilings and all the plastering in the Great Hall are totally finished, and Bob says they look impressive. He cannot praise the craftsmen enough and says they are doing a great job. Research was done to discover the provenance of the marble forming the columns in the fireplace. It was traced to Italy; the researchers then found the precise area in Italy, and then the specific quarry! Their thoroughness means that new columns are being made and will be exactly the same as before.

In the library the ceilings have been restored and an 18inch deep plaster cornice is in place. There are no bookcases as yet.

To make sure that no such fire tragedy would happen again it has been arranged that special fire tanks will be installed in a hidden valley within a false roof area. These will provide sophisticated and speedy detection of any fire related occurrence.

All was originally going to plan, and completion was expected to be in April. There has, however, been a slight delay, and work is now scheduled for completion on 1st July 2008. This does mean that although other parts of the college will be available for us as before, we will be using the beautiful marquee again for the special celebration meal on the Saturday evening at our June Reunion and not the restored Mansion as we had hoped.

Members of the organising team are in touch with how work is progressing and will report on developments in the next newsletter.

Accommodation for 2008

As you will see from the accompanying booking form, accommodation in the hostel blocks will not be available this year. This is because the hostels have been deemed unsuitable for use, and their fate is currently being discussed. They may be altered to bring them up to standard, or they may be pulled down and new buildings erected. This does mean that the only accommodation on campus will be the en suite rooms. We have provided some information regarding alternative accommodation in the area and are making enquiries about campsites and B&B availability. If you do need further information, please include a stamped addressed envelope with your booking, call Sue Ellis on 0115 840 8335 or Jillian Naylor on 0115 916 1787. If you look on the internet for yourselves and find information you think will be useful to us to pass on, please give Sue or Jillian a call.

Some of our plans for the Anniversary Reunion

After the evening meal on the Friday John Chambers will host his very popular Folk Singing and recitations session again. There will be a disco – till late! – in the Catacombs for those who like their music a little 'hotter.'

On Saturday morning there will be tours, and talks, and stories of the past from Bob Stewart (the Historic Buildings officer), Reg Hindley, and Jack Bond. After lunch we are planning to hold a rounders match again, and an Orienteering event in the grounds – with a prize for the winners! Tennis with Don will be available too.

In the evening it will be time to don 'posh frocks and smarty pants' for the Anniversary Dinner and Dance. A classical guitarist will entertain us as we mingle for canapés, and during dinner. This year we have decided to give the members of Wrinkle Rock a chance to dance and chat instead of playing all evening. Instead we will have someone who will provide a disco that will contain something for everyone – from the Veleta to the many pop songs we have loved and danced to since our college days.

This year, 'year group' photographs will not be taken. Instead we plan to have a photographer present during the Dinner Dance, to take photos of couples and groups as people wish. Photos will then be available for purchase by arrangement with the photographer.

The Bi-annual General Meeting will take place on the Sunday morning as usual, followed by guided walks in the locality.

The popular and fascinating memorabilia exhibition will be open during the whole Reunion so that people may visit it as often as they wish. Don frequently updates the exhibition and would be grateful for any photos or other memorabilia anyone may have to add to it. Don always copies the photos or documents, and returns the originals to their owners, so you can be assured that they will be in safe hands! He would also love to have any year-group pass lists, as these help considerably in our efforts to find previous students. Lists from post 1961/64 are sought specifically. Please contact Don Lane on 01282 776507 if you can help.