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We hope you will buy, be stirred and inspired.

**Anne Mackay & Ruth Mackenzie**

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### TIRLEY GARTH

**Weekend, October 20-21**

*NATIONAL FORUM* (during half-term – more possible for families)

**Sunday-Friday, September 23-28**

*LANDSCAPE PAINTING*

Information leaflet from Barbara Marsh (telephone 01829-751368)

### 24 GREENCOAT PLACE

*GREENCOAT FORUMS*

**Tuesday, October 9**, 6.30 for 7.15pm

**Dr Geiko Müller-Fahrenheit**, German theologian and author, will speak on the theme: "Towards the future by way of the past".

**Saturday, Nov. 13**, 6.30 for 7.15pm

**Robert Hynd**, Scottish constitutional lawyer, will speak on the theme: "The changing scene – the new Scottish parliament and constitutional change in the United Kingdom".

*FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER PRODUCTIONS*

**Saturday, November 3**, 3pm & 6.30pm

Concert version of **JOTHAM VALLEY**  
Book and lyrics by Cecil Broadhurst  
Music by Cecil Broadhurst, Frances Roots Hadden and George Fraser  
Musical Director: Noel Tredinnick  
Stage Director: Hugh Steadman Williams  
Produced by Stanley Kiaer for Westminster Productions Ltd.

# UK **news** LETTER

MRA, 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD Tel: 020 7798 6000 [www.mra.org.uk](http://www.mra.org.uk)

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## INITIATIVES OF CHANGE AT CAUX

*The Caux conferences this summer, GLOBALISING RESPONSIBILITY, EXPANDING HEARTS, took place at Mountain House between July 5 and August 19. There will be extensive coverage of events during August in the next issue of FOR A CHANGE magazine, available later this month from Greencoat Place. We give here some impressions from the conferences.*

The *Freedom, Responsibility and Leadership* conference was organised mainly by representatives of the *Foundations for Freedom (F4F)* programme. The aim was to encourage and develop leadership and responsibility at every level of society, while looking at ways of overcoming obstacles encountered. Each day of the conference started with a reflection on 'listening' presented by Dr Philip Boobbyer and others, setting the scene and devoted to the themes of globalisation and freedom and the elements needed for effective leadership (motive and courage, vision, teamwork and cooperation) as well as the discernment required and the moral dilemmas to be faced. Participants from over 50 countries, from diverse professions, backgrounds, levels of society and age groups, shared their experiences, learning about and from each other.

Fay Lewis of New Zealand said, "This has been my first experience of working and attending conferences

in Caux. I have been very taken with the number of young people attending these conferences. In particular one of the things that was evident to me was the care and support they gave one another.

"At one of my reflection times I felt I was shown that I had been at a huge banquet and I was to share it. I saw many people from many different races, my arms appeared to grow very long and I was embracing these people. It is my opinion that people's lives change when God penetrates their hearts."

On one day in that first week diplomats, ambassadors and officials were invited from Geneva and Bern to participate in the conference as well as to listen to the Caux Lecture delivered by Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

The *F4F* Summer Programme ran concurrently with the conference. This gave the chance for the 30 or so participants from eastern Europe to

This issue was edited by Mary Jones and Janet Paine, with layout by Blair Cummock. Photos by John Leggat. Please send material for the next issue by September 25 to Dron Hore-Ruthven, Hugglepit Cottage, Higher Clovelly, Bideford, N Devon EX39 5RN. Email: [dronhr@btinternet.com](mailto:dronhr@btinternet.com)

have a full part in the leadership of the conference as well as in the practical running of the house.

**Angela Starovoytova**, Ukraine  
(who spent a year with MRA in UK)

*The F4F Summer Programme was designed to reinforce and build bridges between the developing teams in regions of Ukraine, Russia (Novosibirsk) and Moldova. Along with Erik Andren and Kristen Cibelli, Nick Foster was a facilitator and member of the support team. He writes:*

A challenge faced us since we had been unable to predict the varying needs of the different people attending Mountain House as a result of the funding secured to finance 35 people's journeys. We had students, their mentors, some available for each session, and those who were not funded but might like to attend due to the implications of any decisions made by participants during the month. The planning, moments of meditation, shaping, printing and amending over, we took the stage with fresh material used for the first time.

Thankfully our Moldovan, Ukrainian, Russian and international F4F team audiences were receptive. We conducted a 'needs assessment'. It took twice as long as anticipated, but it identified strengths and weaknesses in each of the teams, and notably in our own team too.

During the next three weeks we managed to enjoy trips together, examined inter-regional stereotypes, work-shopped 'facilitation', explored 'mentoring' and worked on mini-projects, all in parallel with the hectic activities of Caux life. Our remit was broad: help reinforce regional teams, provide a platform on which leadership skills and international relations could be built, and help participants in having as rich and rewarding an experience as possible in Switzerland.

Post mortem? We did manage to respond to the specific needs of one regional group. Our material could have been stronger. Having a larger, better-prepared support team would have lessened the fatigue and frustration within our small band. However, given that this was the first month-long course of its kind, these lessons were inevitable and needed to be learnt.

### **Preconceptions**

Certainly there is now a far greater sense of the greater body of those involved with F4F, with some dismantling of negative preconceptions that regional teams held about each other. The different distances the teams have travelled (developmentally) will have informed their personal expectations and led to the cross-fertilisation of ideas and aspirations. There was definite growth within certain participants and an extension of the vision of what MRA



**Moldovan dancing in full swing on the terrace at Caux**

formance in the Variety Show was the highlight. (Jason is in the judiciary department of the Hong Kong government.) The humility he showed when introducing his piece was summed up when he thanked the audience for their "patience and tolerance". His song brought the house down as all appreciated the courage and modesty he displayed. These moments all go to create and protect the magic of Caux.

**John Leggat**

### **CHINESE VISIT**

A Chinese delegation came on to Britain after eight days in Caux at the *Agenda for Reconciliation* conference. They visited Manchester, Tisbury, Garth, Nottingham and Scotland. The visit was marked by its informality and by the warmth of relationships established.

The friendships made were

undoubtedly helped by the visit to China last September of an MRA delegation, led by the Duke and Duchess of Montrose. In the long term, the forging of these close links could be very significant.

**Keith and Ruth Neal**

### **NEW CD - TO SING A STORY**

When MRA was launched, many writers and musicians poured out their talents in this great endeavour. As the military, moral and spiritual battles raged in the mid 20th century, songs for people and musicals for campaigns flowed. In 1996, for the 50th anniversary of Mountain House, several of us who had taken part created a multi-media event at Caux with a script by **Juliet Boobbyer** and directed by **Frances Colquhoun**. Now, some of this exhilarating choral music as well as solos for places and

conceptions. I realise I was wrong. What I got was not what I expected. The initial round of speakers on the first day exposed me to just a smattering of the examples of the global use of technology, from helping developing countries adopt appropriate technologies to utilising current technology to increase learning options for school leavers in Ghana.

This was enough to start my brain producing questions and ideas ... *Aha! moments*, as they were called. During the rest of the week we were encouraged to share these 'aha! moments' and form groups around subjects that we wanted to expand more. My group brainstormed a possible NGO and presented it to the rest of the conference on the last day. I was rewarded to work with a lively group who are interested in taking this idea further.

Did I learn anything? Yes. Both emotionally and academically. Would I take part again? Yes. Meeting people with similar thoughts and ambitions is fairly intoxicating. Would I change anything? Yes. To develop an idea is hard enough. To form a group is harder. To get that group enthused enough in a few hours to try and make it work from all over the world harder still.

Caux is a place of inspiration, but inspiration is only half the battle, results the other. More time would be needed if more inspiration is to become action.

**Ross Andren**

## THE MAGIC OF CAUX

Having not been to Caux for six years, it was with a twinge of apprehension that I arrived for the first three conferences. That was soon put to bed as I found the magic of Caux was as strong as ever.

As a photographer I was fortunate enough to be able to see at first hand all that makes Caux tick. From the organising of speakers to the preparation of food, I explored all aspects via the lens. The more I saw, the greater my appreciation of the sacrifice shown by so many to make Caux work.

I felt that the vast contingent of Eastern Europeans brought a new angle to many of the discussions. They have such energy and verve, and I found their ideas and conversations enlightening. I hope they got as much out of the *Foundations for Freedom* course as they gave.

Although the number of house guests was less than I recall from the early nineties, it didn't seem to detract from the quality of input as there was a sense of purpose and focus. Communities posed thought-provoking questions and honesty was never left outside, something for which Caux will forever be unique.

There were many highlights for me over the four weeks I was there. Trying to master Moldovan dancing was one, getting lost in the sweet tones of Scott Murray and Parker Bent of USA with their guitars was another. But, for me, Jason Pun's per-



**Workshop in progress**

is and could do in their respective home lives. I have few doubts on these scores.

However, there are other questions to be answered: Did we, as a support team, facilitate these developments or would it have happened without our intervention? Did the participants learn as much as I did? Hmm. Good questions, and perhaps these will be answered in the fulness of time.

## ON FORGIVENESS

In the opening address to the first *Agenda for Reconciliation* conference in Caux in July, **Dr Donald Shriver**, President Emeritus of New York's Union Theological Seminary, concluded with the following definition of "the forgiveness we need":

*Forgiveness is an act that joins historical-moral truth, forbearance from revenge, empathy for wrongdoers and commitment to repair a fractured human relation. Such a combination*

*requires a turn from the past that neither ignores past evil nor excuses it, that neither overlooks injustice nor reduces justice to revenge, that insists on the humanity of enemies even in their commission of inhumane deeds, and that values the justice that serves reconciliation above the justice that destroys it.*

Three weeks later **Frederic Chavanne** of France gave his impressions of the Political Round Table exchange on the Great Lakes of Africa:

The most important moments were the honest exchanges and sometimes tragic experiences recounted by those taking part. People who did not dare look at one another on arrival began to talk together. At no point was there resort to insults or finger-pointing – except with regard to the West! Some made apologies, others said they considered forgiveness impossible. So there was nothing stereotyped but a sincere

searching for what could be done, a questioning of where one might have fallen short, a desire to understand the other person, to feel their suffering. "We have experienced a real time of healing," was one comment.

A Congolese participant spoke of the shame his country feels about their "big Congo" being invaded by "little Rwanda," even as it emerged from genocide. He explained that the whole attitude of people in his country is dominated by this sense of shame which, undealt with, could lead to revenge and further genocide.

Many left with the conviction that the "Caux process" opened up new possibilities of progress in the situation. A man from East Congo remarked, "We cannot talk of reconciliation and forgiveness in my region. It will not be accepted. Or if we do, it is with a view to others going down on their knees to us. No, here I have discovered two completely new approaches: to understand the other's suffering and to ask oneself what is it in us which provokes the other's attitude. We have never thought in these terms. And that is something which can be accepted."

\* \* \*

## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Another far-reaching aspect of the Caux political Round Table was the declaration on Good Governance

and the Global Village. Among the signatories were members of parliament from Japan and Korea, the Emir of Kano (Nigeria) and political advisors from Ukraine and Cameroon as well as an Algerian veteran of that country's independence struggle, now a Deputy Secretary General of the UN and Kofi Annan's Special Advisor on Africa.

Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Foundation for Moral Re-Armament and former head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, presented the declaration to the conference. It states:

"There is no good governance without democracy, participatory process and accountability... The integrity of democracy rests on its ability to protect and advance the human, economic and social rights of all its citizens including those on the margins of society, through enhanced participation at local, regional and national levels."

Good governance, the statement declares, is based "on the ultimate power of the people through democratic institutions and authorities and the rule of law guaranteed by an independent judiciary". The participants also issued an urgent call to curb the trade in small arms.

Thirty political personalities had taken part in three days of meetings in the framework of the *Globalising Responsibility* conference. The overall theme of the 2001 Caux conferences has been *Globalising responsibility, expanding hearts*.

## CAUX CONFERENCE FOR BUSINESS & INDUSTRY - CCBI

When I first started to help organise industrial conferences at Caux, in 1973, I remember participants being mainly older men – always men – in suits. These days they seem to me to be predominantly younger people, often in tee shirts. It's like when policemen start to look young – you know something is happening to you rather than the policemen!

The conference itself has evolved with the years too. The theme of the first one was *The role of industry in building a new*

*society* – a task normally associated at the time with the radical left. As the world moved on, so did the conference. Sometimes we were ahead of the game – for example, in building relationships of trust with Japanese business people, leading to the birth of the Caux Round Table – and at other times less so. An attempt to address the problem of international debt in the '80s fizzled out – or appeared to, until we realised that one of those involved, Bill Peters, was making a major impact with the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Bill was present again this year, to update us on the campaign, before setting off to lobby the G8 meeting in Genoa.



Despite many evidences of God's spirit at work, several of us most closely involved have begun to feel that the CCBI was not matching its potential at a time of huge interest in the morality of business. We felt a new departure was needed, new people, new ideas. So it has been both a wrench and a great relief this year to discover that a group of younger business people do indeed have new ideas, and for

Richard Pearce, the Conference Secretary, and me to hand over co-ordination responsibilities to them. Menso

Fermin (The Netherlands) and Steven Greisdorf (USA) have agreed to carry forward the leadership, building up a core team to do it with them. Watch this space...!

**Chris Evans**

## NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

Caux was new for me this year. I was attracted to take part in the business forum, as it seemed in line with my fairly new life as an aspiring career-minded individual. I picked the discussion on *The Impacts of Information and Communication Technologies*, as again it related to me and subjects I have worked with.

I came telling myself I had no pre-