

Joint announcement by Dr Clare Hornsby Director of *Benedictus Trust* and Léonie Caldecott, Director of *Second Spring Centre for Faith and Culture* regarding future collaborative projects.

For the last 25 years, the *Second Spring Centre for Faith and Culture*, based in Oxford and founded by the late Stratford Caldecott and his wife Léonie, has been active in educational, publishing, and cultural activities that stress the relationship between western civilisation, the liberal arts and the Catholic intellectual and cultural traditions. Influenced by many of the same sources, Dr Clare Hornsby, with academic colleagues, founded *Benedictus Trust* in 2011 as a registered charity with a focus on the creation of undergraduate level courses embracing the same traditions. There were many fruitful and supportive conversations between Stratford, Léonie and Clare in the early days of the foundation of *Benedictus*; the latter benefitting from the experience of the former and inspired by many of Stratford's significant published works in the field.

Since his untimely death in 2014, *Second Spring* has continued its activities, with Léonie and Teresa Caldecott continuing their publishing work and running a two-week residential summer school in Oxford. Meanwhile *Benedictus* has expanded its original plan of action to include an annual Academic Forum, a public programme of activities based in London, and a London based two-week liberal arts summer school - *Foundations of Western Culture*.

Since many of the aims of their respective organisations are close, Léonie and Clare have decided that future strength lies in collaboration and so, respecting their separate identities, they have decided to join together in two specific areas - the Summer School and the Forum.

From 2017 the *Benedictus/Second Spring Summer School* will be held in London as well as in Oxford, with the London focus on philosophy and art and in Oxford on literature and history. Students at the joint School will benefit from a wider pool of expert visiting tutors and the expanded possibilities for direct encounter with art and culture provided by the two locations.

With respect to the Academic Forum, it is proposed that, in addition to the annual meeting (in 2016 at Blackfriars Oxford), an online academic journal be created that will be a continuation of *Second Spring's* online discussion forum on education and the liberal arts, as well as a virtual space where scholars can submit academic papers for peer-reviewed publication. Named the *Benedictus Research Forum*, this online publication will have close links with the Oxford Centre's more general print journal of faith and culture, *Second Spring*, to be relaunched in a yearbook format in 2017.

At the Blackfriars Forum, Clare and Léonie will be making an appeal for support in the furtherance of this aim, so much needed in the current academic climate. We need to build a team of collaborators able to offer administrative assistance, to help in forming the International Scientific Committee which will oversee the academic standards of the Forum, to build the website and to register the Forum as a journal.

We are both convinced that by this collaboration we are fulfilling the wishes of Stratford Caldecott and building a stronger base for our own future activities.

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