

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation

PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Registered Charity No. 251051

Summer 2008

Breaking Boundaries



Ken Hames, *Beyond Boundaries* Expedition leader, with some of his team from the BBC show and the Mayor of Kent when they officially opened the show.

Sharing a similar ethos to the Foundation, the exhibition was all about promoting independence, challenging disability and living life to the full. Staff from our Development Centre and Training College were on hand to promote our services to disabled people. For most visitors to our stand, this formed an introduction to the work of the Foundation but, for a few, it was simply a reunion as several ex-trainees of the College popped in to simply say 'hello' and catch up on all the news.



Making the most of the day, Jeffrey then turns his hand to a spot of mountaineering.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation was proudly flying the flag at the disability exhibition *Beyond Boundaries Live* held on 25/26 July at the Kent Showground, Detling, Kent.

In only its second year, this exhibition was inspired by the BBC 2 series where disabled people take on some of the toughest expeditions on the Planet under the guidance of ex SAS Major Ken Hames.



L-R: Jeffrey, a client at the Development Centre with Andy Kenny, Placements Manager, trialling one of the many vehicles on display.

A highly interactive exhibition aimed at all ages, it showcased a large range of products and services within the disability sector focusing on various areas such as education, employment, mobility, sport and fashion.

Celebrities supporting the exhibition included Major Ken Hames who led an inspirational seminar; the one-armed chef, Michael Caines; Olympian Ade Adepitan; X-factor Kerry McGregor and 11-times Paralympic gold medallist, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.

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The Friendly Face of Philanthropy Today



The Girdlers' Company, one of the oldest Livery companies in London, has a long tradition of supporting and encouraging people who have experienced challenging times and this May they acknowledged the efforts and determination of Matthew, a trainee at the Training College.

Matthew was a successful electrician bringing up a young family when he suffered a serious industrial accident leaving him dependent upon a wheelchair and forcing him to seek a new career.

He attended the College on a non-residential basis enrolling

on a City & Guilds Bookkeeping and Accounts course, passing all units at the highest level. But this was only the beginning – it took 80 job applications over a six-month period before he finally found success and permanent employment.

For Matthew, with a young family to support, retraining and finding a way back to work was not a matter of choice but essential.

It was this determination of spirit in the face of adversity which so impressed the judges and led to Matthew being awarded the Girdlers' Medallion at the Award Ceremony in Girdlers' Hall.

Variety is the spice of life

Variety may be the spice of life but it can also bring with it many complications. For the disabled person, determining just which car or wheelchair will be most suitable for their individual needs can be a nightmare ... unless they visit our Mobility Centre in Carshalton.

Here we aim to provide not only independent, expert advice but also the widest possible range of



L-R: Mobility Centre Occupational Therapist Paul Graham is given a demonstration of the new vehicle.

vehicles in an unpressurised setting, allowing clients the time to trial the various options and assess the facts to ensure that the right choice is made.

Thanks to the generosity of a long term loan by Constables Mobility of Pevensey, East Sussex, our Mobility Centre has been able to add a brand new Renault Kangoo to its fleet of wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

A Competitive Edge

It is not only commercial companies that need to uphold, if not exceed, standards to ensure they maintain a competitive edge - in marketing terms, their unique selling point.

Our Brain Injury Centre is able to boast that it is indeed unique. Did you know that 15 to 29 year olds are three times more likely to sustain a brain injury than any other age group? Our Centre is the only unit in the UK to focus

solely on this vulnerable age group offering not only assessments and neuro-rehabilitation but combining these programmes with the education and facilities of a national specialist college, inspected by OFSTED.

"These standards are carefully guarded and rigorously monitored which is why we were delighted to achieve, for the second consecutive time, a prestigious 'Grade 2' rating from

Ofsted this June. Full inspections like this come round every four years," said Eileen Jackman, Principal of the Brain Injury Centre.



Time Out

Clients at the Brain Injury Centre in Banstead are challenged by intensive programmes designed to aid therapy and develop skills to help with a successful transition back into the community. However, the Centre also recognises the integral part that activities play in rehabilitation - sport, music, art and outings all provide a channel for reinforcing session work and an opportunity to apply techniques in a real-world context.



Clients take a turn on the dodgem cars during a visit to a Steam Fair.

Clients are encouraged to plan, organise and co-ordinate their trips learning the value of teamwork, individual and group responsibility, while developing a sense of culture and community.



Clients organise a trip to London Zoo in Regents Park.

Just some of the trips organised this year have included visits to the International Mime Festival on the South Bank in London, the Science Museum and Imax 3D Cinema, a trip to a Butterfly Farm and an activities holiday in the West Country.

Sun, Sea and Smiles



Clients and staff from the Development Centre enjoying the sunshine and sea air on Brighton Promenade. L-R: Front Row Rebecca, Katie, Susie, Sophie and Rachel. Back Row: Marilza, Nicky and Ruth.

It may not have been much of a summer so far, but clients at the Development Centre in Leatherhead have been making the most of it. Days out are always very popular at the Centre and this trip down to Brighton proved to be no exception.

The weather stayed fine for taking in the views from the Promenade of the world famous pier which certainly entertained with its many arcades and stalls - the most popular offering toffee apples and candyfloss...

For those days spent at home, clients could also enjoy the delights of summer, thanks to the generosity of KBR, Leatherhead who kindly donated a host of very tempting chocolate ice creams.



L-R: Kate, Soufyan and Susie tuck into their ice creams.

Gaelic Charm

It may have been St. George's Day but the 300 ladies attending the Spring Lunch at Epsom Racecourse were won over by the Gaelic charm of TV and Radio presenter, Eamonn Holmes.



Eamonn, Britain's longest serving breakfast TV anchorman, launched GMTV in 1993, a position he held for 13 years before moving to 'Sunrise' for Sky News and Sky One. This role earned him Satellite Broadcaster of the Year 2008 in the Television & Radio Industry Club Awards. As guest speaker, he had a relaxed and informal style, moving seamlessly from his childhood days in Belfast to his successful career in television, tantalizingly dropping the odd



indiscretion and providing little revelations of his celebrity lifestyle today.

As a result, copies of his autobiography, entitled This is MY Life, were in hot demand!



Riders to Raise Funds For QEF

The Leatherhead Bikeathon is being held in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation on 5 October taking in 26 miles of Surrey countryside. This is the first event of a Corporate Challenge Series, to encourage



L-R: Gary Festa with Cynthia Robinson, Chief Executive.

greater links within the local community. The Bikeathon has been organised by local businessmen Gary Festa and Stan Hetherington who are looking for 1000 riders to take part.

Aimed at all levels, elite riders will set the speed while the fun and family element will follow at their own chosen pace.

So whether you are a fitness fanatic or simply enjoy a fun ride in the fresh air, come along and join us. For information visit www.leatherheadbikeathon.com or call Dave Smith on 01372

Forthcoming EVENTS

September 2008

Sunday, 7 September
Adidas Women's Challenge
Hyde Park, London
5k (3 mile) fun run for women of all ages.

October 2008

Sunday, 5 October
Leatherhead Bikeathon.
Cycle 13 or 26 miles around the beautiful countryside.

Thursday, 9 October
Ladies Autumn Lunch
Queen's Stand, Epsom Racecourse
Speaker - Ann Widdecombe.

Friday, 17 October
Bridge Tea at 2pm
Queen Elizabeth's Foundation
Leatherhead Court
Organised by
Oxshott & Cobham Friends.

November 2008

Tuesday, 25 November
Guinness & Oyster Luncheon
Mansion House, London
Kindly supported by Diageo plc

December 2008

Thursday, 4 December
Winter Festive Gala Dinner
Surrey County Hall,
Kingston-upon-Thames.
Kindly supported by ExxonMobil.

For further information, please contact Pat Lelliott at the Foundation on 01372 841213.

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Rock Around the Clock

It was back to the era of rock and roll in July when Queen Elizabeth's Foundation held a very special party to thank its dedicated and hard working team of volunteers.

Over 300 volunteers gathered, representing the fourteen shops and busy warehouse team and for one day only they were expected to sit back and relax – a welcome change from the hard work and long hours spent sorting and pricing stock in our shops.

Turning back the clock, the party was themed around the 1950s and '60s with music and dancing, stalls, competitions, raffles and even an Elvis look-a-like.



Paying tribute, Colin Day, Director of Retail Operations at QEF, acknowledged that the shops and many fundraising activities were only possible because so many people gave their time so freely.

Tireless Teamwork

We are very proud of our beautiful 35 acre site in Leatherhead where both our residential Training College and administration offices are located but it does present a constant battle to maintain the buildings and extensive grounds. There is always work to be done and we could not possibly keep up with maintenance projects if it wasn't for the help of a host of corporate colleagues offering their time for free.

This June, Goldman Sachs sent in two teams over two days to solve the problem of a field susceptible to flooding. Trenches had to be dug and backfilled with gravel and soil before a top layer of gravel was applied and the area planted with shrubs.

Bloomin Lovely



The Old Plough on Station Road, Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham is positively ablaze with colour this summer and it's all down to the green fingers of our horticulture trainees at the Training College.

"We have received so many compliments from customers on our window boxes and baskets this year - just a little bit of TLC and they have continued to bloom throughout the summer months. With the distinct lack of sunshine, the profusion of continuous colour has certainly helped to cheer things up," said Tim Ketley, Licensee at the Plough.

Tom has been buying his plants from the Training College for the past two years and, more recently, clientele at his busy restaurant, have also been enjoying a wide variety of organic vegetables, also grown by our trainees.

Now staff and visitors may park in the field when necessary without the fear of sinking into the mud and having to call out the tractor for a tow! A very big 'thank you' to all the staff involved.



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Experience Counts

Bringing talent and experience to fight the challenges that lie ahead, QEF announces two new appointments.



David Hypher, above, is appointed to the Board of Trustees. Born in India, David came to the UK in 1958 and, choosing a career in finance, was a stockbroker for 24 years and served as an investment director for a further 16 years, before taking early retirement in 1998. In 2005 he served as High Sheriff

of Surrey and is now a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey.

Simon Dillsworth, below, joins the Foundation as Business Development Manager. His main role will be to work with the Centres to help identify opportunities for growth within existing services, as well as develop new proposals for services that will support more disabled people. Simon comes to us with a track record of business development success within large international companies.



Dedication Ceremony



On Thursday, 12 June, staff, clients and guests gathered to remember and honour the late Lord Hamilton as the new group accommodation unit at the Development Centre was officially named 'Hamilton House'.

A stalwart supporter for almost three decades and Chairman for 17 years, Lord Hamilton worked tirelessly to promote the Foundation.

"My husband wasn't a big believer in naming buildings after people, but I think this is very apt," said Corinna, Lady Hamilton. "Many of the people who come here are severely disabled, but they long to live independent lives. In the group accommodation they can live with others and plan their days together. That way they get the nurture and security they need so when they do move out into the community it's not frightening, it's interesting," she continued.

Hamilton House, completed last year, is already proving to be a very popular choice with clients offering six en-suite bedrooms with a communal lounge, kitchen and dining area.

Stimulating Debate at AGM

Guest speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting held on 30 August was John Dixon, President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, who delivered his vision for Social Care in the UK.

In line with the Government's new thinking, Mr. Dixon explained that he wanted to see social care transformed into a system of self-directed support with each customer being able to dictate their own priorities, create a programme of individual needs and choose who should then deliver the services.

The lecture proved stimulating and provoked much debate among a packed audience of Governors, Trustees, staff and invited guests.



L-R: Peter Sedgwick, Chairman, Cynthia Robinson, Chief Executive with John Dixon.