



Inspiring young people to make a difference in the world

News from Pestalozzi

It's 2013 and we'd like to wish all of our Alumni a happy new year!

It snowed in Sedlescombe last week for the first time this winter. I'm sure many of you remember playing in the snow with great fondness, as we have some great pictures of past years. Make sure to [like our official Facebook page](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#) to see new photos! You can also find our latest news [on our website](#).



Photos: Students enjoying the snow; Val Ballard at her thank you afternoon tea

Many of you will remember Val Ballard and her husband Peter with great fondness. Val is stepping down from her position as Trustee but will remain involved with Pestalozzi as a council member. Thank you to all of you who sent in stories and memories of Val – they were put together in a book by current students and presented to Val at a special afternoon tea. Val said, "I was quite overwhelmed when I read the book which had been put with illustrations. Thank you for taking so much trouble, and please thank everyone who was involved, on my behalf. I would also like to thank everyone over those lovely flowers - the occasion left me quite breathless."

Do you know about our [Opportunities Programme](#)? We hold regular career talks as part of the programme and we'd love to get more of our Alumni involved! If you're in the UK, you could come to Pestalozzi and give a presentation to our current students. And wherever you are in the world, perhaps you or someone you know could offer our students work experience or a gap year internship? Get in touch with Vicky or Charlie (Victoria.Wilson@pestalozzi.org.uk or Charlotte.Allen@pestalozzi.org.uk) for more information.

This year is set to be a big one for Pestalozzi, as we fundraise to support both our 50 scholarships and the building of the Pestalozzi Centre – a new facility that will provide better meeting and study spaces for students. If you are able to help by [making a donation](#) or putting us in contact with organisations that may be able to fund our scholarships and projects, please let us know!

Our sister organisation, Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust, would also like to say happy new year to you all.

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News from our Alumni

Pushpanjali Giri came to Pestalozzi from Nepal in 2008 and graduated in 2010. She is currently majoring in Chemistry at Williams College in Massachusetts, USA. Read about her recent visit to New York and her winter study plans [here](#).

Roman Probodziak recently featured in a BBC2 programme about Claridge's in London. Roman was one of the first children to come to Pestalozzi from refugee camps in Europe after World War II. He's worked at Claridge's for 36 years where he is now head doorman. You can read more about the programme and see a great photo of Roman in a clipping from the Radio Times [here \(PDF\)](#).

Kalpana Joshi came to Pestalozzi from India in 1966. She visited Pestalozzi to attend Val Ballard's afternoon tea, making the long trip down from Birmingham where she is working as a GP. Look out for her story in the next Newsletter!

Sidumise Sibanda graduated from Pestalozzi in 2009. She is now a second-year student on Westminster University's LLB Solicitor's Exempting Degree and was awarded a summer work placement in September 2012 at Gulbenkian Andonian Solicitors, one of the leading immigration law firms in the UK. [Read more](#).

Uddhav Sharma, at Pestalozzi 2009-2011, has been awarded the Martin Luther King Junior Leadership Award 2013 for his contribution to society. This is an MIT award given out each year to 2-3 members of faculty, 2-3 alumni and 2-3 current students. It is great to see that Uddhav has managed to shine in the prestigious environment of MIT! [Read more on our website](#).



Photo: Uddhav's project, working in the field

Len Clarke, who was at Pestalozzi in the early 1960s, now lives in Devon and is visiting Australia this month for his son's wedding.

Pratibha Chauhan came to Pestalozzi from India in 2007 and graduated in 2009. She is now a senior architecture student at Wellesley College in the USA. She writes, "I am currently working as a student representative for Studio Space renovation plan at Wellesley College. The project requires me to work with the renovation committee and the space planners in understanding and addressing the studio related needs of Wellesley students. Through the information that we will collect using student surveys and data, the studio spaces will be renovated to maximize the studio experience at Wellesley College... I am also doing a life size mural project for an office of a psychologist based in Wellesley town."



Photo: Students in their National Dress, 2012

We'd love to know what you're up to! Simply email one of us:

- Jonathan: Jonathan.Williams@pestalozzi.org.uk
- Mags: Mags.Alexander@pestalozzi.org.uk
- Carol: Carol.Blythe@pestalozzi.org.uk
- Or whoever you'd like to speak to!

[Here are some questions to get you started.](#)

Once again, we'd like to wish you a happy and successful 2013. We look forward to hearing from many of you soon.

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