

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Registered Charity No. 251051

Summer 2009



Widening Our Circle of Friends

THEY say you can never have enough friends – and members of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation's Ambassadors Club wouldn't disagree.

A group of influential people, who are all passionate about QEF, met at Leatherhead Court last month for the launch of the club that aims to raise our profile. The recruits, including old, new and local supporters, will get monthly updates about what's going on at QEF. In turn, they will spread the word as

goodwill Ambassadors by introducing people to us, attending a fundraising event and/or selling tickets.

"I see the club as a great idea for adding a network of support for the excellent work of the Foundation," says long-term supporter Peter Willan. "It creates the opportunity for members to help in a variety of ways where they can and also a continuing involvement." Fellow Ambassador Tim Woodburn – a relatively new supporter – is

keen to strengthen ties with us. His Windsor-based recruitment firm, Choralis Consulting, has nominated QEF as its charity this year and employees supported our Golf Day at Tyrrell's Wood in March.

"We got to know QEF through our business links," says Tim. "It is a fantastic charity. 2010 is its 75th Anniversary so it should be a good year, especially as we're based near the Queen in Windsor."

Regular donor Colin Langley, a business

management executive, has been aware of our valuable work since moving to Fetcham 40 years ago.

The chairman of the Leatherhead Area Partnership and Director of Leatherhead Theatre now wants to raise QEF's profile locally as an Ambassador.

"Leatherhead Theatre celebrates its 40th anniversary in September as QEF approaches its 75th," says Colin. "Perhaps this is something we could explore."

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HAPPENINGS

Emily Honoured at City Awards Ceremony

BEING acknowledged for your accomplishments is humbling as Emily Darbyshire, a client at our Brain Injury Centre, discovered at a special awards ceremony in London.

The Master of the Girdlers' Company, one of the 108 ancient livery companies in the City, presented Emily with a Medallion to mark her "outstanding achievements".

Aged 17, Emily had passed 13 GCSEs when encephalitis and meningitis caused a severe brain injury that left her unable to speak, write and walk. Now, after rehabilitation at QEF and with a geography A-level under her belt, the 19-year-old is about to start college.

The Girdlers' Company has been a long-term supporter of QEF and Members, fellow Medallion winners and guests, were visibly touched by Emily's story at the prize-giving in the Girdlers' Hall in May. Emily said: "I felt privileged."



Emily pictured with parents Gill and Bill and the Master of Girdlers', Michael Keene.



Trainees and sponsors gather for a celebratory photograph outside Leatherhead Court.

Business Community Salutes High Achievers

LOCAL Surrey businesses were in abundance at the Training College prize-giving in July to congratulate the achievements of this year's trainees.

Prizes were awarded in fifteen categories ranging from Media Techniques through to Computer Aided Design and Horticulture for students who had overcome disabilities to excel in their training.

The College has an annual intake of some 250 trainees and, since its opening almost 75 years ago, has remained dedicated to providing training geared to sustainable employment.

Attending the ceremony, Tim Hall, Chairman of Mole Valley Council, commented: "I have been impressed by both the trainees' dedication to succeed and the specialist professional skills provided at QEF. It demonstrates that difficulties can and are overcome by motivated people who set out to achieve their goals through hard work and determination."



The Principal's Prize, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ashted, went to John Groom (pictured above). This award recognises individuals who not only complete training, but also contribute to College campus life. Commenting on this award, Garry Billing, Principal, said: "John was a model student but what made him special was his sensitivity to trainees less able than himself. For example he mentored a fellow trainee with alcohol problems and befriended another by teaching him to ride a bicycle so he could travel to work."

Creative Communication at Carpenters

JUNE saw the official opening of a new wing at QEF Brain Injury Centre, Park Road in Banstead. Carpenters, named after the original building on this site, focuses on the critical role of communication in rehabilitation.

The QEF Brain Injury Centre is unique in the UK focusing on young adults (16-35) and combining neuro-rehabilitation with the facilities of a national specialist educational college, inspected by Ofsted. A brain injury does not necessarily affect life expectancy and combining rehabilitation and education allows young adults the opportunity to maximise their future potential and independence. Rehabilitation at the Centre involves intensive programmes to tackle each client's individual needs with specialist care in areas such as physiotherapy, psychology, speech and language therapy, all helping clients to relearn lost skills and develop compensatory strategies for lost function.



Mrs Sarah Goad JP, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and QEF Governor, unveiled a commemorative plaque witnessed by (left) Cllr Richard Mantle, Mayor of Reigate and Banstead and (right) Geoffrey Marlow, Chairman of Surrey County Council.

Carpenters features a variety of exciting and new activities, all geared to helping clients explore and expand their capabilities.

An internal radio station has been introduced as a fun way to help clients communicate while gaining a greater level of self-confidence.

A media suite provides a range of creative computer software allowing clients to experiment with integrated images, text, animation, video and CD quality sounds. Encouraging personal expression, there is a music room equipped with rhythm and percussion instruments and, to engender team spirit, a flexi space for performing arts.

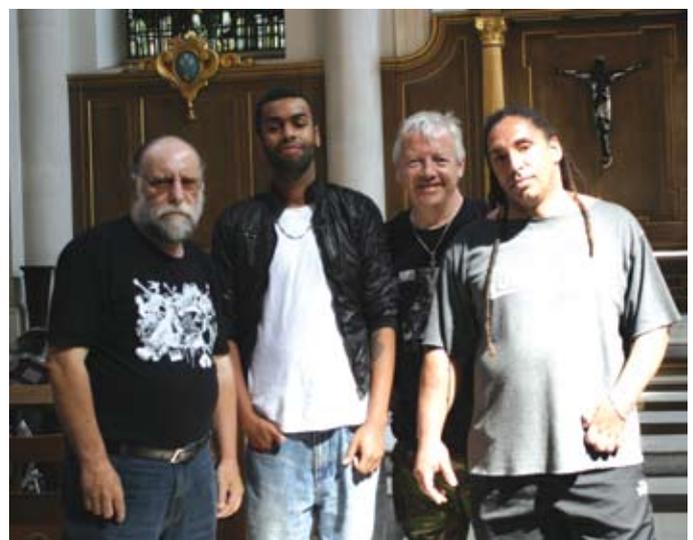
Eileen Jackman, Principal, QEF Brain Injury Centre, highlighted the motivational force of the new facilities and the importance of having fun in both the learning and rehabilitative process.



Musical Mid-Summer Medley

QEF joined with 'Street Level', a charity working with young people at risk of exclusion in schools in London, to provide a summer evening of musical entertainment at St. Mary le Bow Church, EC1.

From Puccini to Gershwin, Beethoven to the Beatles, performers could not help but please all tastes. A definite highlight of the evening was our home grown Training College Rock and Roll acoustic band who took us through classics such as Hotel California made famous by The Eagles. L-R: Graham, Adam, Nick and Paul. Special thanks go to Layla, Graham's daughter who gave her time on the day to help fundraise for the College.



A World of Difference

INSPIRED by World Cultural Diversity Day in May, clients and staff at the Brain Injury and Development Centres celebrated their diverse cultural backgrounds this summer in the form of dress, food, music, dance and poetry.



L-R Client Reuben and Caroline Ray, Head of Quality Standards at the Brain Injury Centre.

The Development Centre resounded to the beat of the bongos while the highlight of the Brain Injury day was the 'World Buffet' which included Hungarian Goulash, Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Italian Lasagne followed by South African Melba Cake, Trinidadian Coconut Pudding, Lebanese Sweetbreads and Welsh Cakes to mention but a few!



L-R: Lauren and Mark, clients at the Development Centre, play the bongos.



Celebrations Coming Soon!

PLANS to celebrate our 75th Anniversary are well in hand at QEF with activities and events planned throughout 2010 to attract both young and old, current and prospective supporters.

The celebratory year officially starts in November 2009 in recognition of the founding of the 'Cripples' Training College in 1934, championed by Dame Georgiana Buller and supported by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, then HRH The Duchess of York.

Our events programme is to be launched by a Winter Festive Gala Dinner to be held at Kingston Town Hall on 1 December 2009. Please watch our website for news and updates and book early to avoid disappointment.

Sophisticated Shopping

IF you like to shop for something a little different not found on the high street, come and join us between 1-5pm on Thursday, 8 October at Epsom Racecourse where more than 60 stalls will be displaying a tempting range of goodies including fashion, shoes, bags, speciality foods, jewellery, wine, furnishings, ceramics, toys and much, much more... And, if that isn't enough to tempt you in, don't forget, you will also get the chance to appraise the new Duchess's Stand opened earlier this summer.

Forthcoming EVENTS

September

Sunday, 6 September
Adidas Women's 5k challenge
Hyde Park, London

Friday, 18 September
Celebrity Golf Day
Pyrford Golf Club

Sunday, 20 September
Corporate Bikeathon Challenge
Leatherhead

October

Thursday, 8 October
Ladies Autumn Lunch
The new Duchess's Stand
Epsom Racecourse with
guest speaker – Alan Titchmarsh

November

Thursday, 26 November
Guinness & Oyster Lunch
Mansion House, London

December

Tuesday, 1 December
Winter Festive Gala Dinner
Surrey County Hall, Kingston

Saturday, 5 December
Pinewood Legends Charity Dinner
Pinewood Studios, Iver Heath

For further information,
please contact Pat Lelliott at
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Exchange Visit Huge Success

QEF Development Centre in Leatherhead played host this June to fellow disabled visitors from Spain, Greece and Germany as part of an EU exchange initiative which aims to explore and contribute to the diversity and richness of European cultures. The three-day visit focused on clients developing their awareness and understanding of each other's worlds, using the creative elements of music, dance and theatre to demonstrate individual expression.



Group shot: Representatives of clients and staff from the four European organisations.



To celebrate the visit, a tree planting ceremony was held. QEF staff Liz Barnes (left) and Chris Eglinton (right) help Laura, client at QEF, plant a tree for England.

The visit represented the third stage in the project after clients from the UK visited Spain and Greece earlier this year: Germany playing host in August.

A major part of each visit has been to work towards producing a musical play that will be acted out on a professional stage in 2010.

"Without standard verbal skills, it is difficult to assess a client's ability to understand and

memorise but we are learning through this project that many know and remember far more than we had ever realised. It is wonderful to witness the clients growing almost daily in confidence and seeing their excitement as they learn more about each other and the big wide world that they live in," said Gauri Chauhan, trip organiser and Life Coach at the Development Centre.

The Sun Shone For Trefoil Tea Party

DESPITE a dismal summer, the sun did shine for our Trefoil ladies attending the traditional annual Strawberry Tea Party held in July.

The Trefoil Guild was formed in 1943 out of an amalgamation of various groups of 'Old Guides' and now has over 20,000 members worldwide. Groups from across the UK today gather to maintain friendships and continue the spirit of the guiding and scouting movements supporting the communities in which they live.

The Trefoil Guild ladies first started supporting QEF back in the 1950s and have remained one of our staunchest group of supporters.

2010 will be a very special year for both organisations, representing the Centenary of Guiding and QEF's 75th Anniversary.



Thank you Ladies and we are looking forward to seeing you all again next year.

HAPPENINGS



On the Road Again

QEF Mobility Centre is expanding its range of assessments to include cycles and motorbikes. There are currently around 1.26 million motor cyclists in the UK and numbers are increasing year on year.

Unfortunately, there are also a great number of motorcyclists who have, through accident or illness, had their licences withdrawn yet no clear process has been in place until now to assess their capability of returning to the open road.

The Mobility Centre, based in Carshalton, provides motorbike driving ability assessments for new learners and clients who have acquired a head injury. Amputees, and those with reduced balance, will be assessed for the different types of physical adaptations available.

By creating this service, the Mobility Centre will be reaching out to a new disabled audience helping riders to regain their independence once more.



Target of Support

More than 20 British Gas Central and South East quality assurance engineers turned out to volunteer their time and effort in helping to reclaim an overgrown outdoor archery range at QEF Brain Injury Centre. Experts in time management, the team also started work on the proposed sensory garden with the installation of a giant glockenspiel.

Dave Barton, British Gas engineer, explained, "I knew the team would be enthusiastic about getting involved, some have travelled from as far as Exeter and Bristol, just to lend a hand and pitch in with their skills. We're used to getting our hands dirty, but today has been a challenge. We've cleared shrubbery, re-built sheds, re-glazed the green house and painted all day – it's been a pleasure to help and so much so we're coming back next year."

"It will be great to get the archery field up and running again," said Peter Gaskell, Recreational Co-ordinator at the Centre. "Apart from being great fun, it is a wonderful way for clients to exercise the upper body and focus their attention. Our clients are also very keen gardeners and cannot wait to put their green fingers to the test."



Attracting an Audience

A UNIQUE window display at our Ashted shop attracted the crowds in August - a live mannequin modelling a quintessential white wedding gown. Geared to helping cost conscious couples plan a wedding during a credit crunch, the shop offered a selection of new and vintage outfits plus gift ideas. QEF had also mustered the support of local businesses to provide other big day bargains such as flower arrangements, champagne, cars, catering and, of course, the wedding cake.