

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation
PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Registered Charity No. 251051

Spring 2006

Foundation Trainees Commemorate the Triumph of Nelson

Sarah Goad, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Rear Admiral Michael Stacey and staff and trainees attended Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Training College on Wednesday, 2 November 2005 to listen to Neil and Demetri, two graduate trainees of the College who had recently sailed on The Jubilee Sailing Trust's *The Lord Nelson* as part of the Trafalgar Dispatch celebrations over the summer.

Both trainees joined a crew where two thirds of the crew on board consisted of people with a disability. Demetri recounted how this environment promoted equality: "Everyone took their turn at everything. Personally I was terrified when I climbed to the top of the mast! Once you were up there and you could see the view it was worth it."

Neil, swapped places with Demetri for the return leg of the voyage. Like Demetri, he particularly enjoyed the view from the 'top' platform: "You get a lot of peace and quiet up there. It was amazing seeing the dolphins swim alongside us."

Neil also had a chance to practise

the carpentry skills he learnt at the Training College: "The ship needed a box for fresh water supplies as part of the health and safety inspection. Sawing wood on a swaying boat in a force five wind was a challenge!"

Cynthia Robinson, Chief Executive of the Foundation, thanked the Peter Harrison Foundation who generously funded the trainees' participation in the Dispatch: "We are very grateful to the Peter Harrison Foundation for assisting our Foundation's trainees. Both trainees have clearly had a real adventure and a new experience in sailing a tall ship. That is what the spirit of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation is all about."



(Above) Demetri enjoying life at sea.
(Middle) Neil at the Training College.
(Top) A sunset on a calm evening.

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Guinness & Oysters in the City

On Thursday 24 November, 500 professionals from the City gathered at the Mansion House through special hospitality granted by the Lord Mayor for the 40th Annual Guinness and Oyster Luncheon in support of disability charity Queen Elizabeth's Foundation.



The Carousel Cruise Auction Item

The Hon. David Brewer the Lord Mayor, Lady Holderness (Queen Elizabeth's Foundation President) and Stuart Fletcher (President, International, Diageo) all paid tribute to the work of the Foundation and the achievements of people with disabilities who attend the Foundation's centres.

Channel 5's Johnny Gould had the guests roaring with laughter during a light hearted and energetic auction. Auction prizes included an all-day luxury cruise round The Needles to Cowes (donated by Carousel Cruise), a Diageo Grand Tier private box for ten at the Albert Hall for La Bohème and a Moët and Chandon champagne reception and deluxe three-course lunch for ten at The City Boardroom Club (donated by David Murrell). Over £40,000 was raised to support the work of the foundation.



Foundation Governor Nicholas Witchell shares a moment with the Foundation's own 'Marathon Man' Don Martin at the Guinness and Oyster Luncheon.



(Left to Right) Lady Holderness (Queen Elizabeth's Foundation President) chats to the Lady Mayoress during the Guinness & Oyster reception.



A row of the 'good black stuff' is prepared for arriving guests at the Luncheon.



2005 - A Remarkable Year for the Amazing Freewheelers

By Viv Colvill, Director of The Freewheelers

In January we performed at the Chairman of Mole Valley's Banquet one week and hosted a Gala "About Music" at the Theatre in Leatherhead the next. The first half of the programme consisted of celebrity performances by Angharad Rees, Barry Mason, Virginia McKenna, StopGap Dance Company, and students from the Yehudi Menuhin School. The second half was our award-winning production of "The Musicians" by Patrick Marber. We raised £6,000 and made lots of new friends.



The Freewheelers take a bow at the end of a recent performance of Samurai.

Meanwhile we were rehearsing "Samurai" by Geoffrey Case, our fourth play for the National Theatre's "Connections" programme. We were delighted to have Geoffrey working with us to adapt his great play to our performance style. This was performed first at the Development Centre, and then at the Palace Theatre in Watford. As a result of working with the Disability Officer of the Arts Council and the External Funding Officer for Surrey County Council, the Freewheelers had the opportunity to apply for the funding of a new project. The Arts Council granted £19,000 to pay for a playwright, a director and a film maker to train us and help us record the

project. We also now have a consultant to advise us on restructuring our organisation so that, among many other things, the students are more fully involved in running the Company. The project is called "Rolling On."

In the new year, 2006, we will concentrate on the artistic aspects of the Arts Council work, and on the training to enable the students at the Centre to run the Company. 2005 was a landmark year: we are exhausted but exhilarated by all we have done, and very grateful to all those who have supported us. Thank you

Awards for All

The Resource Centre has been able to purchase much needed items, including upper gym equipment, two replacement exercise bikes and a kiln for the art room thanks to a grant of £4,768 from The Big Lottery, Awards for All.



(Above) A client at the Resource Centre gets to grips with one of the new machines.



Fifty Years of Commitment to the Foundation



(Left to right) Colin Day, Director of Retail Trading, accepting the cheque.

The Foundation, like any other charity, couldn't survive were it not for the brilliant support it gets from its dedicated volunteers. Eric and Sally Burr are two of those volunteers and have been with the Foundation for an amazing fifty years. Eric, from Cobham, recounts: "We volunteered to take part in a fundraising event organised by the Training College in the mid fifties and from that point we decided it would be our local charity.

"Since then we have been involved in many things with the Foundation: the Oxshott and Cobham Friends group, fundraising for the Training College and for the last fifteen years, Sally volunteered at the Foundation's Trading warehouse...everyone we have dealt with over the years has been so very kind and helpful, making life so much more enjoyable."

When Eric recently stepped down as a Trustee at the Slater Foundation the Trust kindly offered to donate £2,500 to a charity of Eric's choice which was, in this case, Queen Elizabeth's Foundation.

It's Time to be Resourceful

Last September the Resource Centre decided to showcase the member's achievements and put their work on display. There was a lot to celebrate and it was totally appropriate to dedicate an entire week of activities to recognising the success and talent of the members.

Andrew Wells, High Sheriff of Kent and trustee Brigadier Robin Garnett, OBE FRCP, opened the week's events on 12 September. Exhibits ranged from fine jewellery to painting, pottery and expressive creations in quilting, woodwork and design. Councillor Ian Armit, Mayor of Dartford and Councillor Jennifer Rickwood, Lady Mayoress were so impressed by the work that they invited the Resource Centre to take the entire exhibition to Dartford Town Hall for a three-month exhibition.

The week concluded with an awards ceremony attended by Cynthia Robinson, Foundation Chief Executive, recognising the individual achievements of the members, among them Mary Humphrey and Peter Wright (both pictured below). Peter was awarded the manager's award. Mary commented: "I'm very proud to be part of this Centre. We have worked hard and achieved a great deal and I'm glad we are, at last, getting some recognition."





Mobility Centre receives a new lick of paint, and much more, thanks to Ringway

The Foundation's Mobility Centre, based in Carshalton, welcomed The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Sutton, Councillor Lesley O'Connell, on 25 November to view the Centre's facilities and formally unveil the much appreciated improvements recently made to the Centre by leading highway maintenance contractor, Ringway.



Thanks to Ringway, the Mobility Centre has brand new signage, a zebra crossing, high visibility safety jackets and freshly painted markings on its driving track. Ringway has also kindly donated £500 to the Centre.

Sue Vernon, Manager of the Mobility Centre, underlined the importance of the visit: "It is a wonderful opportunity for us to say thank you to Ringway. It's a real pleasure and honour to welcome Cllr. Lesley O'Connell to visit and view the work we do here."

Surrey Regional Director for Ringway, Jerry Pert, adds, "The Mobility Centre does some wonderful work and so when it needed some help renovating its training ground, of course we said yes."

Left to Right) Ted Gates (Foundation trustee), Sue Vernon (Mobility Centre Manager, Graham Bath (Surrey County Council), Mel Wallace (Ringway), Jerry Pert (Ringway), Cllr. O'Connell, Geoff Morgan (Mobility Centre) and Chris Pritchard (Foundation Operational Performance Manager).

Ellmer's Project Manager receives Gold Award for work at the Foundation's Development Centre

The CIOB (Chartered Institute of Building) Construction Manager of the Year Awards were held at the Grosvenor House Hotel Park Lane on 25 October 2005.

The annual awards event is open to site-based project managers with overall responsibility for the delivery of any UK construction project. There are 12 categories covering managers on all construction projects from small scale projects to the largest retail and commercial developments.

Joe Haplin, project manager, Ellmer, won the coveted 'refurbishment and fit out under £3m category for his excellent work with the recent £1.5m modernisation project at the Foundation's Development Centre.



Joe Haplin (middle) picks up his Gold award from John Douglas, MD of Englemere Ltd (Right). Daisy McAndrew, Chief Political Correspondent for ITV News, (Left) hosted the evening.



Taking to the Skies with Breitling and the London Events Committee

(Above) The Breitling display team in action.

(Below) Guests enjoy the music and dancing at the ball.



Guests at the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Annual Ball on 12 November had the opportunity to take to the skies with Breitling's world-class fighter jet team.

Breitling watches kindly donated this incredible auction prize to the ball which is attended by young professionals and organised by the London Events Committee.

The winner of the auction will be flown to Dijon, France in Spring/Summer 2006 (date to be confirmed). After meeting the Breitling Jet Team, the winner will experience first hand the precision, power and elegance of the Breitling Jet Team's L39 fighter jets.

Sony Staff Get Out and About

Staff from Sony have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help at the Development Centre.

As well as undertaking painting and decorating plus a mammoth tidy up of a store area, other Sony staff took clients from the Centre to the races at Sandown Park Racecourse to watch the races and enjoy a fun day out! Sony have also generously donated £5000 towards the Foundation as their nominated charity as well as providing a plush hi-fi stereo for the Foundation's 70th Anniversary Gala Ball last July. The Foundation would like to thank Sony and their staff for all their support.



(Right) Sony staff take a quick break from sprucing up the Development Centre.

(Above) Clients and Sony staff enjoying the fresh air at Sandown Park race course.





Friends from Malaysia - Disability Crosses all Boundaries

Malaysia's Minister For Human Resources the Hon. Datuk Wira Dr. Fong Chan Onn visited the Training College on Wednesday 5 October to view first hand how the Training College retrains people with disabilities for mainstream employment.

The Malaysian government is reviewing its disability provision for disabled people and paid the Foundation a compliment by including it in their fact-finding visit.

At the end of the tour the Minister for Human Resources was clearly impressed with the College's services and facilities: "It's very inspiring how the Training College offers hope to those whose dreams have been lost and the way in which it rehabilitates people for work."



A Painter's Life for Me



Long time Foundation supporters Bunzl plc have donated £15,000 towards the Training College. The funds will go towards the Painting and Decorating course and the Job Club, which helps trainees to build confidence and learn techniques for job applications. This includes learning how to write CVs and covering letters as well as practising good interview techniques in order to help trainees compete in the job market when they leave the Foundation.

This generous donation comes on top of last year's gift by Bunzl plc of an electronic white board for use at the Training College. The Foundation's Training College offers training and education to adults with disabilities, assisting them in gaining employment and independence.

A trainee on the College's Painting and Decorating course adds a splash of colour to life.



Ladies Autumn Lunch with Penny Vincenzi



Penny signing a copy of *Sheer Abandon* for one of her many fans.

Hundreds of ladies eagerly surged into the Queen's stand at Epsom Racecourse on Thursday, 6 October to hear Penny Vincenzi speak about her writing experiences and how she makes her novels such a riotous read. The occasion was Queen Elizabeth's Foundation fourteenth Annual Ladies' Autumn Lunch and was once again kindly sponsored by the Blair Foundation.

Penny explained to a packed Queen's Stand her approach to writing: "All my books are what if's. You have a destination in mind but you don't know how you are going to get there. I've solved so many plots whilst driving on the M4!"

After her speech Penny signed pre-publication copies of her latest paperback *Sheer Abandon*. Guests also took advantage of the thirty stalls at the event and ended the day happily weighed down with hand made chocolates designer jewellery and accessories. The Ladies Autumn Lunch raised £15,500 for the work of the Foundation.

Forthcoming Events

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation holds a number of events throughout the year to raise funds to support its work across its centres. In 2006 we have some new events lined up as well as the traditional Ladies' Lunches. If you would like to know more please call Pat Lelliott in the Foundation's events department on **01372 841213**.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all supporters and staff for their generosity and hard work throughout 2005. The Foundation's seventieth anniversary year could not have been such a success were it not for everyone's support. Thank you.

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