

system versus the Western one, but more about Britain itself. It's not always easy when it comes to getting the answer.

We've been in Berkshire for three weeks, and now we are based in London. We can see how schools and young people differ in different areas. Idealistic as it may sound, we hope to find universal values to guide us along the path together.

Tanja Sokolova

Songs of Praise

Those of you who know Melville Carson will be interested to know that *Songs of Praise*, BBC 1 on February 15, will come from Haddington Church, East Lothian, where he and Elizabeth worship. Melville is one of several people interviewed during the programme and the two minutes selected are related to his prisoner-of-war experiences and the whole aspect of forgiveness.

In the Wake of Bam

Peter Everington's article (UK Newsletter, January 2004) appeared in the January 22 edition of *Al Balad*, an Arabic daily published in Beirut.

Joy in Morocco

Under this headline *The Bournemouth Echo* featured a letter from Leone Exton Beale about a wonderful Christmas spent with people of different faiths in Morocco: "a true experience of how the world could be as we respect the faiths of others."

Reminder of the next Greencoat Forum

Wednesday February 18 - 6.30pm
Corruption and development - a personal Odyssey.

Laurence Cockcroft, Chairman of Transparency International UK.

A full list of future Greencoat Forums is available from 24 Greencoat Place.

The Editors of *For a Change* hope you are enjoying the new look magazine and welcome any comments you may have.

A British IC website was launched this week by the Web team in Oxford. The address is www.uk.iofc.org

The Editors would like to thank all those who have sent contributions towards the cost of the Newsletter, which remains at approximately £7.

This issue was edited by Ann Carpenter and Phoebe Gill, with layout by Blair Cummock. Please send material for the next issue by February 25 to Mary Jones, Oakley Cottage, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AH.



A POWERFUL TOOL

Almost every time we switch on the television, we are told there is a need for constructive dialogue - between the government and the public, between different faith groups, between young and old or between the public sector and the "community". So how do we bring about this constructive dialogue? There are many organisations promoting dialogue, but few offering honest conversation based on what is right and not who is right. We need to ask ourselves more about the concept and practice of trust: how do we build trust where there is suspicion? Who do I trust? What makes me trust? Can I find these qualities in myself?

Dynamic of the Spirit

Working with *Hope in the Cities*, has offered a chance to look at these questions ourselves and explore them with others. Last weekend was an example of trust-building for us. We travelled to Huddersfield to deliver three days' training on how to facilitate a dialogue. Nine people came. As a group we didn't know each other well but the honesty and trust which was built through the weekend proved that the magical "dynamic of the spirit",

as one participant called it, could work. Differences could be resolved and fears aired with growth in the group rather than splits or suspicion.

We all stayed in the Huddersfield area. Four people had travelled from Nottingham, one from Leeds and one from a village near Skipton. Our host was Denzil Nurse, who looked after us all magnificently. In evaluating the course one person said it had provided challenge, encouragement and support. This meant a lot to us, because that is what we would like to be able to offer throughout life. What would the world look like if we all offered each other challenge, encouragement and support? We feel certain that trust would be more of a factor in our daily life.

Liverpool Hope

From Huddersfield we travelled to Liverpool (see *UK Newsletter* January 2004). The group who had trained as facilitators in Liverpool were keen to take part in a real dialogue, as participants and observers of the facilitation process. The dialogue had been arranged by members of staff at Liverpool Hope

University and the title asked about students' role in the economic development of the community. As the exchange went on, the title question was discarded and an honest conversation developed between staff, students and people from the "community". It was a time of discovery about each other as real people. Friendships were formed and the participants found a way of working together for the good of all. Dialogue is a very powerful tool, if we allow the spirit to move, and learning to facilitate that process is a skill which we must practise.

Opportunities

We would like to ask you to think if there are opportunities for dialogue in the place where you live or work? It can be a tool for conflict resolution and can also be used where people just do not get the chance to meet and talk. It is effective among small groups. (We estimate the largest group should be fifteen.) We are also training facilitators, so if you do think of people who would benefit from this, please let us know. If you would like help to arrange a dialogue we would be happy to discuss details with you, and can be reached through 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD (020 7798 6000)

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Visitors from Moldova

Andrei Tarasenco and Slava Balan of Initiatives of Change (known as New Civilisation in Moldova) arrived in London in early January. Their eight-day visit helped to develop a programme they have been working on called "Inspiring Initiatives, Building Partnerships". After reviewing the programme for the first weekend, they spent five days meeting potential advisors, international experts, partners, and donors in a variety of venues. These included: Sir Jim Lester, Phoebe Gill, John Carlisle, *Foundations for Freedom* team, Krish Raval (of *Learn to Lead*), *Age Concern*, *The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum*, and, in Sheffield, a wide range of people from Manchester, Huddersfield, Nottingham and of course Sheffield itself.

A new era

The visit resulted in a much-refined programme outline and a wealth of support both current and in prospect for our friends in Moldova. If successful, the programme will mark the start of a new era for *Foundations for Freedom*: partnering (rather than parenting) with those it has had contact with in Central and Eastern Europe over the last ten years. These are bold new steps.

Nick Foster

give." And Alistair Little who joined the Protestant paramilitaries and at the age of 17 walked into the home of a man he didn't know and killed him, an action for which he received a 13-year prison sentence. He told us that he did not think he was entitled to ask for forgiveness. "Forgiveness makes me very uncomfortable. It has been politicised. Many people can't forgive because they feel it would be the betrayal of a loved one. Who are we to say that someone has to forgive? It is a very personal journey." He has since worked in Kosovo with Serbs, Croats and Albanians struggling to find alternatives to war.

Having spoken and written about Jo Berry and Patrick Magee and their ongoing dialogues I was grateful to meet them. Jo's father, was killed in the IRA Brighton bombing during the 1984 Conservative Party conference, Patrick was given multiple life sentences for his part in the bombing. He was later released under the Good Friday agreement. Last year, with Jo's help, he set up Causeway, a project that helps individuals address unresolved pain caused by the Troubles.

We are in a no-blame house

Jo told the crowded gallery at the launching that she knows less and less about forgiveness as each day goes by. It is a daily choice. Her children help her. When she is tempted to withdraw or accuse others, they say, "We are in a no blame

house. Why are you blaming?" "I am in no way finished," she said. "I'm just beginning."

The exhibition has the backing of the Forster Company, a communications agency specialising in social and environmental change, and of Dame Anita Roddick, founder of *The Body Shop*. Roddick speaks perhaps for many confronted with these stories when she says, "I've never really believed that I would forgive, but then nor have I ever really understood the cage which anger locks you into." Jilly Forster says that the exhibition examines forgiveness as a healing process. It is "a journey out of victimhood, and ultimately, a journey of hope". She describes it as "an education of the human spirit".

It is, indeed, and a tribute to humankind at its best. If I ever get asked to write another book on forgiveness, I would want to call it "Forgiveness: Journey of a Lifetime."

Michael Henderson,
author of *Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate*

Schools programme cont from page 3

a whole society; but most importantly, we hope that we leave people to think what changes in their lives they want to see. A tricky question that we ask is 'Would you recommend your society in the UK to Russia or Latvia as something to aspire to?' which is, after all, not as much about the Eastern European

work by photographer Brian Moody and journalist Maria Cantacuzino. Working together "so that the stories and pictures really connect and you look at the victims and hear them speak", they have combined portraits of people in seven countries with moving words about what they have suffered and where they are heading. Many of them were present at the launching. Some use the word forgiveness freely, some say it is not appropriate for them, and some are not yet ready for it. According to Cantacuzino, the exhibition is "about revenge turned on its head", about people who have suffered and called for retribution but now "seek dialogue rather than revenge".

Parents' Circle

The portraits range from American, Linda Biehl, with two of the men who murdered her daughter in South Africa, to Marianne Pearl, whose husband American journalist, Daniel Pearl, was murdered by an Islamic fundamentalist group in February 2002; from Marian Partington whose younger sister was murdered by Frederick West to Tom Tate, ex-RAF airman who has built bridges with the people of the German town where five of his crewmen were lynched. They include bereaved men and women from Israel and Palestine now working together through the Parents' Circle, and sufferers from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

One marvels at the generosity of those who are ready to forgive and understands those who are not at that point. I talked with South African Duma Kumalo, one of the Sharpeville six who spent seven years in prison, three of them on death row, for a murder he didn't commit. He has forgiven and even become friends with those who persecuted him. "I don't hate the people who did bad things to me," he said. I talked also with Salimata Badji-Knight from Senegal, who was circumcised at the age of five and has spent most of her adult life campaigning to prevent the practice of female circumcision in African cultures. Before her father died she had told him what had been done to her. "He cried and said that no woman had ever explained the suffering to him. Then he apologised and asked for forgiveness. The next day he called my relatives in Senegal and told them to stop the practice. A meeting was cancelled and fifty girls were saved."

It is a very personal journey

Being half Irish I was particularly glad to meet Irish who are featured. Margaret McKinney, for instance, whose son was murdered by the IRA, a crime only admitted to 21 years later. She has no hatred for his killer and would like to sit down and talk to him, ask if he's sorry for what he did, and why no one ever told her what had happened. "Until that happens, I can't say I forgive, because I don't know who to for-

2004 Schools Programme 'Vision and Values'

We are one-third of the way through this year's *UK Schools Programme*, the topic being 'Vision and Values'.

The team is traditionally international: Howard Grace invited Sandra Lapkovska from Riga, Latvia, and myself (Tatiana Sokolova, Novosibirsk, Russia), for three months. So far we have visited 20 schools with 40 more to come.

We are extraordinarily different people, Sandra and myself. Sandra is eighteen and has just finished high school. She spent eighteen months studying in Norway and Denmark and is now taking a year off, hoping to gain a better vision of what her calling is in life. I'm in the fourth year studying International Business. We are both involved with youth NGOs in our countries: Sandra is a member of *Club the House*, promoting the ideas of a united Europe among Latvian young people; I work with *Youth Humanitarian Initiative*, a *Foundations For Freedom* regional team. Over here it's a great chance to zoom out and get a better perspective of what we are doing, and to think, and think really hard, about the vision we have for our countries and our lives.

You never know what you are going to say in a school session until



Sandra Lapkovska and Tatiana Sokolov

you have actually said it; you never know what the audience is going to be like and where the discussion will lead, so you can't go to a school with a ready-made speech. You have to learn to be flexible, to be challenged and to surprise yourself.

It's a great chance ... get a better perspective of what we are doing, and to think, and think really hard, about the vision we have for our countries and our lives.

In the sessions, we speak about Gandhi and Martin Luther King (or rather stimulate the students to say all they know about them) as examples of people having vision ("I have a dream") and values ("Be the change you want to see in the world"). We touch on motivation; the value of living on the give versus living on the get; personal vision for one's life and a vision for

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Narrowing the gap between ideals and interests

The 2004 series of international conferences at Caux, Switzerland



8 - 14 July **Service, responsibility, Leadership: enabling individuals and communities**

This conference continues to explore the journey starting from a personal leadership decision to take responsibility and serve the needs of the world around, leading to common efforts for the positive transformation of society. With plenary sessions, workshops and community discussion groups, the conference will be an interactive, intergenerational and intercultural learning experience.

16 - 21 July **GLOBALIZATION: Closing the Gaps**

Globalization reveals gaps between economic, social and human interests; between the rich and poor worlds; between labour and management interests; and between short- and long-term goals. Underlying these gaps is a lack of trust. Our actions, often driven by self-interest, need to match our ideals – too often only expressed in words. Can we, with long-term vision, strive creatively to bridge these gaps and construct a new model for a sustainable world based on new motivations in people? More information is available at www.cauxinitiativesforbusiness.org

24 – 30 July **THE ARTS: Transforming The Way Things Are**

An opportunity to meet with artists and lovers of art from around the world, from different disciplines, cultures and beliefs, who feel that art has an essential place in society and can be a means of transforming the world. What do we mean by transformation? Is transformation possible? Is it always a good thing? Does it last? Can artists respond to the needs of the world while remaining true to their inner vision? These are some of the questions to be explored in a variety of ways during the week.

4 - 10 August **Human Security through Good Governance**

Corrupt political systems and corrupt corporations contribute equally to the insecurity and violence that threaten sustainable development. At the heart of better governance are personal qualities of integrity which enable fair markets and fair distribution both nationally and globally. These qualities encourage principled leadership rooted in transparency, participation and accountability at all levels of society. Agenda for Reconciliation offers this opportunity to examine economic security through sustainable devel-

opment and how each person can apply personal values in a bid to create a more secure world.

13 - 19 August **Peace-building initiatives**

Courageous people in conflicts around the world are working in the belief that there are better ways than violence to achieve justice and shift entrenched attitudes. *Agenda for Reconciliation* offers this conference to explore further the depth of change needed in all concerned, to encourage and learn from each other.

Opportunities are available for people to volunteer as Caux Interns. Interns are required throughout the summer to take responsibility for different areas of work in Mountain House. If you know of anyone who would like to take part please email or write to Caux Interns at 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD.

Copies of the Caux invitation can be obtained by post from 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD email: reception@london.iofc.org

Celebrating the “F” Word – London exhibition

The word forgiveness, or “the F word” as it is described in an exhibition that has just opened in London, carries with it a lot of unhelpful baggage. To some it conjures up the idea that an enemy is getting away unscathed with an evil act, to others that justice has not been served, or even that ancestors are being betrayed. To Dame Anita Roddick, Body Shop founder, forgiveness is “as mysterious as love”.

I sometimes wish the word could be replaced with a concept that does not evoke the feeling that it is a soft option. And that we could do away with facile phrases like forgive and forget. For forgiveness is needed as a powerful ally in the work of reconciliation. As

Archbishop Tutu proclaims in the title of his last book, *There is no future without forgiveness*.

Draws out the sting in the memory

A visit to the exhibition, “The F word: images of forgiveness”, quickly gets rid of any notion that forgiveness is either soft or about forgetting. It is appropriate that Tutu, who has seen its role in helping South Africa move unexpectedly peacefully out of its apartheid years, was present at the launching to give his view that forgiveness “draws out the sting in the memory that threatens to poison our whole existence”.

The exhibition, which opened at London’s South Bank Oxo Tower in January and will tour Britain and abroad, is the result of a year’s